

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

10:00am, Friday, 22 May 2015

Request for Fee Reduction – Public Entertainment Licence – Edinburgh Mela 2015

Item number	5.2
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	Leith

Executive summary

The Council has received a request from a representative of the Edinburgh Mela for a reduction of a Public Entertainment Licence application fee.

The applicable fee would normally be £5,704. This is the fee due for a temporary Public Entertainment Licence for an event in premises with a capacity of between 5,001 and 10,000. As the applicant is a charity then it will benefit from a 25% discount on the application fee, bringing the applicable fee to £4,278.

A discount is sought on the basis that the organisers state that revenue from ticket sales generates less than 15% of the costs of staging the event.

Links

Coalition pledges	P15
Council outcomes	CO20
Single Outcome Agreement	S01

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Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- 1.1 note the terms of the request;
- 1.2 Agree a reduction to £3,000 on a one-off basis; and recommends that the applicant ensures that the full fee is budgeted for regarding next year's event.

Background

- 2.1 A representative of the Edinburgh Mela has requested a reduction of the application fee due for a temporary Public Entertainment licence for the Edinburgh Mela 2015.

Main report

- 3.1 A representative of the Edinburgh Mela has submitted a written request seeking a reduction in the fee due for a Public Entertainment Licence for the 2015 event. A copy of the relevant correspondence is attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The fee structure for 2015/2016 was agreed by the Council. The applicable temporary Public Entertainment Licence application fee is £5,704. This is the applicable fee for a temporary Public Entertainment Licence for an event in premises with a capacity of between 5,001 and 10,000. The event qualifies for a 25% fee reduction following the most recent review of fees and therefore the fee due is £4,278.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 In this instance the organiser is operating on a commercial basis, albeit the organisers state that "The Mela is a cultural event clearly aimed at benefiting the whole community and we are a non-profit making endeavour".
- 3.5 The Committee will want to note that fee reductions to £3,000 have been granted for this annual event in previous years. If the Committee grants a further reduction this year it is recommended that it should be on a one-off basis, as this level of discount cannot be sustained.

- 3.6 A representative of the Edinburgh Mela will be invited to address the Committee on the request for the fee reduction.

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 rebate would be required to be absorbed by the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 licensing budget for 2015/16.
- 5.2 In 2015/2016, discounts of £14,545 have so far been granted by the Committee.

Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The fee structure was agreed by full Council. Any rebate risks setting a precedent, however the Committee has discretion in this matter.

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	CO20: Culture, sport and major events – Edinburgh continues to be a leading cultural city where culture and sport play a central part in the lives and futures of citizens
Single Outcome Agreement	SO1: Edinburgh's Economy Delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all
Appendices	Appendix 1: Email from applicant dated 27 April 2015