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Dear Colleague

The Licensing Act 2003 (Descriptions of Entertainment) (Amendment) Order 2013

I am writing to set out the details of a number of changes to the entertainment licensing regime under the Licensing Act 2003 which I announced to Parliament on 7 January this year. Following a detailed consultation, we announced the removal of the need for entertainment licences, between 8am and 11pm, for **performances of plays** and **exhibitions of dance** (up to audience limits of 500 people) and **indoor sport** up to audiences of 1000 people. I am extremely grateful for input from local government colleagues in helping create a successful policy.

Commencement dates and revised Guidance

We recently laid the above Order before Parliament, which has now been approved by Parliament. I expect to sign the Order so that it can commence on **Thursday 27 June**. I intend on that date to lay before Parliament revised guidance under Section 182 of the 2003 Act, which will take effect as of the very beginning of that day. I attach the current draft form of the revised Chapter 15 of the Guidance for your information, which has been placed in the Parliamentary libraries for information and which I hope you and licensing team colleagues will find helpful.

Other details in the Order

The Order is relatively straightforward. Besides achieving the deregulation of the three key activities outlined above, it will clarify the position on **combined fighting sports** such as **Mixed Martial Arts**, so that it is clear in law that such activities remain licensable as boxing or wrestling activities. This is an important clarification before indoor sport is deregulated. The Order is also clear that exhibitions of dance of a sufficiently adult nature will not be deregulated.



Forward timetable

In January, I also outlined a number of other changes to policy. We intend to consult in the coming months on the implementation of these further proposals, which require changes to primary legislation. I have asked my officials to keep in close touch with key licensing colleagues so that, again, we may benefit from the considerable experience of colleagues working on these issues at local level.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Rt Hon Hugh Robertson MP
Minister for Sport and Tourism