

Consultation Schedule – The Council Meeting 2 December 2025

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	SUBMISSION BY
1.	Royal Courts of Justice	Exchange of Expert Reports in Licensing Cases	Deadline extended to 1 December 2025
	<p>The County Court Rules Committee is considering amending The County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981 to provide for pre-hearing exchange of expert reports in applications for the grant of a licence to sell alcohol under The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.</p> <p>Correspondence attached.</p>		
2.	Housing Executive	Public Consultation on our Draft Supporting People Strategic Intent 2026-2031	16 January 2026
	<p>The Public Consultation on our Draft Supporting People Strategic Intent 2026-2031 is now open.</p> <p>Supporting People are undertaking a Public Consultation from Tuesday 18th November 2025 to Friday 16th January 2026 to seek feedback on the Supporting People Strategic Intent 2026-2031.</p> <p>We would like your views to help shape the direction of the Programme for the next five years and to prioritise our objectives, inform our operational plans and deliver our Strategic Intent.</p> <p>The Housing Executive - Consultations</p>		

Available to View

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RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
DAERA	Equality Screening 2025	Equality Screening 2025 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- Department of Health Enabling pharmacist flexibilities when dispensing medicines submission by 11 December 2025
- Department for Education Consultation on the establishment of a new organisation to support controlled schools submission by 11 December 2025
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Public Consultation on the Timetable and Work Programme for Developing the Forth Cycle River Basin Management Plan submission by 3 January 2026
- Department for the Economy Consultation on Policy - The Statutory Regulation of Tourist Accommodation submission by 06 January 2026
- Department of Finance Land Registration Legislation Project consultation submission by 12 January 2026
- Department for Communities Consultation on Disability and Work: A Strategy for Northern Ireland submission by 12 January 2026



County Court Rules Committee
Secretariat
Lady Chief Justice's Office
Royal Courts of Justice
Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 3JF

29th September 2025

Dear Consultee,

EXCHANGE OF EXPERT REPORTS IN LICENSING CASES

The County Court Rules Committee is considering amending The County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981 to provide for pre-hearing exchange of expert reports in applications for the grant of a licence to sell alcohol under The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996.

Background

Recommendation CJ220 of the Review Group's Report on Civil Justice (2017) contained in Chapter 23 (Licensing) states, "Experts to be directed to exchange reports and attend a minuted experts' meeting pre-trial."

The shadow Civil Justice Council considered recommendation CJ220 subsequently, most recently at its meeting in March 2025, and has recommended that the County Court Rules Committee amend The County Court Rules (Northern Ireland) 1981 in accordance with recommendation CJ220.

Proposal

The Rules Committee considers that, if the recommended amendment to the County Court Rules were to be made, it may provide that, where more than one party to an application for the grant of a licence to sell alcohol under The Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996 proposes to adduce expert evidence, there shall be pre-hearing exchange of such evidence, insofar as it is in the possession or power of a party.

Consultation

The Rules Committee is seeking the views of a targeted group of stakeholders (listed in the Annex to this letter) regarding whether an amendment to the County Court Rules giving effect to recommendation CJ220 of the Review Group's Report on Civil Justice (2017) should be made.

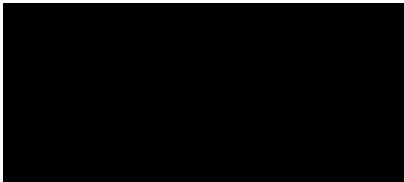
Next Steps

The Rules Committee will consider responses received to this consultation and decide on a way forward, engaging with the Department of Justice if necessary, given its statutory function in relation to the making of County Court Rules.

How to Respond

Comments may be submitted by email to nirulescommittees@courtsni.gov.uk no later than **4pm on Monday 24th November 2025**.

Yours sincerely,



JULIE McGRATH

Secretary to the County Court Rules Committee

ANNEX

TARGETED CONSULTEE LIST

EXCHANGE OF EXPERT REPORTS IN LICENSING CASES

HM Council of County Court Judges
Association of District Judges
Council of District Judges (MC) in Northern Ireland
Shadow Civil Justice Board
The Law Society of Northern Ireland
The Bar Council of Northern Ireland
Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service
Department of Justice
Police Service of Northern Ireland
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
Belfast City Council
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
Derry City and Strabane District Council
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Mid Ulster District Council
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council