

## Exemptions to entertainments licensing requirements

---

Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985, an entertainment licence is required for certain types of indoor and outdoor entertainments.

There are, however, certain exemptions under the law.

### Outdoor entertainments

Any open-air entertainment, except for outdoor musical events, is exempt from the requirement for an entertainments licence.

Para 2(4) exempts a garden fete, bazaar, sale of work, sporting or athletic event, exhibition, display or other similar function, or a religious meeting or service, where any music or singing is merely incidental to the event.

Pleasure fairs are also exempted.

### Indoor entertainments

The entertainments subject to licensing are specified in Paragraphs 1(2) and 1(4) of Schedule 1 to the Order, as detailed below.

Paragraph	Type of entertainments subject to licensing
1(2)	a) A theatrical performance b) Dancing, singing or music or any similar entertainment (e.g. roller disco) c) An indoor circus d) A public contest or display of boxing or other similar sports, or billiards, snooker and the like games, or darts or any sport which may be prescribed by the Department by order.
1(4)	a) Machines for entertainment and amusement (e.g. video games, but not gaming machines) b) Equipment for playing billiards, snooker or other similar games

However, a licence will not be required for:

- Any music or singing in a church whether it is religious music or secular music, but music in a church hall or in a dual purpose building used as both church and church hall or in any other place is only exempt if the music or singing is incidental to a religious meeting or service
- Private clubs for boxing, wrestling, judo, karate or similar games if they are incidental to the main purpose or use of the place
- Machines for entertainment or amusement and equipment for billiards, pool or snooker or other similar games if they are incidental to the main purpose or use of the place, e.g. 2 or 3 video games in a shopping mall or a couple of pool tables in the lounge of a golf club
- Gaming machines
- Premises licensed under The Cinemas (Northern Ireland) Order 1991
- An educational institution while being used as such.

## Application to educational institutions

The term “educational institution” includes a school, university, teacher training college or further education college. As detailed in the table below, a licence will only be required in certain circumstances.

“Organiser”	Licence will be required	Licence will not be required
School	<p>...if the entertainment falls within the type specified in para 1(2) and 1(4), and a charge is made (either in money or money’s worth) e.g. public dances and concerts, held after normal school hours, advertised and open to the public at large.</p>	<p>...for school plays, concerts, pantomimes and the like, carried out as an extension of the school curriculum to provide a platform for school children to demonstrate the self-development and awareness skills that they had acquired at school, e.g. in English, drama and music – even if a charge is made</p> <p>Other types of entertainment considered as falling within the term “an educational institution while being used as such” and for which no licence is required, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An end of term school concert, play or pantomime put on by the school pupils for their parents, teachers and friends, whether or not a charge for admission is made</li> <li>• End of term disco or dance held for pupils of the school during the normal school day (or in the evening) whether or not a charge is made</li> <li>• Orchestral recitals given by school pupils for their parents, teachers and friends whether or not a charge is being made</li> </ul>
PTA	<p>A fund raising activity, if the entertainment is of the type specified in para 1(2) or 1(4) of Schedule 1 to the Order <b>and</b> a charge is made</p>	<p>Other fund raising activities carried out by a PTA to which there may be a charge for admission, e.g. wine and cheese evenings, coffee mornings, treasure hunts, sales and fetes, etc. as they do not fall within the types of entertainment specified in 1(2) and 1(4)</p>
Other bodies e.g. community groups and youth clubs	<p>If entertainment of the type specified in para 1(2) and 1 (4) of Schedule 1 is provided and a charge is to be made</p>	