

ENGLISH DEVOLUTION AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT BILL

European Convention on Human Rights – Lords Supplementary Memorandum No.1

Introduction

1. This memorandum supplements the memorandum published on 27 November 2025¹ (“the initial ECHR memorandum”) which addressed issues under the European Convention on Human Rights (“ECHR”) in relation to the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill (“the Bill”) as brought from the House of Commons to the House of Lords.
2. This supplementary memorandum addresses the issues under the ECHR from government amendments tabled on 13th January 2026 ahead of Committee Stage in the House of Lords. This memorandum has been prepared by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
3. The amendments considered in this memorandum relate to amendments to Schedule 24 of the Bill. Exercise of the powers contained within amendments to Schedule 24 of the Bill may engage the following Convention rights: the right to a fair trial (Article 6), the right to respect for private and family life (Article 8) and the right to peaceful enjoyment of property (Article 1 of the First Protocol). The government regards these amendments as being compatible with Convention Rights for the reasons outlined below.

Amendment to Schedule 24: Powers for the Mayor of London to “call in” certain decisions of Greater London licensing authorities

4. Schedule 24 is being amended in order to create detailed provisions in the Licensing Act 2003 in relation to certain licence applications made to licensing authorities in Greater London.

¹ [ECHR memorandum published on 27th November 2025](#) upon the Bill being brought from the House of Commons to the House of Lords.

5. The amendments will create powers for the Mayor of London to “call in” certain decisions of Greater London licensing authorities in relation to applications for new premises licenses and variations of existing premises licenses where (a) the Greater London Authority considers the application to be of potential strategic importance to Greater London, and (b) the premises are, or would in the event that the application is successful be, used for the sale by retail of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and / or the provision of late night refreshment.
6. If the Mayor decides to call in such a decision, the new provisions will give the Mayor the power to confirm the original decision of the Licensing Authority or direct it to take a different decision.
7. The exercise of these new powers by the Mayor could engage Convention rights – specifically Article 6, Article 8 and Article 1 of Protocol 1. However, the provisions in and of themselves do not interfere with Convention rights, and it will be possible for the Mayor to exercise the new powers in a way that does not unlawfully interfere with such rights.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

13 January 2026