



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport

Entertainment Licensing Statistics: Consultation response summary

September 2019

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Response summary

DCMS conducted a public consultation on the future publication of Entertainment Licensing statistics. The full consultation document can be read online¹. This report summarises the feedback DCMS received in response to the user consultation which ran from 26th November 2018 to 17th January 2019, and sets out DCMS's response.

Overall summary

DCMS received 16 responses to the user consultation, of which four were 'external' (not from a government department or an arm's-length body). These four external responses consisted of a regional authority, two professional bodies, and a campaign group (see Annex A).

Only one external respondent was aware of and had used the Entertainment Licensing statistics, however all external respondents reported that the statistics could be useful in future.

Consultation questions

The consultation questions are listed below.

1. The Entertainment Licensing statistics publication was last updated on 27 February 2018. Were you aware this had been published? Are you aware that this is an annual release?
2. Have you used these statistics at all? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or areas of interest.
3. If yes, which elements of the release did you use in your work?
 - a) Premise Licenses – total figures
 - b) Premise Licenses – individual categories
 - c) Premise Licenses – regional rates by 1,000 population
 - d) Club premise certificates – total figures
 - e) Club premise certificates - individual categories
 - f) Club premise certificates - regional rates by 1,000 population
4. Please describe how and why you use these statistics. Please be as specific as possible; for example, if you use the statistics to provide briefing and further analysis to others, it would be helpful to know what the end use is.
5. How often do you use this publication?
6. If this publication ceased altogether, what impact would that have on you as an individual or on your organisation (if applicable)?

¹ Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-entertainment-licensing-statistics>

7. Are there any data items or information within the existing publication to which it would be essential for you to continue to have access on an annual basis?
8. Are you aware of any other data sources on this topic which you'd be able to use if this publication ceased altogether?
9. Do you have any other comments about the Entertainment Licensing statistics publication?
10. Is your response based on your own views as an individual user or on behalf of an organisation? If responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of the organisation.
11. May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? This may be to follow up on any specific points we need to clarify.

Summary of feedback

Awareness and use of the Entertainment Licensing statistics publication

- Two internal respondents and one external respondent indicated that they had been aware of the publication prior to the consultation.
- Only one respondent had used the Entertainment Licensing statistics in the past. They reported using the regional rates per 1,000 population (elements 3c and 3f listed above) as part of the evidence base for an under-explored aspect of the regional economy.
- None of the respondents reported using the publication regularly, however four indicated that they would make efforts to do so in the future.

Impact of the cessation of publication

- All respondents from government departments and arm's-length bodies indicated that cessation of the publication would have no impact on their current work, though some raised concerns for other organisations. Two external respondents indicated that cessation would be unfortunate, but not critical. The ability of one external respondent to continue with their current analytical work would be severely affected if DCMS did not continue to produce the Entertainment Licensing statistics, and another reported that a modified form of the statistics would be important for monitoring purposes.
- Two respondents indicated that they would need all or part of the publication in the future, with elements 3c and 3f listed above cited as being particularly key by one respondent.

Alternative data sources

- None of the respondents identified any data sources which could be used instead of the DCMS Entertainment Licensing statistics.

DCMS response

DCMS proposed in its consultation to discontinue the release on the basis that

1. DCMS is not aware of many users of these statistics
2. Due to the de-regulation of various types of entertainment within the Licensing Act, the statistics may not reflect an accurate picture of the number of premises and clubs hosting entertainment events.
3. Non-response from local authorities has been gradually increasing, meaning more of the estimates are being imputed (i.e. based on assumptions), which decreases the robustness of the overall figures over time.

The consultation identified one organisation that had used the statistics, and three others that indicated they might do so in future. Whilst some responded that discontinuation could limit the analysis they were able to do in the future, none reported that it would prevent it.

Based on the low number of users of the statistics, and the limitations outlined in points 2 and 3 above, we do not believe that there is sufficient justification to warrant the continued production of the DCMS Entertainment Licensing statistics. DCMS will therefore cease publication of Entertainment Licensing statistics, with immediate effect.

Annex A – User engagement

Consultation responses received

DCMS received 16 responses to the consultation that ran between 26th November 2018 and 17th January 2019. These are listed below and include arms-length bodies, internal DCMS teams, and professional organisations.

Industry body or campaign group

1. Arts Council England
2. Gambling Commission
3. Historic England
4. Sport England
5. VisitBritain
6. Institute of Licensing
7. Emergency Planning College
8. Nordic Model Now!

Government

9. DCMS Media and Creative Industries
10. DCMS Cyber Security
11. DCMS Better Regulation Unit
12. DCMS Data Protection
13. DCMS Digital Infrastructure
14. DCMS Security and Online Harms
15. Home Office
16. Greater London Authority

Annex B - Background information

The responsible statistician for this release is Alex Björkegren. For enquiries on this release please contact Alex at evidence@culture.gov.uk.

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Sign up [here](#) to receive email updates on DCMS statistical outputs.



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