



Department
for Culture
Media & Sport



Entertainment Licensing 2016

Statistical Release

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Code of Practice for Official Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated these statistics as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

- meet identified user needs
- are well explained and readily accessible
- are produced according to sound methods
- are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest

Once statistics have been designated as National Statistics it is a statutory requirement that the Code of Practice shall continue to be observed.

Chapter 1: Introduction and Key Findings

Introduction

The types of regulated entertainment which may require a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 are:

- A performance of a play
- An exhibition of a film
- An indoor sporting event
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment (both indoors and outdoors)
- A performance of live music
- Any playing of recorded music
- A performance of dance

Premises, which include things such as restaurants, shops, bars and parks, may have a licence covering several forms of entertainment. This licence may also cover alcohol and late night refreshment. Private members clubs can also be granted licences called **club premises certificates**.

Licences are granted by licensing authorities, which are usually local councils. Detailed information about entertainment licensing can be found [here](#). Alcohol and late night refreshment licence statistics, published by the Home Office, can be found [here](#).

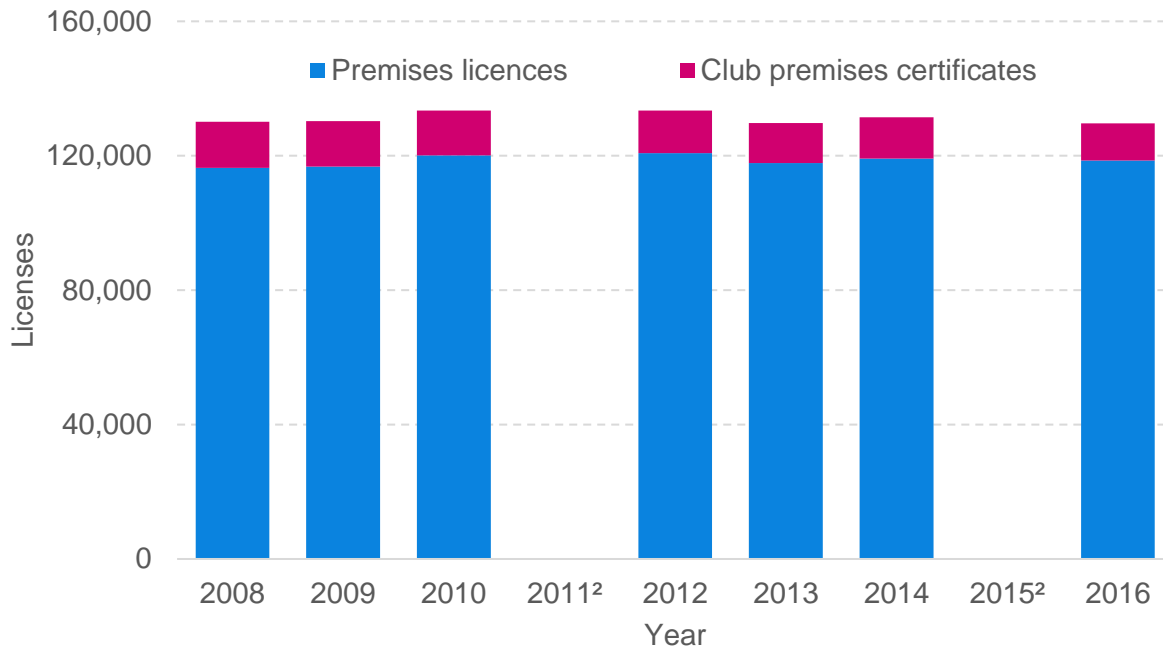
Statistics presented in this publication are based on a combination of data provided by local authorities and estimates based on these imputed from a model described in Annex B; and cover **England and Wales**. Contextual information on entertainment licensing policy can be found in Annex A:

Key findings

Premises Licences

- There were 118,000 premises licences authorising regulated entertainment in force in England and Wales on 31 March 2016, a 1.4 per cent decrease compared to 119,700 licences on 31 March 2014.
- Premises licences accounted for 91.5 per cent of the total number of licences in force which authorised regulated entertainment on 31st March 2016. Club premises certificates accounted for the other 8.5 per cent.
- The largest increase in premises licences between March 2014 and March 2016 was for those covering boxing or wrestling (24.7%, increase of 1,300 licences). Only plays (0.2%) and films (0.4%) saw increases otherwise.
- The South West saw the largest percentage increase in premises licences (6.3%) between 2014 and 2016. As in 2014, Wales had the largest number of both premises licences and club premise certificates per person.

Figure 1: Entertainment Licences and club premise licences per year¹



Notes:

1 Totals are a combination of licensing authority returns and modelled estimates

2 Data was not collected during these years

Club Premises Certificates

- There were 11,000 club premises certificates authorising regulated entertainment in England and Wales on 31 March 2016, a 9.8 per cent decrease compared to 12,200 such licences on 31 March 2014. This continues the gradual but steady decrease in the number of these club premises certificates in force since 2008.
- While the total number of club licences decreased, numbers of licences authorising some categories of regulated entertainment increased. Films saw an increase of 32.7 per cent, while other entertainment similar to music or dance, and performance of dance, saw increases of 31.8 and 29.1 per cent respectively.

Chapter 2: Premise Licences

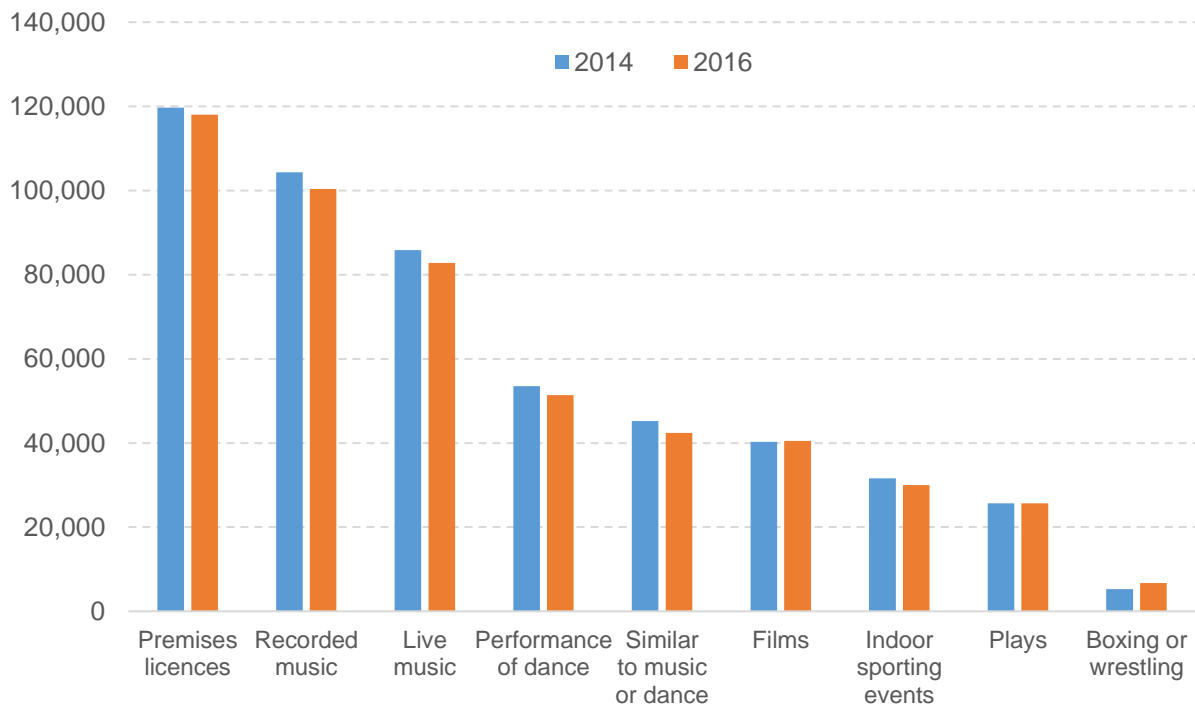
There were 118,000 premises licences authorising some form of regulated entertainment in England and Wales on 31 March 2016, a 1.4 per cent decrease compared to 119,700 premises licences on 31 March 2014.

Over the same period, the largest percentage increases have been in the number of premises licences authorising boxing or wrestling (24.7%). This category has the least licences granted, however, so is susceptible to larger percentage changes over time. The number of premises licences authorising films and plays have also increased (by 0.4% and 0.2% respectively).

There have been decreases in the number of premises licences authorising all other forms of entertainment. Figure 2 shows the number of premises holding licences for each licensable entertainment type.

The statistics do not give direct evidence as to the causes behind changes over time, but may reflect deregulation of some forms of entertainment meaning some venues no longer require licenses, as detailed in Annex A:

Figure 2: The number of premises licences in 2014 and 2015 per category of regulated entertainment



Notes:

- 1 Totals are a combination of licensing authority returns and modelled estimates
- 2 Licences can authorise multiple kinds of entertainment, so sub categories will sum to more than the total

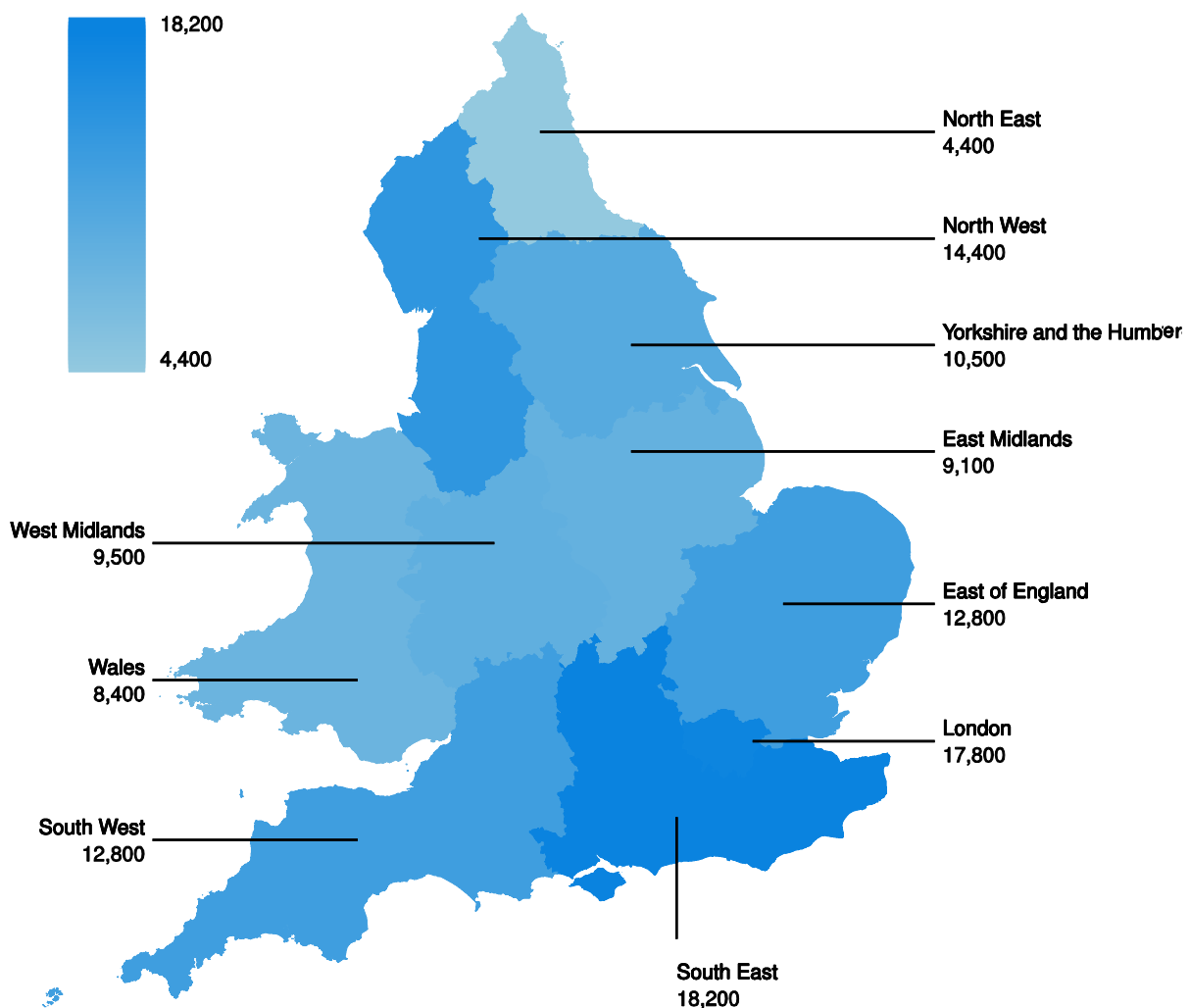
The most commonly authorised form of regulated entertainment was recorded music which was licenced in 100,400 premises. There has been a 3.7 per cent decrease since 2014

(104,300 licences). Over four out of five (85.1%) of all premises licences for entertainment covered recorded music.

Detailed tables for the number of entertainment premises licences in force can be found [here](#).

Figure 3 shows that, as in 2014, London, South East and the North West had the greatest number of entertainment premises licences (over 14,000 licences each). Conversely the region with the least entertainment premises licences was the North East with fewer than 5,000.

Figure 3: The number of entertainment premises licences in force in 2016 by region

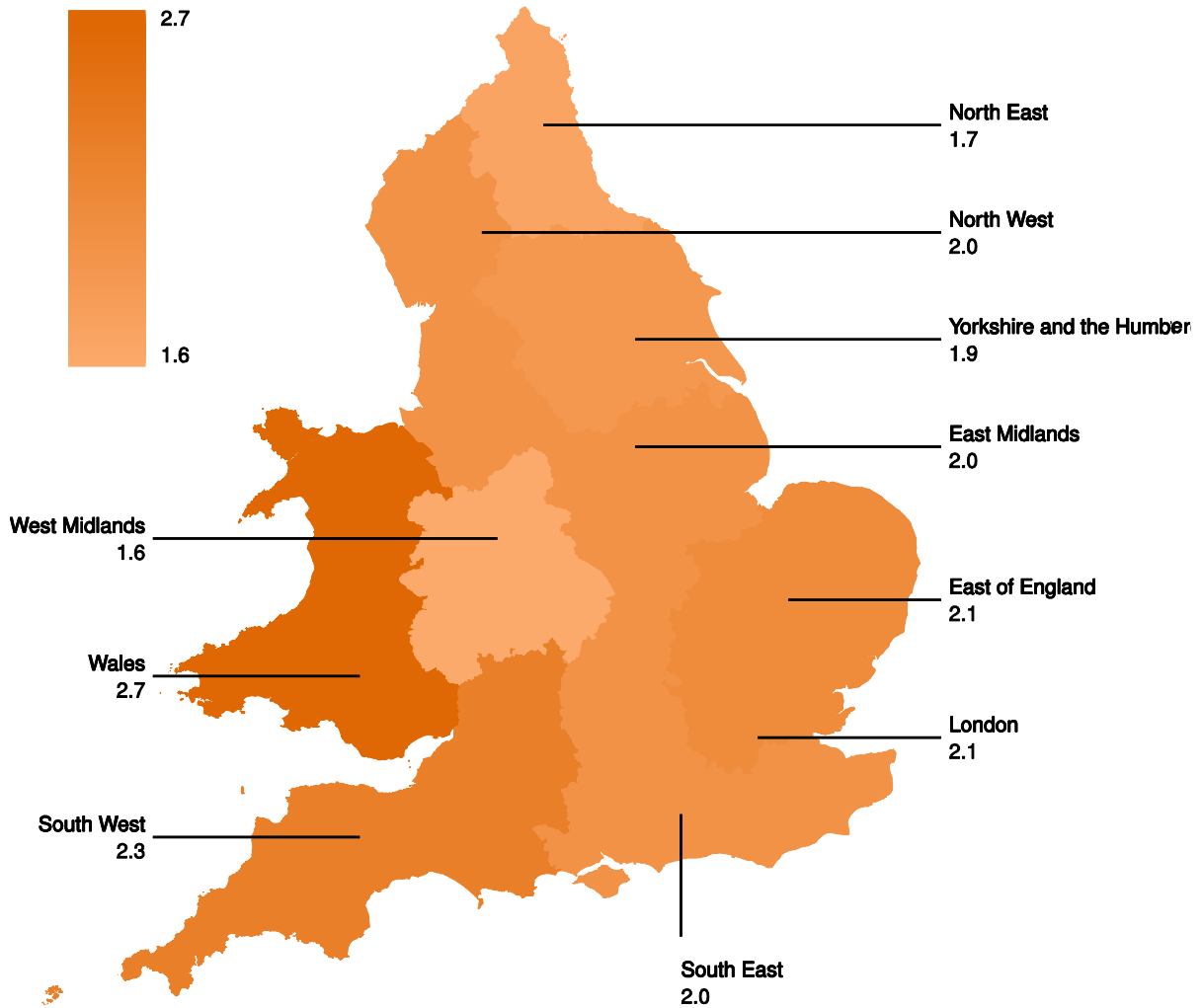


The regions with the most entertainment premises licences per head of population are different from the regions which have the greatest absolute number of these licences.

As shown in Figure 4, Wales is amongst the areas with the greatest entertainment premises licences per head of population, whilst Figure 3 shows Wales to be amongst the areas with one of the lower absolute number of such licences.

Conversely, the West Midlands has a moderate number of entertainment premises licences in force (9,500), while it has one the lowest rates per head (1.6). The North East has both the lowest absolutely number of licences in force (4,400) and the second lowest per person (1.7).

Figure 4: The number of entertainment premises licences in force in 2016 by region, per 1,000 population



Chapter 3: Club Premises Certificates

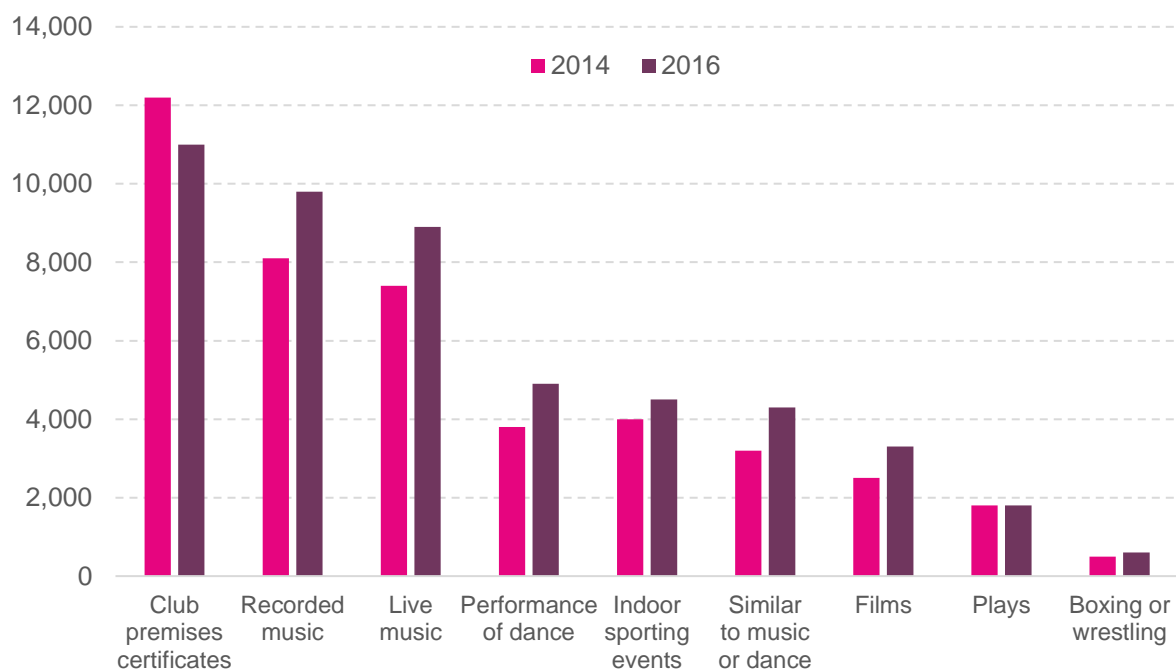
There were 11,000 club premises certificates authorising regulated entertainment in England and Wales on 31 March 2016, a 9.8 per cent decrease compared to 12,200 club premises certificates on 31 March 2014.

Differing from results in 2014, club premises licences covering some forms of entertainment increased while the total number decreased. This could be because licences covering limited numbers of entertainment decreased, reducing the overall numbers of licences, while those covering multiple kinds of entertainment increased, covering the shortfall otherwise expected per category.

The only percentage decrease was for the number of club premises certificates for plays, which decreased by 1.9 per cent between 2014 and 2016.

Figure 5 shows the number of entertainment club premises certificates in force on 31 March 2014 and 2016.

Figure 5: The number of club premise certificates in 2014 and 2015 per category of regulated entertainment



Notes:

1 Totals are a combination of licensing authority returns and modelled estimates

2 Licences can authorise multiple kinds of entertainment, so sub categories will sum to more than the total

The most commonly authorised form of regulated entertainment by club premises certificates was recorded music, with 8,200 club premises certificates in force. There has been a 21.1

per cent increase from 2014 (8,100). Nearly nine in ten club premises certificates for entertainment covered recorded music (89.1%).

Contrary to the decrease in total licences issued to clubs, there has been an increase in the number of entertainment club premises certificates across most types. The largest percentage increase between March 2014 and 2016 has been in the number of premise certificates for films (32.7%) followed by entertainment similar to music or dance (31.8%).

The least commonly authorised form of regulated entertainment by club premises certificates has been for boxing and wrestling, with just 600 such certificates in force in both 2014 and 2016.

Figure 6 shows that only three regions had over 1,300 entertainment club premises certificates in force on 31 March 2016 (South East, Yorkshire and The Humber and North West). Only one region had less than 800 entertainment club premises certificates in force on 31 March 2016 (North East). These results are similar to those found in 2014.

Figure 6: The number of entertainment club premises certificates in force on 31 March 2016 by region

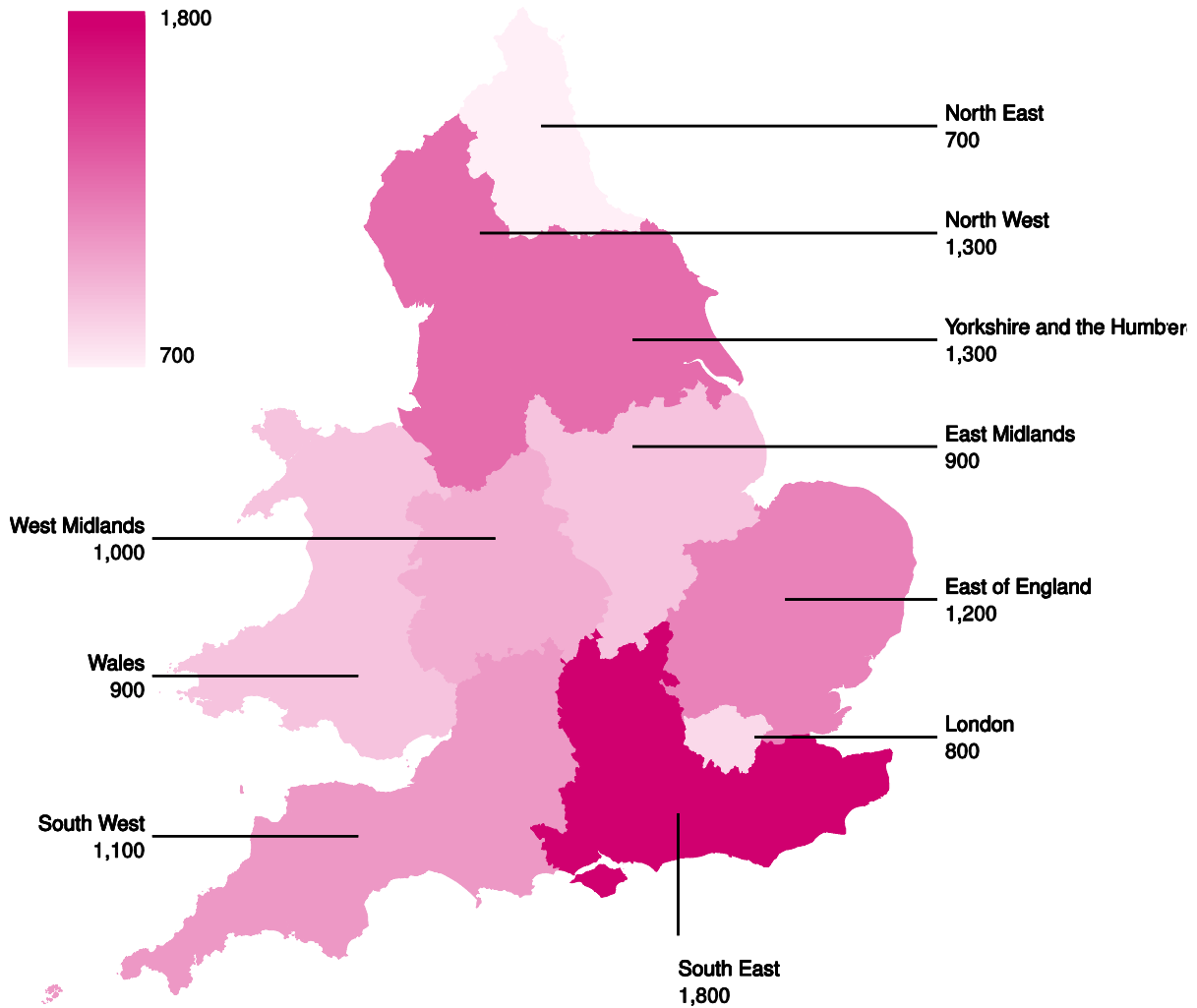


Figure 7: The number of entertainment club premises certificates in force on 31 March 2016 by region, per 1,000 population.

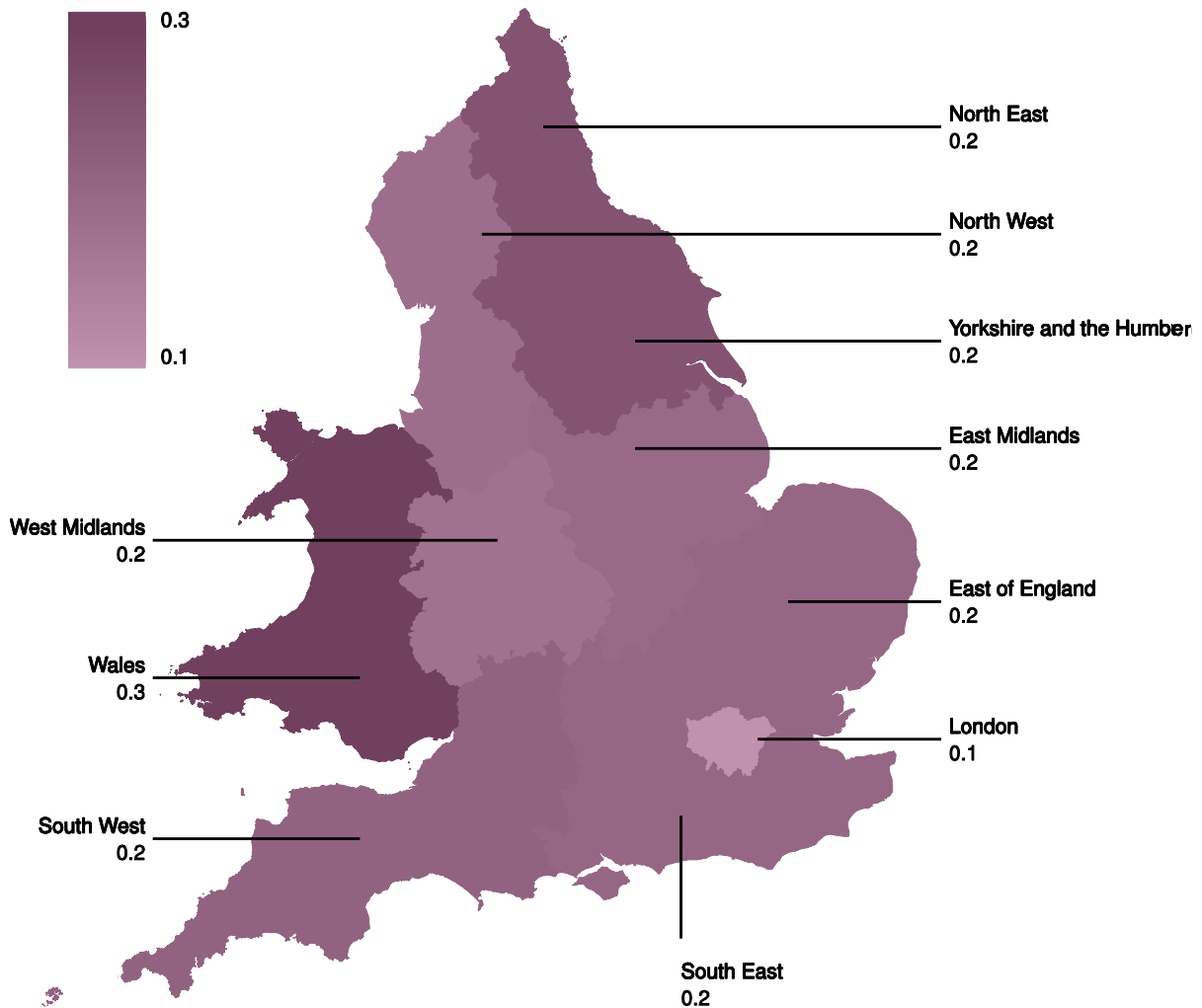


Figure 7 shows that Wales is amongst the regions with the greatest club premises certificates in force per head of population in contrast with Figure 6 which shows that the Wales is among the regions with a lower absolute number of club premises certificates.

London had both one of the lowest absolute number of club premises licences in 2016, and the lowest per person, while the North East had a lower number of licences but a greater number per person.

Annex A: Further Information

This Annex provides background information on these statistics and laws and policies pertaining to Regulated Entertainments.

Accompanying excel tables for the number of premises licences and club premises certificates authorising regulated entertainment are available [here](#) (43.3KB). Excel tables which show the number of premises licences and club premises certificates authorising entertainment by individual Licensing Authority have been published and are available [here](#) (194KB).

These data consist of the actual returns received from responding Licensing Authorities (82.6% and 81.1% of all licensing authorities for premises licences and club premises certificates authorising entertainment respectively) and have therefore not been modelled. Therefore, non-responding licensing authorities have been omitted from the main table but are listed within the same spreadsheet for information. The sum of the licences shown in these tables will be substantially less than the aggregated totals for England and Wales since the aggregated figures incorporate estimates for non-response.

It is important to note that the licensing authority tables do not, on their own, provide an insight into areas where particular forms of entertainment are most popular as they largely reflect the size of the population in each authority. Also, as with the aggregated national figures, a licence to provide a certain type of entertainment does not necessarily mean it is actually taking place. Figures on the number of entertainment premises licences and entertainment club premises certificates per 100,000 population are available at [URL]

These allow for comparisons to be made between regions on a comparable basis but still do not provide an indication of the regulated entertainment which has actually taken place, rather an indication of the number of licences available for regulated entertainment per head of population.

Definitions

Premises licences can be used for the sale or supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment or the provision of late night refreshment.

Club premises certificates allow a qualifying club to carry out activities specified under the [Licensing Act 2003](#).

Please note that this release deals only with premises licences or club premises certificates which authorise the provision of regulated entertainment. It also does not include data for regulated entertainment authorised by a Temporary Event Notice. Data for Temporary Event Notices as a whole is published by the Home Office in their publication Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment Licensing England and Wales 2015/16.

Figures in this publication (unless otherwise stated) relate to the number of premises licences or club premises certificates authorising entertainment in force on 31 March 2016 in England and Wales. There are no corresponding figures for Scotland or Northern Ireland. Scottish liquor licensing statistics are available but these do not distinguish the provision of regulated entertainment.

The number of entertainment premises licences and entertainment club premises certificates in force do not provide a measure of the regulated entertainment which actually takes place.

This is because a premises or club being authorised for a certain type of regulated entertainment does not mean that they necessarily provide it. For example a premises may have previously provided a form of regulated entertainment which it has now ceased to, but not had it removed from its licence.

Complementing this release, data on licences authorising alcohol and late night refreshments are published by the Home Office in their publication Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment Licensing England and Wales 2015/16 available [here](#).

The Home Office publication includes figures for the total number of premises licences and club premises certificates in force, not just those authorising the provision of regulated entertainment as in this release.

Data response

Statistics presented in this release are based on the actual returns received from responding Licensing Authorities (82.6% and 81.1% of all licensing authorities for premises licences and club premises certificates authorising entertainment respectively). Throughout this publication modelled estimates have been used to account for missing data. Full information the modelling procedure can be found in Annex B.

Revisions

Figures from 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013 referred to in this report have not been revised from previous publications. Figures for 2014 have been.

Additional information

The Licensing Act 2003 defines the provision of regulated entertainment as a licensable activity. The Act brought together 6 existing licensing regimes including public entertainment, cinemas and theatres. Once granted, the licence is valid until surrendered, subject to the payment of any annual licence fee due and any premises which held an old scheme licence was eligible to apply for it to be converted. The statistics presented in this report enable the Government to track the uptake of such licences throughout England and Wales and to gauge what impact the legislation has had and continues to have on the number of clubs or premises able to provide different entertainment types.

The Live Music Act 2012 came into force on 1 October 2012. This amends the Licensing Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”) by partially deregulating the performance of live music and removing regulation about the provision of entertainment facilities. It may therefore be expected that licences authorising live music performances may decrease, as may applications for new licences. However as the Live Music Act only partially deregulated live music in defined circumstances, the live music category is likely to remain in place on most pre-existing licences. These statistics do not provide an indication of whether the Act has increased the provision of live music itself. Full information on this Act is available [here](#).

The Government is also committed to further deregulatory reforms to entertainment licensing. This is being implemented in phases. The first phase, by secondary legislation removed the requirement for a licence between 8:00-23:00 for performance of plays and exhibitions of dance (up to an audience limit of 500) and indoor sport up to audience limit of 1000 people. It also clarified the position on combined fighting sports such as Mixed Martial Arts, so that it is clear in law that such activities remain licensable as boxing or wrestling activities. This came into force on 27th June 2013. For more information see [here](#).

A [second phase](#) that will removed the licensing requirement between 08.00-23.00 for certain activities in defined circumstances came into force on 6 April 2015.

There was no data collection in 2011 as a result of the Machinery of Government change which reallocated policy responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 between the Home Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. It was decided to keep the frequency of collection under review, with a plan to repeat the exercise following any forthcoming legislative changes. As such, the first collection following the Machinery of Government change was in 2011/12. To reduce the administrative burden on local authorities, there was not be a statistical collection exercise for year ending March 2015. The data collection was resumed for the year ending March 2016.

Annex B: Methodology

Overview

Licensing authorities (i.e. local authorities) provide returns to the Home Office and DCMS detailing how many premises licences and club premises certificates are held in that local authority, and provide a breakdown of the numbers of licences held covering each type of regulated entertainment.

Some local authorities do not, or cannot, provide a return. Some provide a return on giving the total number of licences issued, but not the break downs for each type of regulated entertainment.

A methodology is therefore used to estimate the total numbers of licences issued, and then a second is used to estimate the numbers issued covering each type of regular entertainment.

Local authority area classifications

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses data from the 2011 census to group similar local authorities into broad groups based on key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These are called the “area classifications”. These are termed things such as “Mining Heritage”, “Rural England”, “Multicultural Suburbs”, etc.

The methodologies used to calculate the entertainment licensing statistics are reliant on these area classifications. More information about the ONS area classifications can be found [here](#).

Previously, the methodology used in the Entertainment Licensing statistics was based on the type of local authority, for example, whether the local authority was a Unitary Authority or London Borough.

This has been changed this year to instead use classifications based on socioeconomic and personal characteristic based ONS area classifications, following evidence from the [Taking Part survey](#) that participation in different forms of entertainment differs with these groups.

Total licences issued

Some licensing authorities could not provide the total number of premises licences and club premises certificates issued. If data was previously available for a given authority from the 2013 or 2014 statistics, these were grossed by the overall trend for all other licensing authorities in the same area classification group.

This results in each licensing authority either having in a total as per their return provided (84%), or having an imputed estimate (16%).

Categories of licences

Some local authorities could or did not provide data on the types of regulated entertainment for which licences had been granted.

In these cases, a similar approach was taken. The percentage of total licences permitting each type of entertainment, per local authority, was found, then averaged over each area classification. These were then used to calculate licences per type of regulated entertainment.

For example, if on average 10% of licences for local authorities of a certain classification permitted live music, then it is assumed a local authority of that classification with a hundred total licences but unknown breakdowns granted 10 licences permitting live music in the model.

Annex C: Background Notes

1. The Entertainment licensing data collection is commissioned by the Home Office on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, as part of their data collection for the *Alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment licensing statistics*. See [here](#) for full details of The Licensing Act 2003
2. Note that the Act has been partially amended by the [Live Music Act 2012](#) and the “[2013 order](#)”.
3. This release is a National Statistic and has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. National Statistics undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure they meet customer needs and are produced free from any political interference. For more information on the Code of Practice, see [here](#).
4. The latest results presented here are on the number of premises licences or club premises certificates authorising the provision of regulated entertainment in force in **England and Wales on 31 March 2016**.
5. The questionnaire covers all 350 licensing authorities in England and Wales.
6. Prior to 2012, these figures were reported on as part of the DCMS publication: Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing. There was no entertainment licensing data collection in 2011 and it is not feasible to retrospectively collect this data reliably.
7. The total compliance cost of licensing authorities responding to the questionnaire (not just the regulated entertainment section) is estimated at £10,400.
8. Of the 350 Licensing Authorities in England and Wales, 347 of them (99.1%) responded to the questionnaire. 289 (82.6%) and 284 (81.1%) provided the total number of premises licences and club premises certificates respectively authorising regulated entertainment in force in their authority on 31 March 2014.
9. Estimates have been made to account for non-response. Non-response refers to a licensing authority either not returning a questionnaire or leaving a specific question in the questionnaire blank.
10. Details of how estimates were made can be found in Annex B:.
11. We can also provide documents to meet the specific requirements of people with disabilities. Please call 020 7211 6000 or email evidence@culture.qsi.gov.uk
12. The responsible statistician for this release is Niall Goulding. For enquiries on this release, please contact Niall Goulding on 0207 211 6085.
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