



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM
OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT, COMHIONANNAIS AGUS ATHCHÓIRITHE DLÍ

Mr. Barry O'Sullivan
Chief Executive
Irish Nightclub Industry Association
35 Harcourt Street
Dublin 2

31 October, 2008

Dear Mr. O'Sullivan,

I wish to refer further to your letter addressed to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D. and dated 3rd October, 2008, concerning the District Court (Fees) Order, 2008, SI No. 202 of 2008.

As outlined in my previous reply to you dated 14 August, 2008, the new court fees are set out in the District Court (Fees) Order, 2008 (S.I. 202 of 2008) which has been signed by the Minister for Finance and myself. The increased fees apply to all applications made from the effective date, 7 July 2008. There have also been increases in the fees payable in the Supreme, High and Circuit Courts.

There has been no increase in court fees since 2004. In addition, the current increase has been approved in the context of the recommendations of the Government Alcohol Advisory Group which considered the increasing number of special exemption orders which are being obtained around the country. As you are aware, the Intoxicating Liquor Bill 2008, which has just completed its passage through the Oireachtas, provides for the implementation of licensing law reforms recommended by the Advisory Group in its Report. Section 10 contains several reforms to statutory provisions relating to special exemption orders. In the course of debates on this legislation in the Houses of the Oireachtas, many contributors drew attention to current public order problems and other forms of alcohol-related harm. The funding of policing and health services to deal with these problems is relevant in this context.

The fee increase is consistent with the statutory reforms which I am bringing forward and will also assist with the funding of Garda overtime and the provision of services dealing with other consequences of alcohol-related harm.

Yours sincerely,

Dermot Ahern, T.D.
MINISTER FOR JUSTICE,
EQUALITY AND LAW REFORM