

The most important aspect of the system of permitted temporary activities is that no authorisation as such is required for these events from the licensing authority. The system involves notification of an event to the licensing authority and the police, subject to fulfilling certain conditions.

2.2 In general, only the police may intervene on crime prevention grounds to prevent such an event taking place or to agree a modification of the arrangements for such an event; and it is characterised by an exceptionally light touch bureaucracy. The licensing authority may only ever intervene of its own volition if the limits set out in the Act on the number of temporary event notices that may be given in various circumstances would be exceeded. Otherwise, the licensing authority is only required to issue a timely acknowledgement.

2.3 Such a light touch is possible because of the limitations directly imposed on the use of the system by the Act itself. The limitations apply to:

- the number of times a person (the “premises user”) may give a temporary event notice (50 times per year for a personal licence holder and 5 times per year for other people);
- the number of times a temporary event notice may be given in respect of any particular premises (12 times in a calendar year);
- the length of time a temporary event may last for these purposes (96 hours);
- the maximum aggregate duration of the periods covered by temporary event notices at any individual premises (15 days); and
- the scale of the event in terms of the maximum number of people attending at any one time (less than 500).

2.4 In any other circumstances, a premises licence or club premises certificate would be required for the period of the event involved (...).⁶

However, an article in the *Daily Telegraph* in October 2005 described the provisions as “a licence for raves with no chance to object”:

Rave parties or festivals lasting up to four days and involving as many as 500 people able to drink round the clock will be allowed without the public having any right to object under the new Licensing Act, it emerged yesterday.

Council leaders called on ministers to rethink proposals that would allow temporary licences to be issued without taking into account the concerns of residents about noise or nuisance.

Only the police would be able to lodge formal objections - and then only on crime and disorder grounds.

At the same time, ministers are still resisting pressure from village halls and other small venues to remove restrictions on running occasional events without having to apply for full alcohol licences.⁷

The regulations were approved and came into force on 10 November 2005.⁸

Further information on Temporary Event Notices is available from Frequently Asked Questions on the DCMS website.⁹ These make it clear that only the police can object:

⁶ DCMS, [Consultation on draft regulations made under the licensing Act 2003 Permitted Temporary Activities and Temporary Event Notices](#), August 2005, site accessed 14 October 2008

⁷ “A licence for raves with no chance to object”, *Telegraph*, 5 October 2005, site accessed 14 October 2008

⁸ [The Licensing Act 2003 \(Permitted Temporary Activities\) \(Notices\) Regulations 2005](#), SI 2005/2918,

⁹ Available at: http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/alcobol_and_entertainment/4056.aspx#11, accessed 14 October 2008