

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

10.00am, Friday, 24 April 2015

Request for Reduction of Fees – Public Entertainment Licence – Virgin Money Fireworks – 31 August 2015

Item number	5.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	Routine
Wards	City Centre

Executive summary

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the organiser of a concert and fireworks display, has contacted the Council to request that the application fee due for a Public Entertainment Licence should be reduced. The applicable fee is £9,275 for a temporary Public Entertainment licence. This is the applicable fee for an event at premises with a capacity between 10,000 and 15,000 persons. A discounted Public Entertainment Licence application fee is sought on the basis that, despite sponsorship, the event is budgeted to just break even.

Links

Coalition pledges	P15
Council outcomes	CO8 and CO23
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1

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Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 note the terms of the request; and
- 1.2 refuse the request to reduce the fee for the Public Entertainment licence application.

Background

- 2.1 The Scottish Chamber Orchestra has requested that the application fee normally charged for a temporary Public Entertainment Licence should be reduced for a concert and firework display which will be held on 31 August 2015.
- 2.2 The Committee has granted reductions for certain large public entertainment events in previous years. For this event in 2014 the Committee granted a fee reduction to £1,000, and the organisers were advised that the licence application fee should be budgeted for in any future event planning.

Main report

- 3.1 A representative of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra has submitted a written request, seeking that the application fee due for a Public Entertainment Licence for a concert and firework display on 31 August 2015 should be reduced. A copy of the relevant correspondence is attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The event does not qualify for an exemption from the requirement to be licensed. The applicable temporary Public Entertainment Licence fee is £9,275 as set out in the application form.
- 3.3 The licenceholder has provided details of the basis upon which the request has been made (Appendix 1), and a representative of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra will be invited to address the Committee on the terms of the request for the fee to be reduced. Other issues raised in the letter will be dealt with as part of the process of dealing with the licence application.
- 3.4 Historically, fee reductions or refunds for large public entertainment events of this type have only been granted if the organiser is a charity or a community group. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is a charity but committee is asked to note that the event is ticketed and has commercial sponsors.

Measures of success

4.1 The event is licensed in a proportionate and effective manner.

Financial impact

5.1 The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1 April 2015. Any reduced fee would be required to be absorbed by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 licensing budget for 2015/16.

5.2 Since 1 April 2014 the Committee has agreed fee reductions totalling £77, 552.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 At its meeting of 2 February 2015, as part of its Work Plan the Regulatory Committee approved a new fees structure for the Licensing Service. Lack of familiarity with the new fee structure may lead to short term negative feedback from applicants.

Equalities impact

7.1 There is no equalities impact arising from the contents of this report.

Sustainability impact

8.1 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

Consultation and engagement

9.1 Not applicable

Background reading / external references

City of Edinburgh Council licence application fees list 2015/16

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Links

Coalition pledges	P15: Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors
Council outcomes	CO8: Edinburgh's economy creates and sustains job opportunities CO23: Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1: Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all
Appendices	Appendix 1 : Correspondence from applicant