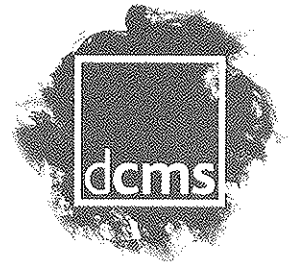


CMS 61417/ ML

13 February 2007



department for
culture, media
and sport

Dear Colleague

LICENSING ACT 2003 – REGISTER OF LICENSED PUBLIC SPACES

I should like to draw your attention to the *Register of Local Authority Licensed Public Spaces in England and Wales*, which DCMS launched on 15 January.

The register lists those Local Authorities that have licensed public spaces to enable a range of community events and activities to take place throughout the year. It provides information about sites that have been licensed and directs users to the relevant contact for more information and permission to use the land. It currently contains details of 106 authorities, and over 500 public spaces, from parks and beaches to market squares and racecourses.

The Register is intended to help event organisers determine whether their activities can take place in a particular area without the need to obtain their own licence, or give a temporary event notice. It should assist a range of community events such as festivals and farmers markets, as well as touring entertainments such as circuses. It also allows local authorities to publicise spaces they have licensed in order to attract events.

I would like to extend my thanks to those Local Authorities that have taken the step to license their public spaces and provided their details for the register. It is really encouraging that so many have done so.

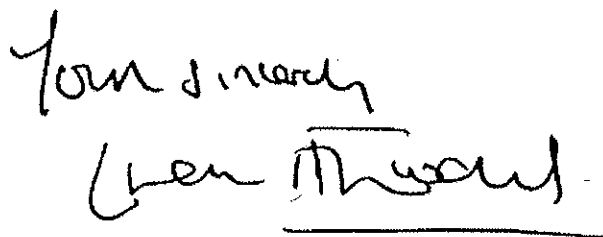
I am of course aware of the unintended problem associated with licensing public spaces and using Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs) to control public drinking. I hope that the recent amendments contained in The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 (VCRA), which clarify when DPPOs can apply to Local Authority licensed spaces, will encourage more local authorities to go down this route. Subject to drafting revised Regulations

and securing Parliamentary agreement, we would expect the relevant amendments to be commenced by the summer.

The Secretary of State's Guidance to Licensing Authorities suggests all Local Authorities should consider licensing public spaces for a range of activities to ensure that cultural diversity thrives. If you have not yet licensed any public spaces, but are considering doing so, the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS) provides advice and guidance for local authorities as well as examples of best practice from other authorities that have been through the process. More information is available on the LACORS website: www.lacors.gov.uk

I would encourage you to think about the benefits licensing your public spaces could have. And, if your details are not yet on the register, I would be grateful if you could let me know what plans you have to licence your public spaces. You can either write to me at the above address or email details to licensed_publicland@culture.gsi.gov.uk.

The register is available to download from the DCMS website: www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Alcohol_entertainment/licensed_public_spaces2

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Woodward', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

SHAUN WOODWARD MP
Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism