

On behalf of the Dorset Council Safety Advisory Group, I am making a representation in respect of the following application for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003

Applicant: Nationwide Festivals Ltd

Premises: Dorchester Showground, DT2 7SD

This representation relates to the following licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance; and
- the protection of children from harm.

Reasons for representation

Extracts from relevant legislation, policies, and guidance

Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2026 -2031 published February 2026

- 1.4 The council will carry out its functions under the Licensing Act 2003 with a view to promoting the licensing objectives namely:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of public nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm
- 5.20 The promotion and the organisation of live musical and similar entertainment in the open air or in temporary structures like marquees etc. can provide opportunities for community involvement, civic pride and can attract visitors to the Dorset Council area.
- 5.21 However, the success of such events by way of contribution to the council's cultural and tourist strategies depends upon the quality, levels of safety and consideration for the rights of people who live or work in the vicinity and the standard of provision of facilities for those coming to enjoy the event.

Revised guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (February 2026)

1.16 Licence conditions:

- must be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives;
- must be precise and enforceable;
- must be unambiguous and clear in what they intend to achieve;
- should be proportionate, justifiable and be capable of being met;

- 8.47 Applicants are expected to provide licensing authorities with sufficient information in this section to determine the extent to which their proposed steps are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in the local area. Applications must not be based on providing a set of standard conditions to promote the licensing objectives and applicants are expected to make it clear why the steps they are proposing are appropriate for the premises.

Dorset Council Public Events Planning Webpage

Event Guidance

To assist event organisers and applicants the council publishes guidance and document templates on its public events planning webpage.

Representation

The SAG considers that the conditions offered within the licence application fail to provide sufficient detail to demonstrate how the licencing objectives will be promoted or how public safety will be ensured. Furthermore, the event management documents provided to the SAG contain many aspirational ideas but provide very little details as to how those ideas may be realised.

The SAG is also concerned that the event proposals do not reflect the fact that resources for all regulatory authorities and emergency services during that weekend may be under pressure from other well attended events that are also running.

Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy this representation:

To assist the applicant in the type of detail required to address these concerns the SAG directs them to the guidance published within the council's public events planning page and to the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy.

Suggested actions that could be undertaken to remedy this representation.

As above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Ian Carter.

Ian Carter

Senior Licensing Officer / Chair - Dorset Council Safety Advisory Group

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