

Review of Non-Householder Permitted Development Rights - Consultation Paper

Q 28 - Should the site licence exemptions provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Schedule to the Caravans Act (NI) 1963 be added to the circumstances for which PD rights are given by Part 5?

Response: The Camping and Caravanning Club believe that it should be amended.

First established in 1901 The Camping and Caravanning Club is the world's oldest and largest Club for all forms of camping, with over 500,000 members. The Club has over 100 award winning campsites throughout the UK which provide quality camping and caravanning facilities for nearly three million campers each year, as well as over 1300 smaller Certificated Sites.

These 1300 sites operate under the Club's Exemptions to Section 269 of the 1936 Public Health Act and Section 2 of and the First Schedule to the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960. These smaller sites are privately run and house up to five caravans or motorhomes and as many tents as space permits. However, the Club's rules are that any more than ten pitches for additional tents are referred to the Club's Exempted Camping Committee for approval prior to granting a Site Certificate.

Certificated Sites allow members of the public to stay in different areas at affordable prices. Visitors to the countryside for quiet recreation purposes contribute significantly to local and regional economies because of spending money on local goods and services. Access to and enjoyment of our natural heritage brings a range of social benefits, improves well-being and quality of life, and provides artistic and cultural inspiration.

Exempted organisations such as The Camping and Caravanning Club always consult with the Local Authorities and neighbours for any valid objections prior to the Club granting a Site Certificate. Exempted organisations are also expected to inspect their sites to check that the appropriate terms and conditions are being observed at all times and have a system in place for dealing with site enquiries and/or complaints from the public and/or Local Authorities.

Members of The Camping and Caravanning Club who stay on our Certificated Sites are also bound by the rules and regulations of the Club, to observe the Club's Code for Campers and to practise the standards of camping as laid down by the Club. This ensures that no damage to crops, wild flowers, woodlands and the general environment is made.

Currently, there are two Certificated Sites located in Northern Ireland, which were granted Exemption certificates prior to the Club knowing that the 1963 act didn't include the same exemptions as the 1936 and 1960's act for

England, Scotland and Wales. These campsites alone have helped support their local communities by allowing hundreds of visitors stay on site since the first site opened in 2002.

As a responsible organisation we endeavour, through communication with the Local Authorities, to help aid different land owners being farmers, Public House owners, and other business owners to diversify and operate Certificated Sites within Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely



Exempted Camping Manager
The Camping and Caravanning Club