

Liquor Licensing Public Consultation

In order to reduce disturbances caused by upstairs bars, the government can modify it by restricting the number of floors bars can take in buildings which are concurrently used for residential purposes. In this way, less noise will be produced and residents can enjoy a quiet night; however, there may be hidden safety risks. For instance, safety routes may not be enough for residents and customers of upstairs bars may find it difficult to escape when accidents happen. Also, separate access may not be effective because people who are drunk may go to the wrong access and disturb residents. Therefore, the new liquor license and club liquor license should only be issued to "buildings which are concurrently used for residential purposes: except for the lowest storey with separate access".

Even though the above suggested measure may not be pursued, there should be more stringent criteria being adopted when assessing the liquor license application. Since districts with more upstairs bars are more likely to have higher number of alcohol-related crimes, we think that upstairs bars should not be located in densely populated residential areas. If the upstairs bars were located in these areas, more residents might suffer from noise pollution and their mental health might also be affected as they have to worry about drunken people and their behaviour all the time when they go home late at night. Over-crowded areas are generally more difficult to control so more accidents may happen.

To conclude, we believe that upstairs bars require stricter control over their applications of liquor licensing and the government should constantly monitor them.

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