

16. Regulated entertainment

Types of regulated entertainment

- 16.1 Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act sets out what activities are regarded as the provision of regulated entertainment and when they are licensable and those activities which are not and therefore exempt from the regulated entertainment regime. Changes to regulated entertainment took effect on 6 April 2015.
- 16.2 The descriptions of entertainment activities licensable under the 2003 Act are:
- a performance of a play;
 - an exhibition of a film;
 - an indoor sporting event;
 - a boxing or wrestling entertainment;
 - a performance of live music;
 - any playing of recorded music;
 - a performance of dance; and
 - entertainment of a similar description to a performance of live music, any playing of recorded music or a performance of dance.
- 16.3 To be licensable, one or more of these activities needs to be provided for the purpose (at least partly) of entertaining an audience; has to be held on premises made available for the purpose of enabling that activity; and must also either:
- take place in the presence of a public audience, or
 - be provided exclusively for the members of a club or for the club members and their guests, or
 - where that activity takes place in private, be the subject of a charge made with a view to profit.
- 16.4 Guidance around what constitutes audiences and private events is at paragraphs 16.11-16.14.

Overview of circumstances in which entertainment activities are not licensable

- 16.5 There are a number of exemptions that mean that a licence (or other authorisation¹⁸) under the 2003 Act is not required. This Guidance cannot give examples of every eventuality or possible entertainment activity that is not licensable. However, the following activities are examples of entertainment which are not licensable:
- activities which involve participation as acts of worship in a religious context;
 - activities in places of public religious worship;
 - education – teaching students to perform music or to dance;
 - the demonstration of a product – for example, a guitar – in a music shop;
 - the rehearsal of a play or performance of music for a private audience where no

¹⁸ The word 'licence' is typically used as a reference to all forms of authorisation

charge is made with a view to making a profit;

- Morris dancing (or similar)¹⁹;
- Incidental music – the performance of live music or the playing of recorded music if it is incidental to some other activity²⁰;
- Incidental film – an exhibition of moving pictures if it is incidental to some other activity²¹;
- A spontaneous performance of music, singing or dancing;
- Garden fetes – or similar if not being promoted or held for purposes of private gain;
- Films for advertisement, information, education or in museums or art galleries;
- Television or radio broadcasts – as long as the programme is live and simultaneous;
- Vehicles in motion – at a time when the vehicle is not permanently or temporarily parked;
- Games played in pubs, youth clubs etc. (e.g. pool, darts and table tennis);
- Stand-up comedy; and
- Provision of entertainment facilities (e.g. dance floors)²².

16.6 As a result of deregulatory changes that have amended the 2003 Act²³, no licence is required for the following activities:

- Plays: no licence is required for performances between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.
- Dance: no licence is required for performances between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that the audience does not exceed 500²⁴.
- Films: no licence is required for ‘not-for-profit’ film exhibition held in community premises between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day provided that the audience does not exceed 500 and the organiser (a) gets consent to the screening from a person who is responsible for the premises; and (b) ensures that each such screening abides by age classification ratings.
- Indoor sporting events: no licence is required for an event between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that those present do not exceed 1000.
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment: no licence is required for a contest, exhibition or display of Greco-Roman wrestling, or freestyle wrestling between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, provided that the audience does not exceed 1000.
- Live music: no licence permission is required for:
 - a performance of unamplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, on any premises.
 - a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day on premises authorised to sell alcohol for consumption on those premises,

¹⁹ Including any live music or playing of recorded music as an integral part of a performance of Morris dancing, or similar activity.

²⁰ See paragraphs 16.57-16.61

²¹ See paragraphs 16.65-16.68

²² This was previously licensable under the 2003 Act until the commencement of the Live Music Act 2012.

²³ The Live Music Act 2012 (“2012 Act”) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/2>; Licensing Act 2003 (Descriptions of Entertainment) (Amendment) Order 2013 (“2013 Order”) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1578/contents/made>; The Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014 (“2014 Order”) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3253/introduction/made>; and the Deregulation Act 2015 (“2015 Act”).

²⁴ But see paragraphs 16.47 -16.48 in relation to dance that is adult entertainment and remains licensable.

provided that the audience does not exceed 500²⁵.

- a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a workplace²⁶ that does not have a licence, provided that the audience does not exceed 500.
- a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a church hall, village hall, community hall, or other similar community premises, that is not licensed by a premises licence to sell alcohol, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance from a person who is responsible for the premises.
- a performance of amplified live music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, at the non-residential premises of (i) a local authority, or (ii) a school, or (iii) a hospital, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance on the relevant premises from: (i) the local authority concerned, or (ii) the school or (iii) the health care provider for the hospital.
- Recorded Music: no licence permission is required for:
 - any playing of recorded music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day on premises authorised to sell alcohol for consumption on those premises, provided that the audience does not exceed 500²⁷.
 - any playing of recorded music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, in a church hall, village hall, community hall, or other similar community premises, that is not licensed by a premises licence to sell alcohol, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance from a person who is responsible for the premises.
 - any playing of recorded music between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, at the non-residential premises of (i) a local authority, or (ii) a school, or (iii) a hospital, provided that (a) the audience does not exceed 500, and (b) the organiser gets consent for the performance on the relevant premises from: (i) the local authority concerned, or (ii) the school proprietor or (iii) the health care provider for the hospital.
- Cross activity exemptions: no licence is required between 08.00 and 23.00 on any day, with no limit on audience size for:
 - any entertainment taking place on the premises of the local authority where the entertainment is provided by or on behalf of the local authority;
 - any entertainment taking place on the hospital premises of the health care provider where the entertainment is provided by or on behalf of the health care provider;
 - any entertainment taking place on the premises of the school where the entertainment is provided by or on behalf of the school proprietor; and
 - any entertainment (excluding films and a boxing or wrestling entertainment)

²⁵ Provided that a number of other important conditions are satisfied (see paragraphs 16.326-16.29).

²⁶ The Live Music Act 2012 provides that if premises are licensed under the 2003 Act, they cannot also be treated as a workplace for the purpose of the 2012 Act.

²⁷ Provided that a number of other important conditions are satisfied, see paragraphs 16.33.

taking place at a travelling circus, provided that (a) it takes place within a moveable structure that accommodates the audience, and (b) that the travelling circus has not been located on the same site for more than 28 consecutive days.

- 16.7 The deregulatory changes mean that, for example, an indoor sporting event that takes place between 07.00 and 23.30 on a particular day is licensable in respect of activities taking place between 07.00-08.00 and 23.00-23.30. Similarly, where the audience for a performance of dance fluctuates, those activities are licensable if, and for so long as, the number of people in the audience exceeds 500. If organisers are uncertain as to audience sizes or if audience migration is likely²⁸, it might be easier and more flexible to secure an appropriate authorisation. Examples of where a Temporary Event Notice (TEN)²⁹ could still be required include if the activity is the playing of recorded music or the exhibition of a film that requires an authorisation; or if the entertainment is not authorised by an existing licence or certificate and its conditions.
- 16.8 Of course, anyone involved in the organisation or provision of entertainment activities – whether or not any such activity is licensable under the 2003 Act – must comply with any applicable duties that may be imposed by other legislation relevant to the event (e.g. in areas such as crime and disorder, fire, health and safety, noise, nuisance and planning).³⁰ Any such person should take steps to be aware of relevant best practice, and may find responsible authorities a useful source of expert support and advice.
- 16.9 The various effects of the changes made to entertainment licensing by the set of deregulatory changes between 2012 and 2015³¹ are described in greater detail in subsequent paragraphs:
- Music entertainment, see in particular paragraphs: 16.20-16.21; 16.26-16.33; and 16.36-16.44;
 - Plays, dance, and indoor sporting events, see in particular paragraphs: 16.34-16.35 and 16.45-16.48;
 - Local authority, hospital and school premises, see in particular paragraphs: 16.16-16.20
 - Community premises, see in particular paragraphs: 16.21-16.24
 - Circuses, see in particular paragraph 16.25
 - Boxing or wrestling entertainment, see in particular paragraphs: 16.49-16.51.

²⁸ See paragraph 16.12

²⁹ See chapter 7

³⁰ See paragraphs 16.70-16.72 in relation to other licensing regimes

³¹ An entertainment activity may meet the conditions of more than one exemption

General circumstances in which entertainment activities are licensable

16.10 An authorisation for regulated entertainment is always required for entertainment activities that take place before 08.00 or after 23.00, unless exempted under any other provision of the 2003 Act, as amended³².

Audience

16.11 For the purposes of regulated entertainment, the term “audience” refers to any person for whose entertainment (at least in part) any licensable activities are provided. An audience member need not be, or want to be, entertained: what matters is that an audience is present³³ and that the purpose of the licensable activity is (at least in part) intended to entertain any person present³⁴. The audience will not include performers, together with any person who contributes technical skills in substantial support of a performer (for example, a sound engineer or stage technician), during any associated activities. This includes setting up before the entertainment, reasonable breaks (including intervals) between activities and packing up thereafter. Similarly, security staff and bar workers will not form part of the audience while undertaking their duties.

16.12 More than one entertainment activity (or for a single activity, more than one performance or event) can be held concurrently, provided that the audience for each such performance or event does not exceed the threshold at which such a performance or event becomes licensable. In some circumstances, there will be a clear distinction between performances or events; for example, their taking place in separate rooms or on separate floors. However, organisers will have to ensure that audiences do not grow or migrate, so that the audience exceeds the relevant limit for any one performance or event at any time. If there is the possibility of audience migration, it might be easier and more flexible to secure an appropriate authorisation.

Private events

16.13 Events held in private are not licensable unless those attending are charged for the entertainment with a view to making a profit (including raising money for charity). For example, where a party is held for friends in a private dwelling featuring amplified live music, if a charge or contribution is made solely to cover the costs of the entertainment, the activity is not regulated entertainment. Similarly, any charge made to the organiser of a private event by musicians, other performers, or their agents does not of itself make that entertainment licensable – it would only do so if the guests attending were themselves charged by the organiser for that entertainment with a view to achieving a profit. The fact that this might inadvertently result in the organiser making a profit would be irrelevant, as long as there had not been an intention to make a profit.

16.14 Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act also makes it clear that before entertainment is regarded as

³² See examples at paragraph 16.5

³³ In some circumstances, such as un-ticketed live music events, a degree of judgement may be required as to whether persons are part of an audience. Factors to consider could include whether a person is within the perimeter of the premises, the audible range of the performance, and their visibility of the entertainment. In order to meet the definition of an entertainment activity in the 2003 Act, the activity must take place in the presence of an audience and be provided for the purpose, or for purposes which include the purpose of, entertaining that audience.

³⁴ For example, a darts championship competition hosted in part to entertain an audience could be a licensable activity, but a pub game of darts played for the enjoyment of the participants is not licensable.

being provided for consideration, a charge has to be:

- made by or on behalf of a person concerned with the organisation or management of the entertainment; and
- paid by or on behalf of some or all of the persons for whom the entertainment is provided.

Circumstances in which entertainment activities are no longer licensable

16.15 No licence is required for certain entertainment activities on specified premises, as follows:

Local authorities, hospital healthcare providers and school proprietors: cross-entertainment activity exemption

16.16 No licence is required for any entertainment provided by or on behalf of a local authority, health care provider, or school proprietor to the extent that it takes place on defined premises, between 08.00-23.00 on any day provided that:

- for entertainment provided by, or on behalf of, a local authority it takes place on premises in which that authority has a relevant property interest, or is in lawful occupation;
- for entertainment provided by, or on behalf of, a health care provider it takes place on any premises forming part of a hospital in which the provider has a relevant property interest, or is in lawful occupation; and
- for entertainment provided by, or on behalf of, a school proprietor it takes place on the premises of the school.

16.17 This Guidance cannot give examples of every eventuality where entertainment is not licensable under this exemption through being provided “by or on behalf of”. It will depend on the facts in each case. However, the following are examples of activities that are not usually considered to be licensable under this exemption:

- Any entertainment activity hosted by a local authority on their own premises, where there is a significant relationship between the local authority and the provider of the entertainment (e.g. principal and agent);
- Any entertainment activity organised on a local authority’s behalf on that local authority’s premises by a cultural trust in discharge of a local authority’s discretionary power to arrange entertainment provision and support for the arts, including festivals and celebrations.
- Any entertainment activity organised by a healthcare provider on their own hospital premises in partnership with a hospital charity;
- Any entertainment event on school premises organised by the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) to benefit the school.

16.18 It is for the local authority, health care provider or school proprietor to determine whether, and on what basis, they can (or wish) to provide entertainment activity under this exemption, including consideration of issues around fundraising, profit making, governance or use of public funds. However a pure hire of premises by a third party³⁵

³⁵ But see paragraph 16.20

does not constitute the provision of an entertainment event “on behalf of” a local authority, healthcare provider, or school proprietor and nor does commercial entertainment which the local authority³⁶ merely facilitates through providing a public space³⁷.

16.19 All the terms used in this exemption, such as “local authority”, “health care”, “health care provider”, “hospital”, “school”, “school premises”, “school proprietor”, “domestic premises” and “relevant property interest” are defined in the 2014 Order³⁸.

Local authority, hospital and school premises: third party music entertainment

16.20 No licence is required for a performance of live music or the playing of recorded music on local authority, hospital or school premises, that are not domestic premises, between 08.00-23.00 on any day provided that:

- it is performed in front of an audience of no more than 500 people; and
- a person concerned in the organisation or management of the music entertainment has obtained the prior written consent³⁹ of the local authority, health care provider or school proprietor (as appropriate) for that entertainment to take place. It is for these “trusted providers” to determine whether, or not, they wish to make their premises available for music entertainment by a 3rd party and on what terms they deem it appropriate.

Community premises: music entertainment

16.21 No licence is required for a performance of live music or the playing of recorded music on community premises⁴⁰, between 08.00-23.00 on any day provided that:

- the community premises are **not** authorised, by a premises licence or club premises certificate, to be used for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises⁴¹;
- the music entertainment is in the presence of an audience of no more than 500 people; and
- a person concerned in the organisation or management of the music entertainment has obtained the prior written consent⁴² of the management committee of the premises, or if there is no management committee, a person who has control of the premises in connection with the carrying on by that person of a trade, business or other undertaking, or failing that a person with a relevant property interest in the premises.

³⁶ Or healthcare provider or school proprietor.

³⁷ The exemption would similarly not apply, for example, to a commercial company operating on premises belonging to a local authority under a long term lease.

³⁸ See footnote 23

³⁹ This requirement is designed to ensure that those responsible for the premises hosting the entertainment have considered and approved the effect of the event on other users of their premises and the wider community.

⁴⁰ The definition of community premises is covered in paragraphs 4.56-4.60 of this Guidance. A community premises is likely to be multi-functional and ‘other similar building’ within the definition cannot be stretched to ordinarily include a public house, a bingo hall, or other business premises or private property.

⁴¹ Where a community premises is licensed for the supply of alcohol by a premises licence (or exceptionally a club premises certificate), then any performance of live music or the playing of recorded music on relevant alcohol licensed premises may be subject to the conditional deregulation described in paragraphs 16.26-16.33.

⁴² See footnote 39

Community premises: exhibition of film

- 16.22 No licence⁴³ is required for an exhibition of a film on community premises⁴⁴ between 08.00-23.00 on any day provided that:
- the film entertainment is not provided with a view to profit⁴⁵;
 - the film entertainment is in the presence of an audience of no more than 500 people;
 - the admission of children is subject to such restrictions as are necessary to comply with the recommendation issued by the BBFC or relevant licensing authority regarding the admission of children; and
 - a person concerned in the organisation or management of the exhibition of the film has obtained the prior written consent⁴⁶ of the management committee of the premises, or if there is no management committee, a person who has control of the premises in connection with the carrying on by that person of a trade, business or other undertaking, or failing that a person with a relevant property interest in the premises.
- 16.23 Under this exemption, one condition is that the film entertainment is not being provided with a view to profit⁴⁷. An entry charge does not of itself make the film entertainment licensable; it is whether the organiser intended to make a profit (that includes raising money for charity). A charge or contribution that is made solely to cover the costs of the film screening⁴⁸ is consistent with 'not being provided with a view to profit'. The 'not with a view to profit' condition applies solely to the activity of exhibiting the film under this exemption. A charge with a view to making a profit may legitimately be levied for any other activity or event that is distinct from film admission, such as the provision of refreshments, film talks, or a social event.
- 16.24 This community film exemption is also conditional on those responsible having in place operating arrangements that ensure that the age rating for the film is implemented by means of a suitable child admission policy⁴⁹. How this is achieved is a matter for the organisation or social group exhibiting the film. For example, they may operate a membership subscription scheme which pays for entry to all titles in a season and is limited to adults. It could be a children's film club with a policy of only showing films that are suitable for all by being rated 'U' by the BBFC. Alternatively, the organisers could sell tickets to the public and ensure that children are only permitted to attend in accordance with any age rating for the film – i.e. a door admissions policy linked to proof of age.

⁴³ However, see paragraph 16.70 in relation to copyright

⁴⁴ See footnote 40

⁴⁵ See paragraph 16.23

⁴⁶ See footnote 39

⁴⁷ 'not provided with a view to profit' is the inverse of 'with a view to profit' mentioned in paragraph 16.13

⁴⁸ Legitimate costs of a film screening would include overheads directly relevant to providing the film entertainment (e.g. premises hire, film hire, equipment etc.)

⁴⁹ See 3rd bullet point in paragraph 16.22

Travelling circuses

16.25 Where types of entertainment are present in a performance by a travelling circus⁵⁰ they will not be licensable provided that certain qualifying conditions are met⁵¹. The qualifying conditions are that:

- the entertainment is not an exhibition of a film or a boxing or wrestling entertainment;
- the entertainment takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day;
- the entertainment takes place wholly within a moveable structure and the audience present is accommodated wholly inside that moveable structure; and
- the travelling circus has not been located on the same site for more than 28 consecutive days.

Live music

16.26 Live music is licensable:

- where a performance of live music – whether amplified or unamplified – takes place before 08.00 or after 23.00 on any day;
- where a performance of amplified live music does not take place either on relevant licensed premises, or at a workplace that is not licensed other than for the provision of late night refreshment;
- where a performance of amplified live music takes place at a time when the relevant licensed premises are not open for the purposes of being used for the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises⁵²;
- where a performance of amplified live music takes place at relevant licensed premises, or workplaces⁵³, in the presence of an audience of more than 500 people⁵⁴; or
- where a licensing authority intentionally removes the effect of the deregulation provided for by the 2003 Act when imposing a condition on a premises licence or club premises certificate as a result of a licence review⁵⁵.

16.27 In any of the above circumstances, unless the performance of live music is appropriately authorised by a premises licence, club premises certificate or TEN, allowing it to take place could lead to enforcement action and, where relevant, a review of the alcohol licence or certificate.

16.28 A public performance of live unamplified music that takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day no longer requires a licence under the 2003 Act in any location. An exception to this is where a specific condition related to live music is included following a review of the premises licence or club premises certificate in respect of relevant licensed premises.

⁵⁰ 'Travelling circus' is defined in the 2014 Order as meaning a circus which travels from site to site for the purpose of giving performances. Musical entertainment at a travelling fairground is likely to be incidental to the main attractions and rides that are not themselves regulated entertainment.

⁵¹ There is no audience limit for this exemption, but the conditions are designed to ensure that deregulation does not have unintended consequences for the licensing objectives – e.g. only bona fide travelling circuses qualify.

⁵² See Chapter 3 of this Guidance

⁵³ See paragraph 16.31

⁵⁴ The 2014 Order substituted "500" for "200" that was in the 2012 Act

⁵⁵ See paragraphs 16.55-16.56

16.29 As a result of the amendments to the 2003 Act, section 177 of the 2003 Act now only applies to performances of dance⁵⁶.

Key terms used in relation to live music

- 16.30 Under the live music provisions, “music” includes vocal or instrumental music or any combination of the two. “Live music” is a performance of live music in the presence of an audience which it is intended to entertain. While a performance of live music can include the playing of some recorded music, ‘live’ music requires that the performance does not consist entirely of the playing of recorded music without any additional (substantial and continual) creative contribution being made. So, for example, a drum machine or backing track being used to accompany a vocalist⁵⁷ or a band would be part of the performance of amplified live music. The performance of a DJ who is merely playing tracks would not be classified as live music, but it might if he or she was performing a set which largely consisted of mixing recorded music in a live performance to create new sounds⁵⁸. There will inevitably be a degree of judgement as to whether a performance is live music (or recorded music) and organisers of events should check with their licensing authority if this consideration is relevant to whether the activity is authorised by a licence or certificate. In the event of a dispute about whether a performance is live music or not, it will be for the licensing authority initially and ultimately, for the courts to decide in the individual circumstances of any case.
- 16.31 A “workplace” is as defined in regulation 2(1) of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 and is anywhere that is made available to any person as a place of work. It is a very wide term which can include outdoor spaces, as well as the means of entry and exit.
- 16.32 A “relevant licensed premises” for the purposes of this chapter is one which is authorised to sell or supply alcohol for consumption on the premises by a premises licence or club premises certificate. Premises cannot benefit from the deregulation introduced by the 2012 Act by virtue of holding an authorisation for the sale or supply of alcohol under a TEN.⁵⁹

Recorded music

- 16.33 No licence is required for recorded music where it takes place on premises which are authorised by a premises licence or club premises certificate to be used for the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises. However, recorded music remains licensable:
- where the playing of recorded music takes place before 08.00 or after 23.00 on any day;
 - where the playing of recorded music takes place at a time when the relevant licensed premises are not open for the purposes of being used for the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises;⁶⁰
 - where the playing of recorded music takes place at relevant licensed premises in the

⁵⁶ See paragraph 2.13. Post the 2013 Order, Section 177 can be relevant to a performance of dance after 23.00 on any day

⁵⁷ Karaoke is generally classed as a performance of live music

⁵⁸ This would include ‘scratching’

⁵⁹ TENs are covered in chapter 7

⁶⁰ See Chapter 3 of this Guidance

presence of an audience of more than 500 people; and

- where a licensing authority intentionally removes the effect of the deregulation provided for by the 2003 Act (as amended).⁶¹

Plays and dance

16.34 No licence is required for a performance of a play or dance to the extent that certain qualifying conditions⁶² are satisfied. However a performance of a play or dance remains licensable:

- where the performance takes places before 08.00 or after 23.00 on any day; or
- where the performance takes place in the presence of an audience of more than 500 people.

Indoor Sport

16.35 No licence is required for an indoor sporting event to the extent that certain qualifying conditions⁶³ are satisfied. However an indoor sporting event remains licensable:

- where the event takes places before 08.00 or after 23.00 on any day;
- where the event takes place in the presence of more than 1000 spectators.

Licence conditions

Live Music or recorded music

16.36 Any existing licence conditions⁶⁴ (or conditions added on a determination of an application for a premises licence or club premises certificate⁶⁵) which relate to live music or recorded music remain in place, but are **suspended** between the hours of 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day where the following conditions are met:

- at the time of the music entertainment, the premises are open for the purposes of being used for the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises;
- if the music is amplified, it takes place before an audience of no more than 500 people; and
- the music takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day.

16.37 Whether a licence condition relates to live or recorded music will be a matter of fact in each case. In some instances, it will be obvious that a condition relates to music and will be suspended, for example “during performances of live music all doors and windows must remain closed”. In other instances, it might not be so obvious: for example, a condition stating “during performances of regulated entertainment all doors and windows must remain closed” would be suspended insofar as it relates to music between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day to an audience of up to 500, but the condition would continue to apply if there was regulated entertainment after 23.00.

16.38 More general licence conditions (e.g. those relating to overall management of potential noise nuisance) that are not specifically related to the provision of entertainment (e.g.

⁶¹ This would be by way of imposing a condition on a premises licence or club premises certificate as a result of a licence review, see paragraphs 16.55-16.56

⁶² See paragraphs 16.6 and 16.45-16.48

⁶³ See paragraph 16.6.

⁶⁴ In relation to relevant licensed premises, see paragraph 16.32

⁶⁵ See paragraphs 16.39-16.40

signage asking patrons to leave quietly) will continue to have effect.

- 16.39 Chapter 9 of this Guidance sets out how a licensing authority must determine applications for a new licence or to vary an existing premises licence. Licence conditions imposed, in accordance with paragraphs 9.42 to 9.44, for live or recorded music activities will only apply if the activity meets the criteria of having more than 500 people present, and/or the activities are taking place between 23.00 and 08.00.
- 16.40 These conditions will, in effect, be suspended between 08.00 and 23.00 if a performance of live music or the playing of recorded music takes place before an audience of 500 people or fewer, but will remain on the face of the licence for when these activities may take place under other circumstances.
- 16.41 Where a performance of live music or the playing of recorded music on relevant licensed premises is not licensable, it remains possible for anyone to apply for a review of a licence or certificate, if there are appropriate grounds to do so.⁶⁶

Beer gardens

- 16.42 Beer gardens are often included as part of a premises licence or club premises certificate. Live amplified music that takes place in a beer garden is exempt from licensing requirements, provided the beer garden is included in the licence or certificate applying to the relevant licensed premises, and the performance takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day before an audience of 500 people or fewer.
- 16.43 Where a beer garden does not form part of the relevant licensed premises and so is not included in plans attached to a premises licence or club premises certificate, it is nevertheless very likely that it will be a workplace⁶⁷. Paragraph 12B of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act says that a performance of live music in a workplace that does not have a licence (except to provide late night refreshment) is not regulated entertainment if it takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day in front of an audience of no more than 500 people. Note that the exemption in paragraph 12B does not apply to the playing of recorded music.
- 16.44 However, a licensing authority may, where justified⁶⁸, impose a licence condition that relates to the performance of live music in an unlicensed beer garden being served by any associated premises licence or club premises certificate. Provided such a condition is lawfully imposed, it takes effect in accordance with its terms.

Plays, dance and indoor sport

- 16.45 Where qualifying conditions are satisfied⁶⁹, any current licence condition that relates to a performance of a play or dance, or an indoor sporting event for which a licence is no longer required will (except in the circumstances described in the next paragraph) have no effect.
- 16.46 Where, however, these non-licensable activities take place at the same time as other

⁶⁶ See paragraphs 16.55-16.56 and chapter 11.

⁶⁷ A beer garden is one example of a potential workplace, see paragraph 16.31. Whether other outdoor spaces (such as seating adjacent to a premises, a smoking shelter, or a car park) constitute a workplace, part of the licensed premises, or neither, will be a matter of fact in each case.

⁶⁸ Including on a licence review

⁶⁹ See paragraph 16.6

activities for which a licence is required (e.g. the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises), conditions included in a licence may nevertheless apply to the non-licensable activities in the circumstances set out in paragraphs 16.52 and 16.53 (conditions relating to other non-licensable activities).

16.47 Dance that is sufficiently sexual in nature continues to be regulated. Performances of dance which are “relevant entertainment” within the meaning of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (“the 1982 Act”) are not deregulated, regardless of the size of the audience or the time of day. “Relevant entertainment” is defined in the 1982 Act as a live performance or live display of nudity that, ignoring financial gain, can be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience.⁷⁰

16.48 In almost all cases where a performance of dance is potentially licensable as both the provision of **relevant** entertainment (under the 1982 Act) and **regulated** entertainment (under the 2003 Act), the 1982 Act disapplies the entertainment licensing regime in the 2003 Act in favour of its stricter regime for the control of sex establishments. However, an authorisation under the 2003 Act rather than the 1982 Act will continue to be required where:

- the premises are not licensed as a sex entertainment venue under the 1982 Act, and
- relevant entertainment has been provided at those premises on no more than 11 occasions in any 12 month period, with none of those occasions lasting longer than 24 hours or taking place within a month of any other such occasion.

Boxing or wrestling entertainment and conditions relating to combined fighting sports

16.49 An indoor boxing or wrestling entertainment cannot also be an indoor sporting event, and any contest, exhibition or display that combines boxing or wrestling with one or more martial arts (‘combined fighting sports’) is – whether indoors or not – a boxing or wrestling entertainment.

16.50 Where a premises licence or club premises certificate purports to authorise a boxing or wrestling entertainment or combined fighting sports as an ‘indoor sporting event’, the 2013 Order provides that the authorisation will be treated as having authorised those activities as a boxing or wrestling entertainment. Those activities will continue to be subject to any relevant conditions attached to that authorisation.

16.51 A contest, exhibition or display of Greco-Roman wrestling, or of freestyle wrestling, between two participants (regardless of their sex) does not require a licence provided that certain qualifying conditions are met. They are that:

- it takes place in the presence of no more than 1,000 spectators;
- it takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day; and
- it take place wholly inside a building and the spectators present at that entertainment are accommodated wholly inside that building.

⁷⁰ Home Office Guidance is available at: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100413151441/http://crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimereduction057a.pdf>

Conditions relating to other non-licensable activities

- 16.52 If appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and if there is a link to remaining licensable activities, conditions that relate to non-licensable activities can be added to or altered on that premises licence or club premises certificate at review following problems occurring at the premises. This has been a feature of licence conditions since the 2003 Act came into force. A relevant example could be the use of conditions relating to large screen broadcasts of certain sporting events which, combined with alcohol consumption, could create a genuine risk to the promotion of the licensing objectives. It is also not uncommon for licence conditions relating to the sale of alcohol to restrict access to outside areas, such as unlicensed beer gardens, after a certain time.
- 16.53 Similarly, while karaoke no longer needs licensing as the provision of entertainment facilities⁷¹ (and will generally be classed as a performance of live music⁷²) it might, for example, be possible on review to limit the use or volume of a microphone made available for customers on an ‘open-mic’ night (which encompasses more than just live music), if a problem had occurred because of customers purchasing alcohol for consumption on the premises becoming louder and less aware of causing noise nuisance later in the evening. Another example might be a condition restricting access to a dance floor at certain times, where the presence of customers in close proximity who had been consuming alcohol on the premises had led to serious disorder. In the first instance it is for the licensing authority to satisfy itself that a particular condition is appropriate and lawful in each case.

Removing licence conditions

- 16.54 A licence holder who wishes to remove conditions relating to activities that are no longer licensable⁷³ may apply to the licensing authority for a licence variation. In the course of considering such applications, licensing authorities should remove such conditions unless there are sufficiently serious and specific concerns about the effects of hosting deregulated entertainment activities along with the remaining licensable activities taking place in the premises.

Licence reviews: Live and recorded music

- 16.55 On a review of a premises licence or club premises certificate, section 177A(3) of the 2003 Act permits a licensing authority to lift the suspension⁷⁴ and give renewed effect to an existing condition relating to music. Similarly, under section 177A(4), a licensing authority may add a condition relating to music as if music were regulated entertainment, and as if that premises licence or club premises certificate licensed the music. In both instances the condition should include a statement that Section 177A does not apply to the condition.

⁷¹ As a result of the 2012 Act

⁷² Karaoke is generally classed as a ‘performance of live music’, and provided that it is genuinely taking place, it is not likely to be classed as the ‘playing of recorded music’

⁷³ A licence holder may favour removal if the previously licensable activity has “grandfather” conditions that are out of date, or unclear. Where such a condition in relation to live or recorded music is suspended, then the licence holder may wish to avoid any prospect of the condition being given renewed effect (were a suspension to be lifted following a licence review).

⁷⁴ See paragraph 16.36.

16.56 An application for a review in relation to relevant premises can be made by a licensing authority, any responsible authority or any other person. Applications for review must still be relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives and meet a number of further requirements⁷⁵.

Incidental music

16.57 The performance of live music or playing of recorded music is not regulated entertainment under the 2003 Act if it is 'incidental' to another activity "which is not itself a description of entertainment falling within paragraph 2" of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act.

16.58 The incidental music exemption can apply to an indoor sporting event or a performance of a play or dance for which no licence is required, as it takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day and before an audience which does not exceed the relevant limit. This is because such an activity is no longer a description of entertainment within the meaning of paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act. This means that, while a performance of live music or the playing of recorded music cannot be incidental to a boxing or wrestling entertainment⁷⁶ such music may be within the scope of the incidental music exemption for an indoor sporting event or performance of a play or dance for which no licence is required.

16.59 Whether or not music is "incidental" to another activity will depend on the facts of each case. In considering whether or not live or recorded music is incidental, one relevant factor could be whether, against a background of the other activities already taking place, the addition of music will create the potential to undermine the promotion of one or more of the four licensing objectives of the 2003 Act. Other factors might include some or all of the following:

- Is the music the main, or one of the main, reasons for people attending the premises and being charged?
- Is the music advertised as the main attraction?
- Does the volume of the music disrupt or predominate over other activities, or could it be described as 'background' music?

16.60 Conversely, factors which would not normally be relevant in themselves include:

- the number of musicians, e.g. an orchestra providing incidental music at a large exhibition;
- whether musicians are paid;
- whether the performance is pre-arranged; and
- whether a charge is made for admission to the premises.

16.61 In any disputed case, it will be for the licensing authority initially and, ultimately, for the courts to consider whether music is "incidental" in the individual circumstances of any case.

⁷⁵ See Chapter 11 for more information about reviews under the 2003 Act.

⁷⁶ And as such, the music entertainment needs to be authorised under the 2003 Act. This would include music during a Greco-Roman or freestyle wrestling entertainment. While, depending on the circumstances, the Greco-Roman or freestyle wrestling may, or may not be licensable, it is still within the 'description' of a 'wrestling entertainment'.

Busking

- 16.62 Busking or street performance is the practice of performing in public spaces for money. Performances are not limited to music or singing and can take the form of a wide range of activities that people find entertaining.
- 16.63 Busking is generally **not** licensable under the 2003 Act as:
- it often occurs in a place that is not a premises made available (at least in part) for the purposes of providing entertainment⁷⁷;
 - the entertainment is usually incidental to another activity, such as shopping or sightseeing, as there are few circumstances in which anyone would go out specifically to watch buskers; and
 - any unamplified live music is not licensable between 08.00 and 23.00⁷⁸.
- 16.64 Local authorities may have policies on busking, including codes of conduct or permit regimes and occasionally byelaws and legislation specific to a local authority – although many localities have no policy or restrictions.

Incidental film

- 16.65 An exhibition of a film within the meaning of paragraph 15 of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act is not regulated entertainment if it is ‘incidental’ to another activity “which is not itself a description of entertainment falling within paragraph 2” of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act.
- 16.66 The incidental film exemption can apply to an indoor sporting event or a performance of a play or dance for which no licence is required as it takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 on the same day before an audience which does not exceed the relevant limit. Such activities would no longer be a description of entertainment within the meaning of paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act. This means that, while any exhibition of moving pictures cannot be incidental to a boxing or wrestling entertainment⁷⁹, such film displays may be within the scope of the incidental film exemption for an indoor sporting event or performance of a play or dance for which no licence is required.⁸⁰
- 16.67 Whether or not an exhibition of moving pictures is “incidental” to another activity will depend on the facts of each case. In considering whether or not film is incidental, one relevant factor could be whether, against a background of the other activities already taking place, the addition of an exhibition of moving images will create the potential to undermine the promotion of one or more of the four licensing objectives of the 2003 Act. This would mean that if the BBFC or the relevant licensing authority has given an age rating to a film, video, or music video, then to qualify for the “incidental film” licensing exemption, the admission of children to the premises will need to be restricted in accordance with the appropriate age rating. But that is one aspect of one relevant factor. Other factors to consider in assessing whether film is incidental might include some or all of the following:

⁷⁷ See paragraph 16.3

⁷⁸ See paragraph 16.28

⁷⁹ And as such, the film display needs to be authorised under the 2003 Act. This would include moving pictures during a Greco-Roman or freestyle wrestling entertainment. While, depending on the circumstances, the Greco-Roman or freestyle wrestling may, or may not be licensable, it is still within the ‘description’ of a ‘wrestling entertainment’.

⁸⁰ For indoor sporting events, it takes place between 08.00 and 23.00 in front of an audience which does not exceed 1,000.

- Is the film the main, or one of the main, reasons for people attending the premises and being charged?
- Is the film advertised as the main attraction?
- Does the screening of the film predominate over other activities, or could it be described as ‘background’ images?
- Does the appearance of moving pictures within another entertainment activity, for which no licence is required (e.g. a performance of a play or dance⁸¹), undermine the promotion of the licensing objectives?

16.68 In any disputed case, it will be for the licensing authority initially and, ultimately, for the courts to consider whether film is “incidental” in the individual circumstances of any case.

Entertainment activity provided as part of childcare

16.69 Entertainment activity that is provided as part of childcare will generally not be licensable. This includes entertainment activity in a nursery or private home. In addition, paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 to the 2003 Act includes a licensing exemption for an exhibition of a film where the main purpose is to provide education. Education will generally include all forms of pre-school child and day care. Furthermore, an exhibition of a film, or the playing of live or recorded music, will generally be incidental to the activity of childcare and so the incidental music and film exemption in paragraph 7 of Schedule 1 will also apply⁸². This will generally be the case for any entertainment activity organised as part of wraparound childcare⁸³, including breakfast clubs, after school clubs or holiday clubs linked to the child’s school or based in the local community.

Other Licensing regimes

Copyright

16.70 The deregulation of licensing for the provision of entertainment under the 2003 Act does not remove the requirement for licences for the use of copyright works. Entertainment activities as described in paragraph 16.2 may require music and screening licences for example. The acquisition of such licences will make the entertainment compliant with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.⁸⁴

Leafletting

16.71 The deregulation of entertainment licensing does not remove the prohibition on the unauthorised distribution of free printed matter in an area that has been designated under Schedule 3A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990⁸⁵. The organisers of the event or entertainment may need to obtain consent from the relevant principal litter authority before giving out free printed promotional material (leaflets, flyers, cards etc.) in a public place in certain areas.

⁸¹ See paragraph 16.34

⁸² See paragraphs 16.57-16.61 and 16.65-16.68

⁸³ Childcare for school aged children around traditional school hours

⁸⁴ Further information concerning how to acquire such licences can be found on at <https://www.gov.uk/licence-to-play-live-or-recorded-music>

⁸⁵ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/schedule/3A>

Child performers

16.72 Child performance legislation⁸⁶ requires that a licence must be obtained from a child's home local authority before a child can take part in certain types of performance and activities. A licence may be required whether or not any payment is made for the child to perform. The deregulation of entertainment licensing does not alter the regulations on when children can take part in performances⁸⁷.

⁸⁶ Children and Young Persons Acts 1933 and 1963; The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014 and The Children (Performances and Activities) (Wales) Regulations 2015

⁸⁷ The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014 and The Children (Performances and Activities) (Wales) Regulations 2015