



Chief Executive of each District Council

Local Government & Housing
Regulation Division
Social Policy Unit
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19 January 2022

Dear Chief Executive

REVIEW OF REDUCED FEES FOR ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCES

Under Schedule 1 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 any application to a district council for the grant, renewal, transfer or variation of an entertainments licence must be accompanied by such fee as the Department for Communities may from time to time determine.

You may recall that with effect from 6 April 2021 the Minister for Communities decided that the Department should amend the licensing fees structure to introduce a nominal fee of £1 for renewal applications only, for all categories of entertainments licence (Local Government Circular 4/2021 refers). This easement was introduced in order to alleviate hardship being experienced by the hospitality industry as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, the reduction to remain in place for the duration of the 2021/2022 financial year subject to review.

As we approach the end of the 2021/22 financial year I am writing to seek your Council's views and comments on whether:

- A. there is a need to extend this measure beyond this period or,
- B. the fees should revert to their pre April 2021 levels with effect from April 2022.

In addition, could I also ask that you complete the return at Annex 1 in relation to the numbers and types of entertainment licences issued by your council since 1 January 2021 to date.

I would be grateful for responses to social.policy@communities-ni.gov.uk by 9 February 2022.

Yours sincerely

Liam Quinn
Assistant Director of Local Government and Housing Regulation

District Council:

ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCES ISSUED SINCE 1 JANUARY 2021 TO DATE

Capacity	Occasional Licences			Full Licences			Other Categories			
	Fee £	No. Applications	Income £	Fee £	No. Applications	Income £	Category	Fee £	No. Applications	Income £
not more than 100 persons	50			100			Circuses	50		
101-200 persons	75			150			Occasional (church halls, schools, etc)	50		
201-300 persons	125			250			Snooker halls, gaming centres, etc.	100		
301-500 persons	200			400			Variation of Licence	80		
501-1,000 persons	375			750			Vol. organisations (indoor)	50		
Over 1,000 persons	500			1,000			Vol. Organisations (outdoor);- not more than 500 persons over 500 persons	125 250		
							Non-Vol. organisations (outdoor);- not more than 500 persons over 500 persons	1,000 2,000		
TOTALS										

Signed: Date:

Appendix 2 – Table showing MUDC Entertainment Licences issued since 1 January 2021

District Council: Mid-Ulster

Capacity	Occasional Licences			Full Licences			Other Categories			
	Fee £	No. Applications	Income £	Fee £	No. Applications	Income £	Category	Fee £	No. Applications	Income £
Not more than 100 persons	50			100	22	1804	Circuses	50	0	0
101 - 200 Persons	75			150	36	4953	Occasional	50	17	458
201 - 300 Persons	125			250	16	2755	Snooker halls, gaming centres	100	1	100
301 - 500 Persons	200			400	10	3202	Variation of License	80	2	160
501 - 1,000 Persons	375	1	1	750	8	3753	Vol. Organisations (indoor)	50	8	302
Over 1,000 Persons	500			1,000	3	2001	Vol. Organisations (outdoor) not more than 500 Persons	125		
							Over 500 Persons	250		
							Non - Vol. Organisations (outdoor) not more than 500 Persons	1,000	2	2000
							Over 500 Persons	2,000	1	1
TOTALS		1	1		95	18468			31	3021