

LORD FAULKNER OF WORCESTER



Minister in the Government Whips' Office
Government Spokesperson for the Department for Culture,
Media and Sport

Lord Colwyn CBE
House of Lords
London
SW1A 0PW

21 January 2010

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dan Tony'.

I promised during the debate on the Live Music Bill on 15 January that I would write to you to confirm that the new Minor Variations process has been used to increase authorisation for live music. The new process was introduced on 29th July 2009, and whilst official statistics on its use are not yet available, I can give you some early indications of how it is working.

DCMS has asked Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) to request information from licensing authorities about Minor Variations applications that relate to live music. LACORS has informed the Department that, although it has not conducted an exhaustive survey, it is aware of six examples of applications being made that include requests to add or extend authorisation for live music since the process came into force in July last year. There were three requests for the easing of conditions relating to an existing authorisation for live music, and three for new authorisations for live music. All the applications were granted. LACORS is not aware of any Minor Variation application relating to live music that has been refused.

DCMS expects that the next Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing, due to be published in autumn 2010, will include data on Minor Variations.

I hope this information is helpful. I am copying this letter to the other participants in the debate, Lord Clement-Jones, Lord Redesdale, and Lord Howard of Rising.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dan Tony'.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'R. Faulkner'.

Richard Faulkner