

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

13th November, 2025

MEETING OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room, City Hall, and remotely via Microsoft Teams, on Wednesday, 19th November, 2025 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest
- (d) Schedule of Meetings 2026 (Pages 1 - 2)

2. Delegated Matters

- (a) Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority (Pages 3 - 10)
- (b) Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority (Pages 11 - 14)
- (c) Application for the Variation of 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for The Spaniard (Pages 15 - 26)

3. **Non-Delegated Matters**

- (a) Notice of Motion - Unite's Work Safe Home Safe Campaign (Pages 27 - 32)
- (b) Request for the Exhibition of Unclassified Films (Pages 33 - 66)
- (c) Guidance for Students and Landlords in respect of their Rights and Responsibilities regarding HMOs (Pages 67 - 76)



Subject:	Schedule of Meetings 2026
Date:	19th November, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Louise McLornan, Committee Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Louise McLornan, Committee Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the Licensing Committee between January and December, 2026.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is requested to approve the schedule of meetings for the Licensing Committee as outlined.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The monthly meeting of the Licensing Committee is normally held at 5.15 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, taking into account bank and public holidays.

3.2	<p>Accordingly, the following dates have been identified for meetings of the Licensing Committee for the period from January to December, 2026.</p> <p>Wednesday, 21st January</p> <p>Wednesday, 18th February</p> <p>Wednesday, 18th March</p> <p>Wednesday, 22nd April</p> <p>Wednesday, 20th May</p> <p>Wednesday, 17th June</p> <p>Wednesday, 19th August</p> <p>Wednesday, 16th September</p> <p>Wednesday, 14th October</p> <p>Wednesday, 18th November</p> <p>Wednesday, 16th December</p> <p>(All meetings will commence at 5.15 pm)</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>



Subject:	Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority
Date:	19 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues																																				
1.1	Under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Planning and Building Control is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue, but not refusal, of Permits and Licences, excluding provisions relating to the issue of Licences where adverse representations have been made.																																				
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3.0	Main report																																				
	<u>Key Issues</u>																																				
3.1	<p>Under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 the following Entertainments Licences were issued since your last meeting.</p> <table><tr><th>Premises and Location</th><th>Type of Application</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Alexandra Social & Recreation Club, 170 Alexandra Park Avenue, Belfast, BT15 3GJ</td><td>Renewal - 6 Day Annual (Mon-Sat)</td><td>Samuel Crozier</td></tr><tr><td>Balmoral Golf Club, 518 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GX</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Kim Axon</td></tr><tr><td>Belfast City Hall, 2, Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GS</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Bernard Lavery, Lavery Ltd</td></tr><tr><td>Boundary Taproom, Unit A6/a7 Portview Trade Centre, 310 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE</td><td>Grant - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Matthew Dick, Boundary Brewing Cooperative Ltd</td></tr><tr><td>C.S Lewis Square, Holywood Arches, Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE</td><td>Renewal - Occasional 14 Day</td><td>Stephen Leonard, BCC City and Neighbourhoods Department</td></tr><tr><td>Casement Social Club Casement Park, Casement Park, 88-100, Andersonstown Road, Belfast, BT11 9AN</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Maria Toner</td></tr><tr><td>Chelsea Wine Bar, 344-346 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GH</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Robert Davis, Regency Hotel (NI) Ltd</td></tr><tr><td>Circusful, 23 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Flora Herberich</td></tr><tr><td>Belfast City Hall, 2, Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GS</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Bernard Lavery, Lavery Ltd</td></tr><tr><td>Conway Mill, A1/4 Conway Mill, 5-7 Conway Street, Belfast, BT13 2DE</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Andy Donnelly, Conway Street CEP Ltd</td></tr><tr><td>Cosy Bar, 44-46 Omeath Street, Belfast, BT6 8ND</td><td>Renewal - 7 Day Annual</td><td>Colin Bell, Hillhall Ltd</td></tr></table>	Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant	Alexandra Social & Recreation Club, 170 Alexandra Park Avenue, Belfast, BT15 3GJ	Renewal - 6 Day Annual (Mon-Sat)	Samuel Crozier	Balmoral Golf Club, 518 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GX	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Kim Axon	Belfast City Hall, 2, Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GS	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Bernard Lavery, Lavery Ltd	Boundary Taproom, Unit A6/a7 Portview Trade Centre, 310 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE	Grant - 7 Day Annual	Matthew Dick, Boundary Brewing Cooperative Ltd	C.S Lewis Square, Holywood Arches, Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1HE	Renewal - Occasional 14 Day	Stephen Leonard, BCC City and Neighbourhoods Department	Casement Social Club Casement Park, Casement Park, 88-100, Andersonstown Road, Belfast, BT11 9AN	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Maria Toner	Chelsea Wine Bar, 344-346 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 6GH	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Robert Davis, Regency Hotel (NI) Ltd	Circusful, 23 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Flora Herberich	Belfast City Hall, 2, Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GS	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Bernard Lavery, Lavery Ltd	Conway Mill, A1/4 Conway Mill, 5-7 Conway Street, Belfast, BT13 2DE	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Andy Donnelly, Conway Street CEP Ltd	Cosy Bar, 44-46 Omeath Street, Belfast, BT6 8ND	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Colin Bell, Hillhall Ltd
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Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
Darragh's Bar, 120 Great Georges Street, Belfast, BT15 1FH	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Seamus Darragh
Dee Street Community Centre, 12-16 Dee Street, Belfast, BT4 1FT	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Catherine Taggart, BCC Community Services
Dockworkers Social Club, 57 Pilot Street, Belfast, BT1 3AH	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Terry Ward
Donegall Pass Community Centre, 25 Apsley Street, Belfast, BT7 1BL	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Catherine Taggart, BCC Community Services
Europa Hotel, Europa Hotel Belfast, Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7AP	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Peter Gibson, HHG No4. Ltd
Fortwilliam Golf Club, 8a Downview Avenue, Belfast, BT15 4EZ	Grant - 7 Day Annual	Dominic Walsh
Garrick Bar, 29 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 4JB	Grant - 7 Day Annual	Kevin Oates, Chichester St Pubs Limited
Glen Road Community Centre, 2, Carrigart Avenue, Belfast, BT11 9HU	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Catherine Taggart, BCC Community Services
Hammer Main Hall, 132-142 Agnes Street, Belfast, BT13 1GG	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Catherine Taggart, BCC Community Services
Harland and Wolff Staff Sports and Recreation Association, 8-10, Dundela Avenue, Belfast, BT4 3BQ	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Douglas Murray
HMS Caroline, Alexandra Dock, Queens Road, Belfast, BT3 9DT	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Sharon Hanna
Horatio Todd's, 406a Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3EZ	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Stephen Magorrian, Wandsworth Pubs Limited
Kelly's Cellars, 30-32 Bank Street, Belfast, BT1 1HL	Transfer - 7 Day Annual	Henry Downey, Eagle-Glen Ltd
Kingspan Stadium, 134, Mount Merrion Avenue, Belfast, BT6 0DG	Renewal - Occasional 14 Day	Audrey Robinson, IRFU Ulster Branch
Lamh Dhearg CLG, 168 Upper Springfield Road, Belfast, BT17 0LZ	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Jim Ferguson
Lansdowne Hotel, 657 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 4EF	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Andrew Simpson, JPE Hotels Limited
Maggies Lounge, Unit 13, Twin Spires Centre, 155, Northumberland Street, Belfast, BT13 2JF	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Brendan Mckee, Sky Blue Pubs NI Ltd
Markets Community Centre, 20, Lower Stanfield Street, Belfast, BT7 2HB	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Catherine Taggart, BCC Community Services
Maverick, 106 Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2GX	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	John Mc Elhatton, Maverick (NI) Ltd

Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
McGraths Bar, 78-80 Cliftonville Road, Belfast, BT14 6JZ	Transfer - 7 Day Annual	Fiona Auld, EFM Inns Ltd
Methodist College, McArthur Hall, McArthur Hall, 1 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6BY	Grant - Occasional 14 Day Unspecified	Diana Boyd
Muriel's, 12-14 Church Lane, Belfast, BT1 4QN	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Janine Kane, JK Pubs Ltd
Oh Yeah Music Centre, 15-21 Gordon Street, Belfast, BT1 2LG	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Ryan O' Neill, Oh Yeah Music Centre Limited
Parlour Bar, 2-4 Elmwood Avenue, Belfast, BT9 6AY	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Robert Davis, Regency Hotel (NI) Ltd
Pug Uglys, 21 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EJ	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Paul Langsford, Bedford Taverns Ltd
Robinsons Bar, 38-42 Great Victoria Street, Belfast, BT2 7BA	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Robert Davis, Regency Hotel (NI) Ltd
Royal Bar, 237 Shankill Road, Belfast, BT13 1FR	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	James Hanna, Bar None NI Ltd
Royal Bar, 33-35 Donegall Road, Belfast, BT12 5JJ	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Ronald Brown
Sandy Row Community Centre, 67-75 Sandy Row, Belfast, BT12 5ER	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Catherine Taggart, BCC Community Services
Shandon Park Golf Club, 73 Shandon Park, Belfast, BT5 6NY	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Marianne Hood
Shoe Factory, 12-14 Union Street, Belfast, BT1 2JF	Renewal - 7 Day Annual (Outdoor)	Richard Woods, Anthology Trading 3 Ltd
Sliabh Dubh, 179, Whiterock Road, Belfast, BT12 7FW	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Tony Clarke, Sliabh Dubh Pubs
St Johns Church Halls, 141 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6SX	Renewal - Occasional 14 Day	Catherine Turner
St Marks Church, Heyn Hall, 2 Sydenham Avenue, Belfast, BT4 2DR	Renewal - Occasional 14 Day	Lynn Wilson
Sunflower Bar, 65 Union Street, Belfast, BT1 2JG	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Richard Mc Callion, Lus Na Greine Ltd
Ten Square, 10 Donegall Square South, Belfast, BT1 5JD	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Stephen Carson, Loughview Leisure Group Ltd
The Devenish Complex, 33-37, Finaghy Road North, Belfast, BT10 0JB	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	David Conlon, Devenish Co (Belfast)Ltd
The Dirty Onion and Yard Bird, 3 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	James Sinton, Cathedral Leisure Ltd
The Dirty Onion and Yard Bird, 3 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA	Renewal - 7 Day Annual (Outdoor)	James Sinton, Cathedral Leisure Ltd

Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
The Doyen, 829-831 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7GY	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Robert Davis, Regency Hotel (NI) Ltd
The Jeggy Nettle, 12 Stranmillis Road, Belfast, BT9 5AA	Transfer & Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Janine Kane, At Wits End Ltd
The Post House, 32-40 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5BQ	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Paul Langsford, Clover Pubs NI No4 Ltd
The Thirsty Goat Bar & 21 Social, 1 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Henry Downey, Eagle-Glen Ltd
The Thirsty Goat Bar & 21 Social, 1 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA	Renewal - 7 Day Annual (Outdoor)	Henry Downey, Eagle-Glen Ltd
The Topsy Bird, 96-100 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 3HH	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Bobby Robertson, Glendola Leisure (Holdings) Limited
Thompsons Garage, 3 Pattersons Place, Belfast, BT1 4HW	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Stephen Boyd, Endless Music Limited
Thompsons Garage, 3 Pattersons Place, Belfast, BT1 4HW	Renewal - 7 Day Annual (Outdoor)	Stephen Boyd, Endless Music Limited
Titanic Belfast, 1, Olympic Way, Queen's Island, Belfast, BT3 9EP	Renewal - 7 Day Annual (Outdoor)	Judith Owens, Titanic Belfast Limited
Titanic Belfast, 1, Olympic Way, Queen's Island, Belfast, BT3 9EP	Renewal - 7 Day Annual (Marquee)	Judith Owens, Titanic Belfast Limited
Titanic Belfast, 1, Olympic Way, Queen's Island, Belfast, BT3 9EP	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Judith Owens, Titanic Belfast Limited
Turf Lodge Tenants Association, 35a Norglen Gardens, Belfast, BT11 8EL	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Thomas McLarnon
Ulster Hall, Ulster Hall, 30, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FF	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	John Griffin, Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd
Whitecity Community Centre, Mulderg Drive, Newtownabbey, BT36 7JY	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Catherine Taggart, BCC Community Services
Whiterock Leisure Centre, 10, Whiterock Close, Belfast, BT12 7RG	Renewal - 7 Day Annual	Leona Chorazyova

3.2 Under the terms of the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 the following Amusement Permits were issued since your last meeting.

Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
Funtime Amusements, 91 Castle Street, Belfast, BT1 1GJ	Renewal Application	Patrick Quinn, P & F Group Ltd
Funtime, 159-167 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2GW	Renewal Application	Patrick Quinn, P & F Group Ltd
Onassis Amusements, 17 Queen Street, Belfast, BT1 6EA	Renewal Application	Colm O'Donnell, Botanic Leisure Limited

Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
Players, Ground Floor, 22 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DB	Renewal Application	Leanne McGivern, Play SS Ltd
Players, Units 5 & 6, 133-137 Lisburn Road, Belfast, BT9 7AG	Renewal Application	Leanne McGivern, Play LR Ltd
Twilight Zone, 13 North Street, Belfast, BT1 1NA	Renewal Application	EZE Gaming Ltd

- 3.3 Under the terms of the Cinemas (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 the following Cinema Licences were issued since your last meeting.

Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
Belfast Waterfront Hall, 2 Lanyon Place, Belfast, BT1 3WH	Renewal Application	John Griffin, Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd
Cineworld, Cinema, Odyssey Pavilion, 2, Queens Quay, Belfast, BT3 9QQ	Renewal Application	Slavena Marina, Cine-UK Ltd
The Avenue, Unit 34, Castlecourt, 12-56, Royal Avenue, Belfast, BT1 1DD	Renewal Application	Paul John Anderson, Omniplex (Castlecourt) Ltd
The Black Box, 18-22 Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA	Renewal Application	Neil Jacques, The Black Box Trust
Ulster Hall, Ulster Hall, 30, Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7FF	Renewal Application	John Griffin, Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd

- 3.4 Under the terms of the Petroleum Consolidation Act 1929 the following Petroleum Licences were issued since your last meeting.

Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
Ballymore Filling Station, 2-10 Andersonstown Road, Belfast, BT11 9AJ	Renewal Application	Alan Pollock, Maxol Oil Ltd
Beechlawn Filling Station, 124-126 Kingsway, Belfast, BT17 9NP	Renewal Application	Alan Pollock, Maxol Oil Ltd
Clifton Street Service Station, 38-44 Clifton Street, Belfast, BT13 1AA	Renewal Application	Feargal Woods, Woods Stores NI Ltd
Eurospar Ladas Drive Filling Station, 101 Ladas Drive, Belfast, BT6 9FH	Renewal Application	Alan Armstrong, Henderson Retail Ltd
Eurospar/BP Filling Station, 276 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3EU	Renewal Application	Alan Armstrong, Henderson Retail Ltd
Gilnahirk Filling Station, 109a Gilnahirk Road, Belfast, BT5 7QL	Renewal Application	Kevin Reid, Property Management Services Ltd
Lanark Way Filling Station, 18 Lanark Way, Belfast, BT13 3BH	Renewal Application	Karl Hunter, Rathen Ltd

Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant
Madigan's Court Filling Station, Unit 3, 739 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 4EL	Renewal Application	Patrick Mc Cormack, Charioteer Ltd
Moneen Filling Station, 339 Finaghy Road North, Belfast, BT11 9EH	Renewal Application	Brendan Nugent, Andersonstown Services Ltd
Spar Filling Station, 211 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6QD	Renewal Application	Alan Armstrong, Henderson Retail Ltd
Spar/BP Filling Station, 220-230 Holywood Road, Belfast, BT4 1PD	Renewal Application	Alan Armstrong, Henderson Retail Ltd
Spar/BP Filling Station, 318 Ravenhill Road, Belfast, BT6 8GL	Renewal Application	Alan Armstrong, Henderson Retail Ltd
Spar/BP Filling Station, 70-74 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 5BU	Renewal Application	Alan Armstrong, Henderson Retail Ltd
Speedline Filling Station, 45 Kennedy Way, Belfast, BT11 9AP	Renewal Application	Arthur Eugene O'Reilly, Jesroe (Services) Ltd

- 3.5 Under the terms of the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001 the following Street Trading Licences were issued since your last meeting.

Location	Type of Application	Commodity	Hours Licensed	Applicant
Castle Lane, Belfast	Temporary	Virgin media deals	21/22 August 2025 10:00 – 18:00	Andrew Macleod
Castle Lane, Belfast	Temporary	Virgin media deals	28/29 August 2025 10:00 – 18:00	Andrew Macleod
Site #12, Front Of City Hall, Donegall Square North, Belfast	Variation (Stationary)	Ice cream, confectionery, beverages, crepes, wraps and other artisan hot foods to be sold from a tricycle	Mon – Sun 08:00 – 21:00	Nayana Praful

- 3.6 Under the terms of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 the following Road Closure Orders were issued since your last meeting.

Location	Type of Activity	Date and Hours permitted	Applicant
Acti snack Minnowburn 10k and 5k Ballynahatty Road, Edenderry Road	Large Run	Saturday 1 November 2025 11:00 – 12:20	Jane Rowe, Born 2 Run Events
Belfast Christmas Lights Switch-on Event Donegall Square North, Donegall Place, Castle Lane, Callender Street, Castle Place, Royal Avenue, High Street, Wellington Place, Donegall Square West, Arthur Street	Civic Event	Saturday 15 November 2025 03:00 – 20:30 Sunday 16 November 2025 02:00 – 05:00	Liz Bottomley, Belfast City Council
Centra Run Together 5k & 10k Ormeau Embankment	5K & 10K Run	Sunday 19 October 2025 09:00 – 13:00	Beth Healy, Pioneer Group
Galloper Thompson 5K Jellicoe Avenue, Skegoneill Avenue, Somerton Road, Fortwilliam Park, Parkmount Road, Innisfayle Road, Donegal Park Avenue, Waterloo Gardens, Antrim Road	Club Run	Friday 17 October 2025 19:00 - 21:00	Mr Conal McCambridge

	<table><tr><th>Location</th><th>Type of Activity</th><th>Date and Hours permitted</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>CQ Christmas Sunday Art Market Hill St (Gordon St to Waring St) and Gordon Street (one way closure)</td><td>Large Event - Street Market</td><td>16 November 2025 23 November 2025 30 November 2025 7 December 2025 14 December 2025 21 December 2025 07:00 – 17:00</td><td>Damian Corr, Cathedral Quarter BID</td></tr></table>	Location	Type of Activity	Date and Hours permitted	Applicant	CQ Christmas Sunday Art Market Hill St (Gordon St to Waring St) and Gordon Street (one way closure)	Large Event - Street Market	16 November 2025 23 November 2025 30 November 2025 7 December 2025 14 December 2025 21 December 2025 07:00 – 17:00	Damian Corr, Cathedral Quarter BID										
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3.7	Under the terms of the Licensing of Pavement Cafés Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 the following Pavement Café Licences were issued since your last meeting.																		
	<table><tr><th>Premises and Location</th><th>Type of Application</th><th>Applicant</th></tr><tr><td>Bridge House, 35-37 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EJ</td><td>Grant Application</td><td>Emma Fallon, JD Wetherspoon Plc</td></tr><tr><td>First Avenue Coffee Company, 317 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 3GB</td><td>Grant Application</td><td>Shona Furey, First Avenue Coffee Company Limited</td></tr><tr><td>Little Wing Pizzeria, Gd Floor, 10 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EF</td><td>Grant Application</td><td>Anthony Mendez, Little Wing Pizzeria Limited</td></tr><tr><td>Spoon Street, 12-14 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EF</td><td>Grant Application</td><td>Justin Ward, Spoon Street Ltd</td></tr></table>				Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant	Bridge House, 35-37 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EJ	Grant Application	Emma Fallon, JD Wetherspoon Plc	First Avenue Coffee Company, 317 Ormeau Road, Belfast, BT7 3GB	Grant Application	Shona Furey, First Avenue Coffee Company Limited	Little Wing Pizzeria, Gd Floor, 10 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EF	Grant Application	Anthony Mendez, Little Wing Pizzeria Limited	Spoon Street, 12-14 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EF	Grant Application	Justin Ward, Spoon Street Ltd
Premises and Location	Type of Application	Applicant																	
Bridge House, 35-37 Bedford Street, Belfast, BT2 7EJ	Grant Application	Emma Fallon, JD Wetherspoon Plc																	
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Little Wing Pizzeria, Gd Floor, 10 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EF	Grant Application	Anthony Mendez, Little Wing Pizzeria Limited																	
Spoon Street, 12-14 Ann Street, Belfast, BT1 4EF	Grant Application	Justin Ward, Spoon Street Ltd																	
3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>																		
	None.																		
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>																		
	There are no issues associated with this report.																		



Subject:	Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Licences Issued Under Delegated Authority
Date:	19 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kevin Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager
Contact Officers:	Kevin Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager Helen Morrissey, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Department is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue and variation, but not refusal, of HMO Licences, excluding provisions relating to the issue of HMO Licences where adverse representations have been made. Those applications which were dealt with under the Scheme are listed below.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the applications that have been issued under the Scheme of Delegation during September and October 2025.

3.0

Main report

3.1

Key Issues

Under the terms of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 the following HMO Licences were issued during September and October 2025.

Premise Name	Licensee	Ward	Housing Management Areas (HMAs)	Licence Type
9 Canterbury Street	Mr Ronan Daly	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
7 Newington Avenue	Mr Pdraig McKenna	DUNCAIRN	NONE	New Application
Apartment 2, 18 Cromwell Road	University Area Properties Ltd	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
Apartment 1, 18 Cromwell Road	University Area Properties Ltd	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
4 Collingwood Avenue	Ms Teresa Short	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
29 St Ives Gardens	Mr Garry Crawford	STRANMILLIS	SANDYMOUNT HMA 2/17	Renewal Application
68 Palestine Street	Timber and Tile Properties Ltd	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
135 Dunluce Avenue	Mr Richard Stack	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
247 Connsbrook Avenue	Mrs Aoife Brogan	SYDENHAM	NONE	New Application
3 Melrose Street	Mr Joseph Murphy	WINDSOR	EDINBURGH ST HMA 2/08	Renewal Application
99 Rugby Avenue	Mr Malcolm Buck	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
103 University Avenue	Mr Rodney Woods	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
26 Canterbury Street	Mr George Hughes	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
49 Fitzwilliam Street	Mrs Kathleen Hall	WINDSOR	FITZWILLIAM HMA 2/10	Renewal Application
33 Fitzwilliam Street	Mrs Kathleen Hall	WINDSOR	FITZWILLIAM HMA 2/10	Renewal Application
90 Dunluce Avenue	Mr Cahal Carvill	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
22 Tates Avenue	Mrs Jill Hughes	WINDSOR	EDINBURGH ST HMA 2/08	Renewal Application
21 Landseer Street	Mr Stephen Mullan	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
193 Duncairn Gardens	Mr Neil Fraser Cree	DUNCAIRN	NONE	Renewal Application
23 Wolseley Street	Mr Bernard Kelly	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	New Application
14b Chlorine Gardens	Mr Mark Michael McGarry	CENTRAL	NONE	Renewal Application
Flat 3, 11 Landseer Street	Mr Dermot McCrystal	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
106 Tates Avenue	Mr John Shane McKeever	WINDSOR	EDINBURGH ST HMA 2/08	Renewal Application
66 Willowbank Gardens	OHLE Properties Limited	WATER WORKS	NONE	New Application

96 Dunraven Avenue	Mrs Sheelagh McConnell	BLOOMFIELD	NONE	Renewal Application
46 Stranmillis Park	Mr Declan Wright	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
39 Stranmillis Gardens	Mr Declan Wright	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	Renewal Application
7 Elaine Street	Mrs Jane Adrain	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMA 2/19	New Application
Flat 2, 44 University Avenue	Mr Walter McKeague	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
127 Dunluce Avenue	Mr David Torrens	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
140 Donegall Avenue	Mr Russell Farmer	BLACKSTAFF	NONE	New Application
Flat 2, 7 Ashley Avenue	Mrs Caryl MacRandal	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
34 Woodvale Avenue	Mr Peadar O'Byrne	WOODVALE	NONE	New Application
35 Jerusalem Street	Mr Stephen Campbell	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	Renewal Application
22 Agincourt Street	Oakrone Investments Ltd	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMA 2/22	New Application
8 Ulsterville Gardens	Ms Alexandra Young	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMA 2/21	Renewal Application
6 Laganvale Street	Mr Adam Irvine	STRANMILLIS	HARLESTON HMO 2/11, STRANMILLIS	Renewal Application
69 Sandhurst Gardens	Mrs Aisling McCann	STRANMILLIS	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application
30 University Avenue	Mr Sean Kerlin	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	Renewal Application
122 Dunluce Avenue	Mr Eanna O'Hara	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMO 2/21	Renewal Application
20 Westminster Street	Mr Patrick Conway	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	Renewal Application
95 Enfield Street	Mr Michael Crone	WOODVALE	NONE	New Application
21 Rossmore Avenue	Mr Raymond Quinn	ROSETTA	NONE	Renewal Application
42a Stranmillis Road	Silverthorn Properties Limited	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application
16 Damascus Street	Mr Declan Boyle	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	Renewal Application
32 Hatton Drive	Miss Ashley Morhej	BEERSBRIDGE	NONE	Renewal Application
117 University Avenue	Mr Michael Blaney	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	Renewal Application
Apartment 17, 16 Annadale Avenue	P & S PROPERTY RENTALS LIMITED	BELVOIR	NONE	New Application
Flat 1 34 Magdala Street	D.M PROPERTY ESTATES LIMITED	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	Renewal Application
98 Wellesley Avenue	Mr Ciaran McKinley	WINDSOR	EGLANTINE HMO 2/09	New Application
35 Landseer Street	Torrbeg Properties Ltd	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application

	27 Ulsterville Gardens	Mrs Jayne Hughes	WINDSOR	ULSTERVILLE HMO 2/21	New Application
	76 Stranmillis Gardens	Dr Mark Danton	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application
	4 Stranmillis Park	Mr John Miller	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application
	59 Lomond Avenue	Mr Andrew Peoples	CONNSWATER	NONE	Renewal Application
	9 Fitzwilliam Square	Mr Owen Treacy	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	4 Riverview Street	Mr Simon Montgomery	STRANMILLIS	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application
	8 Pims Avenue	Mrs Laura Cairns	CONNSWATER	NONE	New Application
	48 Sandhurst Gardens	Mr Mark McKelvey	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application
	60 Castlereagh Street	Innov8 Living Ltd	BEERSBRIDGE	NONE	New Application
	89 Sunnyside Street	Mr Patrick McKeever	ORMEAU	BALLYNAFEIGH HMO 2/03	Renewal Application
	5 Penrose Street	DOLAN RETAIL LTD	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	21 Upper Frank Street	PRK Property Limited	BEERSBRIDGE	NONE	New Application
	53 Palestine Street	Brightlife Property Limited	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	23 Cairo Street	Brightlife Property Limited	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	243 Donegall Road	Mr Justen Gill	BLACKSTAFF	DONEGALL ROAD HMO 2/07	Renewal Application
	Flat 2 ,37-39 Cromwell Road	D.M PROPERTY ESTATES LIMITED	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	32 Jerusalem Street	Oakrone Investments Ltd	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	26 Stranmillis Gardens	Mrs Monica Yarr	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	New Application
	34 Lucerne Parade	Ms Carole Wray	STRANMILLIS	NONE	New Application
	Flat 3, 46 Agincourt Avenue	D.M PROPERTY ESTATES LIMITED	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	Flat 2, 46 Agincourt Avenue	D.M PROPERTY ESTATES LIMITED	CENTRAL	HOLYLAND HMO 2/22	New Application
	8 Landseer Street	Mrs Grace Kerr	CENTRAL	STRANMILLIS HMO 2/19	Renewal Application
	15 Wellington Park Avenue	Mr Michael Kelly	WINDSOR	EGLANTINE HMO 2/09	Renewal Application
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>				
3.2	None				
<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>					
3.3	There are no issues associated with this report.				



Subject:	Application for the Variation of 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for The Spaniard.
Date:	19 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

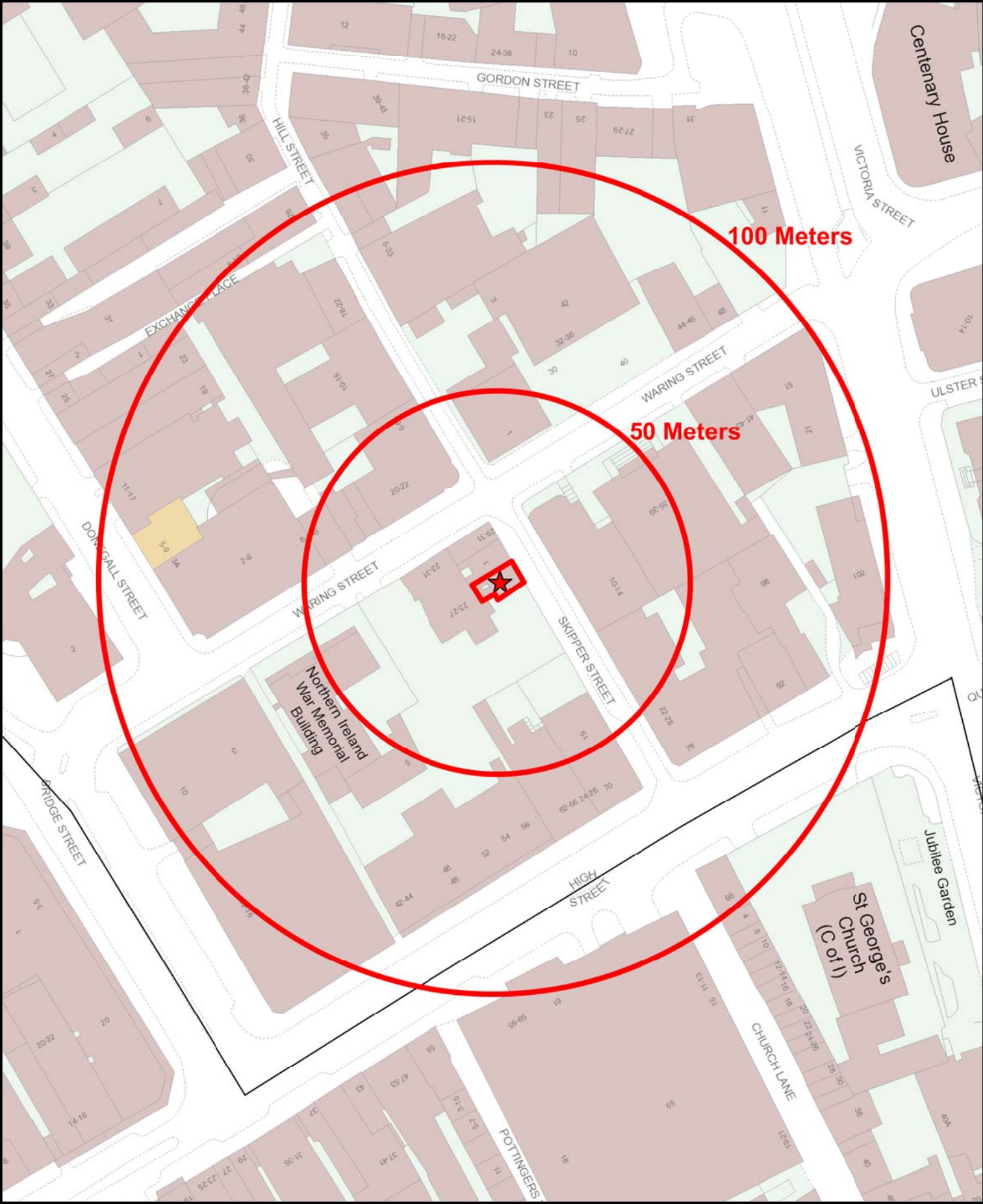
Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

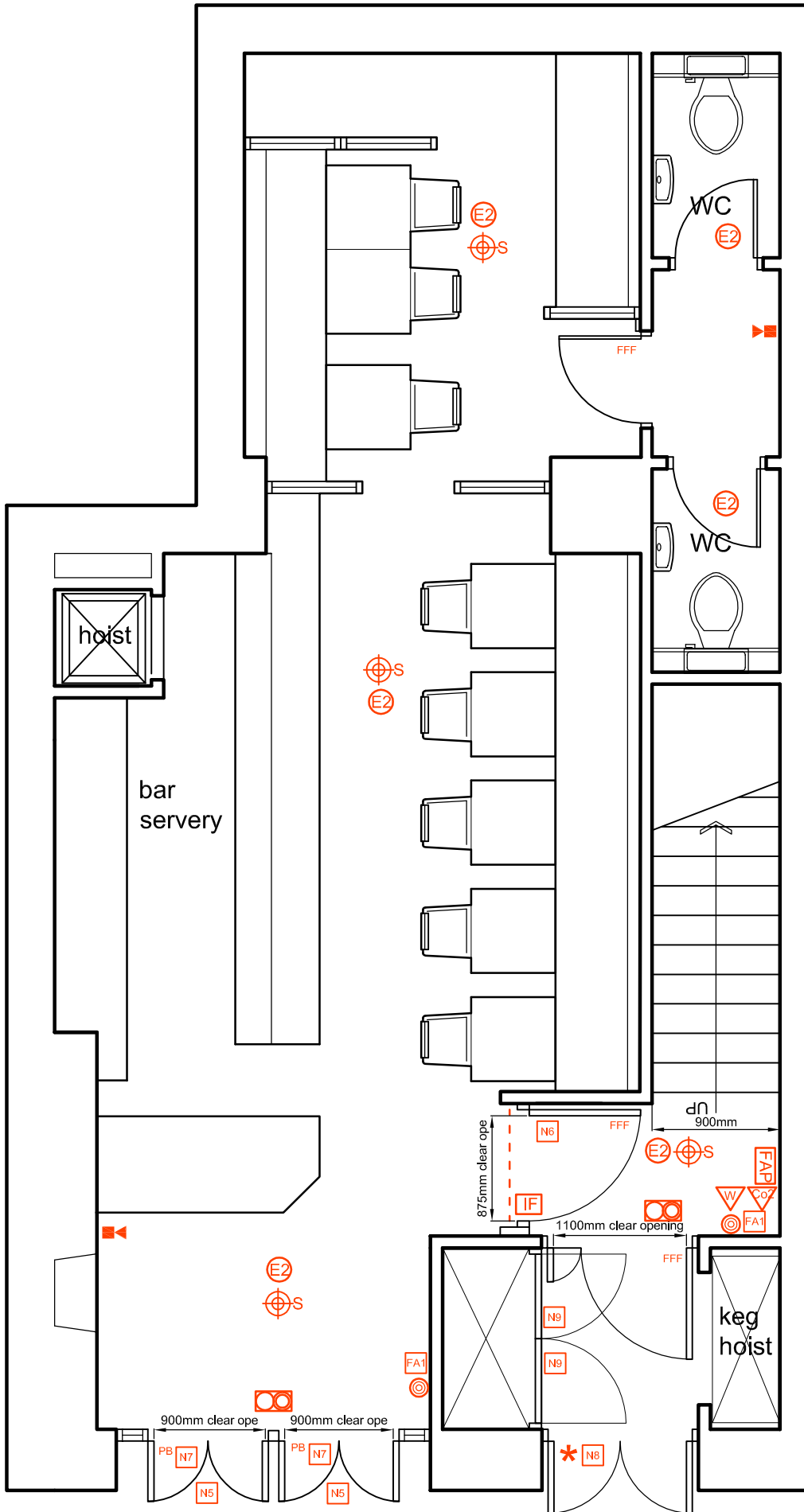
1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues								
1.1	To consider the application, from JK Pubs Limited, for the variation of their 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence based on the Council’s standard conditions, to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind, for the following premises: <table><tr><td>Area and Location</td><td>Ref. No.</td><td>Applicant</td></tr><tr><td>The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street, Belfast, BT1 2DZ</td><td>WK/2022/03933</td><td>Janine Kane</td></tr></table>			Area and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant	The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street, Belfast, BT1 2DZ	WK/2022/03933	Janine Kane
Area and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant							
The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street, Belfast, BT1 2DZ	WK/2022/03933	Janine Kane							
1.2	Location map for the premises is attached as Appendix 1								
2.0	Recommendations								
2.1	Taking into account the information presented, and any representations made in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either: a) Approve the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence to vary the hours during which entertainment may be provided as requested, or b) Approve the application for the variation with special conditions, or c) Refuse the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence.								
2.2	If the application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided to the later hours requested until any such appeal is determined.								
3.0	Main report								
	<u>Key Issues</u>								
3.1	The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided under the terms of the current Entertainments Licence are: <table><tr><td>Monday – Saturday</td><td>11:30am to 2.00am the following morning</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>12:30pm to 2.00am the following morning.</td></tr></table>			Monday – Saturday	11:30am to 2.00am the following morning	Sunday	12:30pm to 2.00am the following morning.		
Monday – Saturday	11:30am to 2.00am the following morning								
Sunday	12:30pm to 2.00am the following morning.								
3.2	The nature of the variation applied is to extend the hours during which entertainment may be provided to 3.00am the following morning on every night of the week.								
3.3	At present entertainment is provided in the form of DJ’s and live bands on Friday and Saturday nights.								
3.4	The licensee has stated that they would like the variation to extend the permitted hours until 3.00am as they feel the premises is an integral part of Belfast’s nightlife and that an increase in operating hours will allow them to compete within the sector, which is essential for the commercial success of the business.								
3.5	Layout plans are attached as Appendix 2.								

	<p><u>Representations</u></p> <p>3.6 Public notice of the application has been placed in the newspaper and no written representation has been lodged as a result of the advertisement.</p> <p><u>PSNI</u></p> <p>3.7 The Police Service of Northern Ireland have been consulted in relation to the application and have confirmed that they have no objection to the variation application.</p> <p>3.8 A copy of their response is included as Appendix 3 to this report.</p> <p><u>NIFRS</u></p> <p>3.9 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted and have confirmed that they have no objection to the application.</p> <p><u>Health, safety and welfare</u></p> <p>3.10 The premises has been subject to inspections as part of the licensing application process and all technical requirements and associated operational and management procedures have been checked and are satisfactory.</p> <p><u>Noise</u></p> <p>3.11 No noise complaints have been received by the Service in the past 12 months.</p> <p>3.12 Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2011 gives the council additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.</p> <p><u>Applicant</u></p> <p>3.13 The applicant, and/or their representative will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the applications.</p>
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	None
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	There are no issues associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Location map • Appendix 2 – Layout plans • Appendix 3 – PSNI Comments

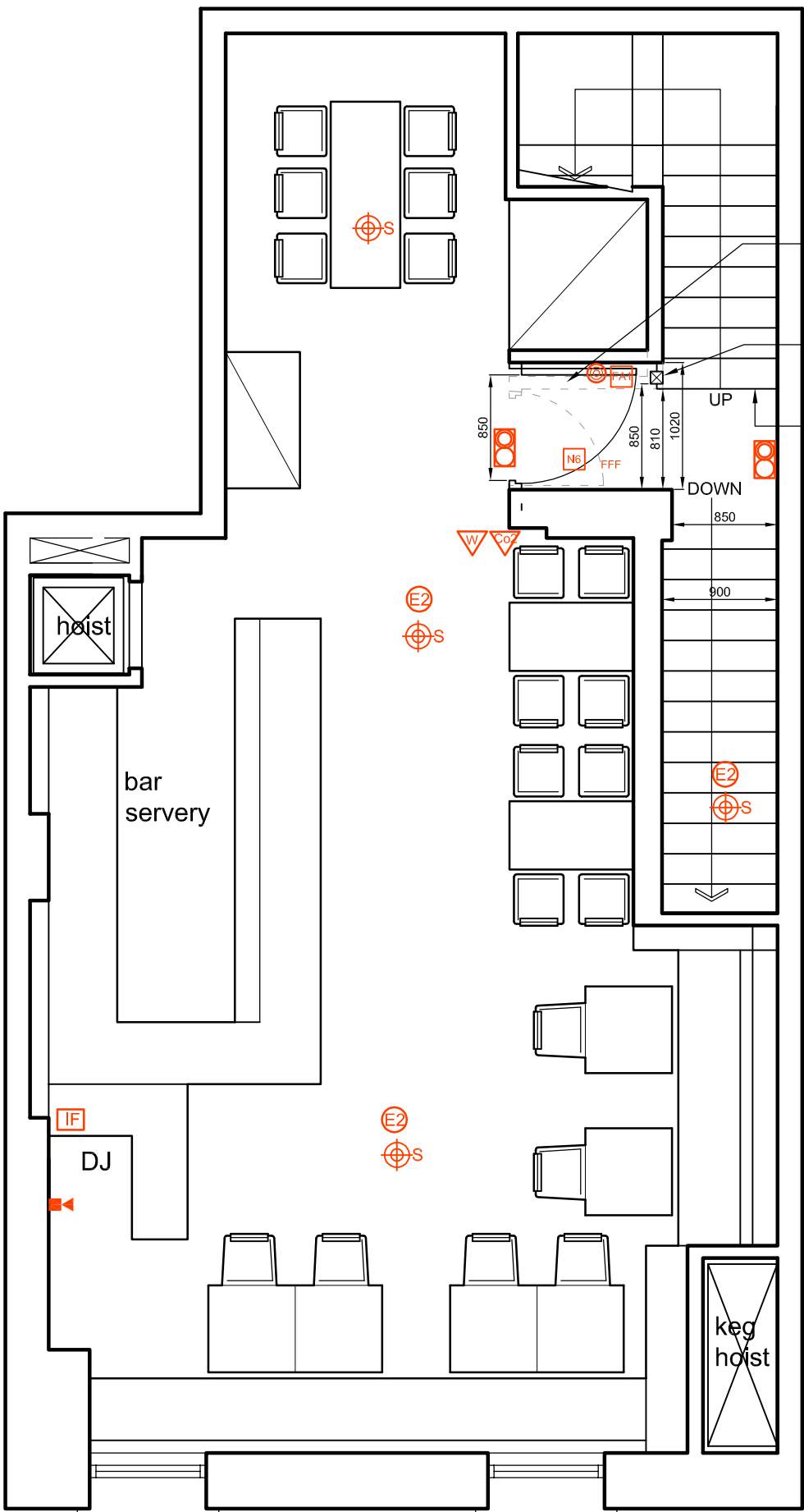
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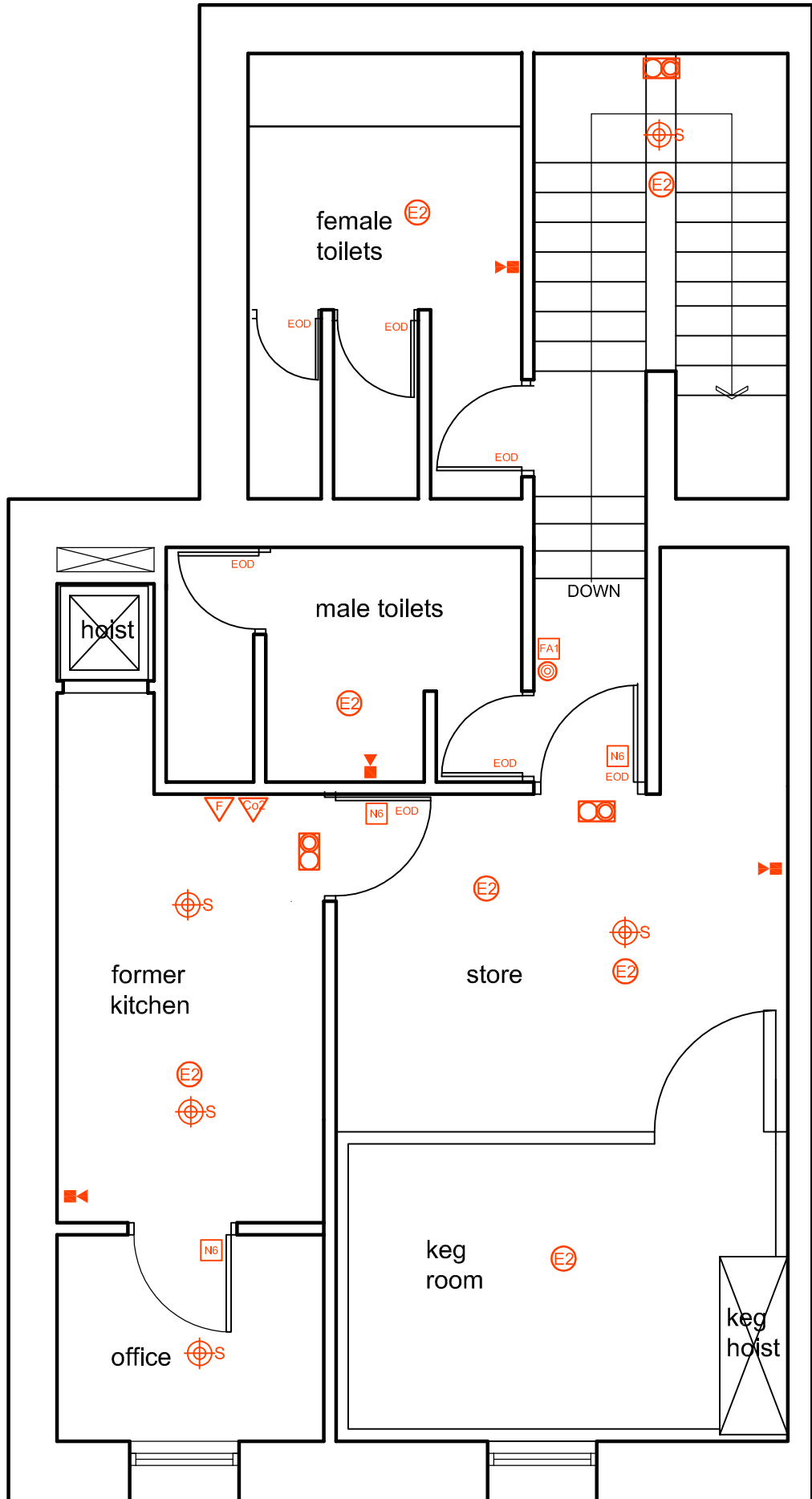
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Ground Floor



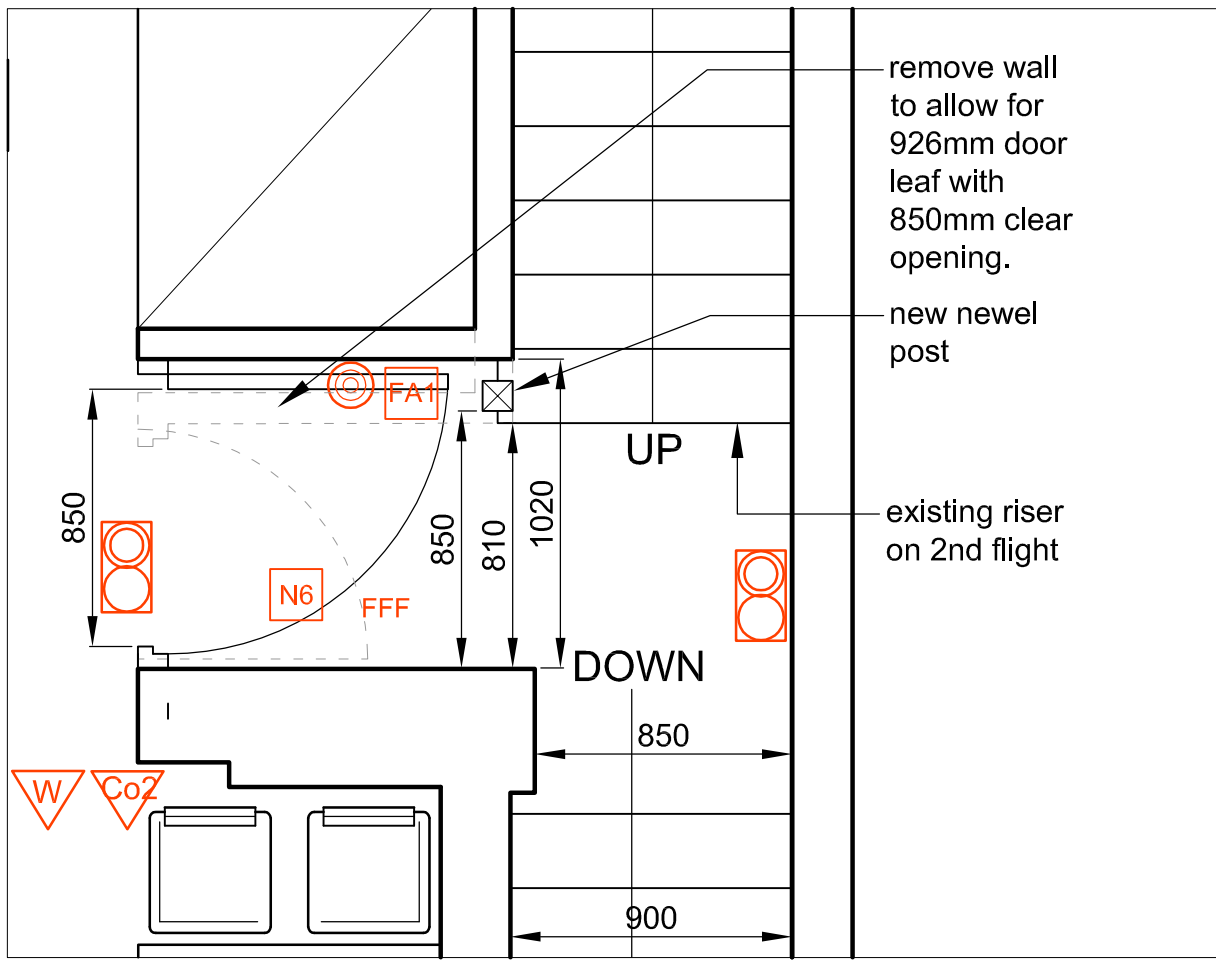
First Floor (proposed)



Second Floor

key to fire symbols			
	maintained, self contained emergency exit sign with approach	EDO	easy opening device
	Euro legend and 3 hour integral battery pack	FFF	free from fastenings
	non maintained, self contained emergency lighting with 3 hour integral battery pack	FRG	fire resistant glazing
	maintained, self contained emergency lighting with 3 hour integral battery pack - IP50 rated	FS	push bar to open
	wall mounted escaper with integral strobe light	SC	self closing device
	audible warning device	VP	vision panel
	ceiling mounted smoke detector	SS	cold smoke seat
	ceiling mounted heat detector	FR	fire resisting door 30 mins minimum
	ceiling mounted smoke detector in roof void	JN	fire resisting door 60 mins minimum
	fire alarm call point	FA	general fire notice
	refuge call point	NO	"fire exit - keep clear" notice
	disabled refuge panel	NO	"fire door - keep shut" notice
	fire alarm panel	NO	"push bar to open" notice
	interface with fire detection system	NO	to remain unlocked and in open position while premises are in use
	"HRRFR fire shutter linked for fire detection system"	NO	"fire door - keep locked" notice

Fire detection system, emergency lighting and exit signs and portable fire fighting equipment to comply fully with the following BS codes:
Exit signs and notices to BS 5499 pt. 1
All emergency lighting to comply with BS 5266: 2005
Fire detection systems and alarms to BS 5839:1:2002 (L1)
Extinguishers and other fire fighting equipment shall comply with BS5423 and/or BS5274



First floor detail - 1:25

REVISIONS:
Revision A 09-12-15
Proposed adjusted door opening on 1st floor amended.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS NOTE

All levels and dimensions to be checked on site and any discrepancies should be referred to O'Donnell O'Neill Design Assoc.Ltd. for their direction. Work to figured dimensions ONLY. Do not scale off these drawings.
It is the responsibility of the appointed contractor to ensure that both they and their nominated sub contractors, their nominated suppliers, and the client direct nominated sub contractors and suppliers ensure that all materials and workmanship comply with the relevant Building Regulations and that all Health and Safety regulations are implemented . All to be in full compliance with The Building Regulations Technical Documents 1997-2015. Refer to engineers drawing for all structural elements details.

wall key:	
	new walls - for fire rating refer to Architects details and specifications
	existing walls
	demolitions

**Donnell
Neill**

INTERIOR ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS
1 Upr. Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin
tel:01 2300066 fax:01 2145776
email : info@ooda.ie
5 Stranmillis Road, Belfast BT95AF
tel:028 90668363 fax: 028 90663345
email belfast@ooda.ie
www.ooda.ie

**STAGE
INFORMATION**

General Contractors Note:
It is the responsibility of the appointed contractor to ensure that both they and their nominated sub contractors, their nominated suppliers, and the client direct nominated sub contractors and suppliers construct all elements of the project in full compliance with The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 Technical Booklets.

CLIENT: Janine Kane	
JOB: The Spaniard	
TITLE: Proposed fire safety plans	
SCALE: 1:50 (A1)	FILE: 1598
DATE: Dec 2015	DRAWN BY: GD
DRAWING NO: 1598-01	REVISION: A

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Building Control Service
Ground Floor
Cecil Ward Building
4-10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

30th October 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

RE:- Variation to EL [REDACTED]
The Spaniard, 3 Skipper Street
[REDACTED]

Please note that District Councils are the lead organisation for Entertainment Licensing and the provisions of the Order under Schedule 1 allows for the application, regulation and restriction following consideration by the licensing authority.

The Order allows for the granting of a licence with conditions with the overarching aim of maximising safety and minimise risk and impact that may result from the granting of a licence.

The role of the Police Service in consideration of entertainment licences is limited however I would highlight current regulatory practice:

- Private Security Industry Act 2001 – covers the requirement for the provision of licensed activities that may impact this application.
- Responsible retailing code (NI) – covers the responsible promotion and retail of alcohol.
- The Registration of Clubs (NI) Order 1996
- The Licensing (NI) Order 1996
- The Licensing and Registration of Clubs (amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021.

There are no current grounds for PSNI objections to the above application for variation in the entertainment licences and request they are further considered by Belfast City Council, residents, other local business and NIFRS.

Police would request confirmation that an application under Article 44A to permit the selling of alcohol until 2am and consumption until 3am has

been applied for to the Courts and the following special conditions be considered for inclusion on the licence to ensure the peaceful and orderly conduct of the area and that the appropriate number of SIA approved only doorstaff be deployed within the licenced premises.

- The licence holder to take positive steps to manage the premises responsibly in a peaceful and orderly manor
- Robust complaints procedure in place for dealing with residents' concerns expeditiously.
- APPENDIX E – Safer Dancing / Reduction in the supply of drugs within the BCC Rules of Management be complied with ASAP

Please note if a Pavement Café area is included within the Entertainment Licence, an application under the permanent scheme should be made to Belfast City Council ASAP as any existing temporary Pavement Café Licence will no longer be valid.

If the Entertainment Licence application is granted in due course police note that APPENDIX E – Safer Dancing / Reduction in the supply of drugs within the BCC Rules of Management it is the responsibility of the licence holder. Any breaches or non-compliance should be managed by Belfast City Council.

Please forward police a copy of the above Entertainment Licences with any special conditions or restrictions with confirmation that all Belfast City Council requirements and conditions including all Building Regulations approvals have been adhered to and that the Licensing (NI) Order 1996 will be adhered to by the licence holder.

Can you please also ensure that the applicant has registered the premises with the ongoing 'Ask for Angela' campaign as we continue to raise awareness for this simple, yet effective initiative that allows those who may find themselves in a vulnerable situation, with a quick and discreet way to access the help they need. Please feel free to share and encourage your applicants to register and appear on the province wide map.



The Police Service of Northern Ireland has developed a short training package, in partnership with Hospitality Ulster for the 'Ask for Angela' safeguarding initiative

across Northern Ireland. People who feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff. Asking for 'Angela' will indicate to trained staff that this person requires help in the form of; reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or Police. The training package for the scheme is now available to access on the Hospitality Ulster website here: <https://hospitalityulster.org/askforangela> or on the Northern Ireland Hotel Federation website here: <https://www.nihf.co.uk/ask-for-angela/> Any venue that wishes to take part must **first register via the link** above to sign up to the scheme and then they will be given access to the bespoke training package for their staff and promotional materials for their venue.

Once venues have signed up they will be added to a map that has been designed to make the public aware of what once venues have signed up they will be added to a map that has been designed to make the public aware of what venues are involved.

██████████
Licensing Constable
Belfast City

Extension: ██████████

Mobile: ██████████

Email: ██████████ Musgrave Police Station • 60
Victoria Street • Belfast • BT1 3GL

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Subject:	Notice of Motion – Unite’s Work Safe Home Safe Campaign
Date:	19th November, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
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Sometime in the future	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>								
Never	<input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/>								
Call-in									
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>								

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention the Notice of Motion referred to it by the Standards and Business Committee, on 23rd October, in relation to Unite's Work Safe – Home Safe Campaign.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>Members are asked to note that in accordance with Standing Order 13(i) that Notices of Motion which commit the Council to expenditure must be referred to the appropriate committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>At this time Members are only asked to note that the Notice of Motion has been received and that, if agreed, a subsequent report will be brought to Committee outlining a detailed consideration of the practicalities of the implementation of the Motion and the potential costs implications.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Committee will be aware that Standing Order 13 (n), as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 4th October, is as follows:</p> <p>(n) The Standards and Business Committee will refer all Notices of Motion directly to a standing committee when the matter to which the Notice of Motion refers falls within the remit of that committee. At Council, the Lord Mayor will indicate that the Notice of Motion was received and referred. There will be no speakers on such Notices of Motion at Council.</p>
3.2	<p>The following motion has been received:</p> <p><u>Unite's Work Safe Home Safe Campaign</u></p> <p>Unite's Work Safe / Home Safe campaign is a direct response to the harassment, violence, and unsafe travel faced by hospitality and night-time economy workers in Belfast. Research</p>

	<p>shows that over 90% of hospitality workers experience sexual harassment at work. Unite's 2025 survey in Northern Ireland found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 42% of workers walk home after shifts due to lack of transport, • 77% receive no employer support for safe travel, • 53% have witnessed or experienced harassment or assault on their way home after a shift, • 68% of women routinely witness or experience sexual harassment in the workplace.
3.3	<p>This Council notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That harassment, spiking and gender-based violence remain widespread in hospitality and the night-time economy, disproportionately affecting women, young, migrant and LGBT+ workers. 2. That hospitality and the night-time economy are major employers and economic drivers for Belfast and Northern Ireland, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and contributing over £1 billion annually to the regional economy. 3. That the Northern Ireland Executive, has announced funding for a one-year pilot of late-night public transport services in Belfast, with Belfast City Council co-funding the scheme. This is a welcome step that will help customers and the public get home safely, strengthen the night-time economy, and improve the city's connectivity. However, it does not remove the responsibility on employers to provide safe, paid transport home for staff who finish work after public services end. 4. That under the Licensing (NI) Order 1996 and Entertainment Licensing (NI) Order 1985, the Council has powers to promote public safety and prevent crime and disorder through licensing policy.
3.4	<p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend Belfast City Council's licensing and entertainment policy to require venues seeking late-night opening to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adopt and enforce zero-tolerance anti-harassment and anti-spiking policies;

3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Display clear reporting procedures for staff and customers; ○ Provide safe transport home, paid for by the employer, for staff finishing after hours where public transport is more limited or unavailable. <p>2. Adopt a Belfast Charter against harassment in hospitality, based on Unite’s Work Safe / Home Safe campaign, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scrapping sexist dress codes; ○ Visible anti-harassment and reporting posters; ○ Free, discreet spiking test kits in venues; ○ Funding and mandating training on harassment and workplace safety developed with the involvement of, and full access for, trade unions and women’s groups. <p>3. Work with Unite, the Department for Infrastructure and Translink to ensure the late-night transport pilot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritises passenger and staff safety through staffing, CCTV and lighting; ○ Covers public demand without being used as a substitute for employer-funded transport for staff; ○ Is reviewed with input from hospitality workers, including transport workers, and their unions. <p>4. Lobby the Northern Ireland Executive, the Department for Communities and MLAs to introduce stronger protections and minimum standards so that all workers can travel home safely after late and unsocial hours, and so that employers play their full part in funding safe and fair transport.</p> <p>5. Report annually on progress, consulting with workers, unions and transport staff, and publish findings on safety, compliance and the impact on harassment and violence in the night-time economy.</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Áine Groogan Seconded: Councillor Michael Collins</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider the motion and take such action thereon which may be determined.</p>
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3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage. Details of any financial and resource implications will be reported at a subsequent meeting.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.

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Subject:	Request for the Exhibition of Unclassified Films
Date:	19 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning & Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To consider a request from CCEA (Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment Northern Ireland) to permit unclassified films to be screened at Cineworld, as part of a screening event showing films produced by A-Level and GCSE students.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested, having heard from representatives of CCEA, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) permit the screening of the unclassified films in accordance with an age classification of 12A which has been specified by CCEA; or b) permit the screening of the unclassified films in accordance with a different age classification; or c) refuse the screening of unclassified films in the venue. <p>Whilst there is a general provision for appeals in relation to the conditions placed on Cinema Licences, there is no right of appeal in respect of this decision.</p>
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The Council licences cinemas and other venues under the Cinemas (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 for the exhibition of films. The main functions of the legislation relate to technical matters such as structural stability and fire safety and, as such, the powers to issue licences are delegated to the Director of Planning and Building Control.
3.2	Unlike other types of Licences there is no public notification and representation process for Cinema Licence applications hence there is normally no involvement of the Committee with Cinema Licensing.
3.3	However, the Order requires the Council to impose conditions or restrictions prohibiting the admission of children to film exhibitions involving the showing of films designated as works unsuitable for children.
3.4	When issuing Licences, the Council establishes Conditions regarding the general running and administration of the premises. One such Condition is that only films which have been classified with a certificate issued by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) may be shown. These conditions are attached at Appendix 1.
3.5	The BBFC is an independent body which classifies all films on behalf of local authorities, and they have strict guidelines and criteria in awarding films a classification. The BBFC categories and criteria guidelines are attached at Appendix 2.
3.6	This system is used by all authorities within the United Kingdom and all commercial films will have been classified through this process. Independent films, shorts and features that have not been classified through the BBFC tend to be shown in private clubs and societies rather than in commercial cinemas licensed by the Council. However, in recent years the Council have received an increased number of requests to consider screening of unclassified films.

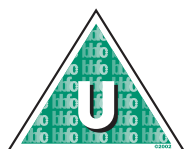
3.7	There is a proviso in the Licence Conditions which allows the showing of an unclassified film if the Council is satisfied with the proposal. The Council can also append any Conditions it deems appropriate in relation to that film exhibition, including an age restriction. Such a decision does not attempt to 'classify' the film but merely permits its exhibition in the individual situation applied for.
3.8	The Service has previously received requests to screen unclassified films for which the Licensing Committee has provided its approval.
3.9	The Service reserves the right to take action for a breach of licence if any of the unclassified films are found not to be as described.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.10	The Service has received a request for unclassified films produced by A-Level and GCSE students to be shown in Cineworld by CCEA. See Appendix 3.
3.11	The films selected by CCEA for broadcast have achieved awards within predefined categories by the examination body.
3.12	The applicant has confirmed that schools, examination bodies and a judging panel have viewed the exhibitions to be broadcast. Further to this, the applicant has identified they do not foresee any issues with appropriateness of content and would regard all films selected as representative of a 12A BBFC rating.
3.13	None of the films will have received classification from BBFC or equivalent body.
3.14	The expertise for film classification is considered to rest with BBFC and other statutory bodies established for this function. The Service has not viewed the films to validate the '12A' rating.
3.15	The audience viewing the exhibitions will comprise students, teachers, Principals and representatives from the film industry.
3.16	The applicant has identified that pupils to be admitted to the screening will be Year 12 and upwards. CCEA have confirmed pupils within these Year groups will be 15 years of age and older.
3.17	A representative from CCEA will be available at Committee to answer any questions Members may have in relation to the films.
4.0	Financial and Resource Implications None. Officers will carry out inspections before and during the events which will be catered for within existing Service budgets.
5.0	Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment There are no issues associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices – Documents Attached <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 1 – Conditions of licence • Appendix 2 – BBFC Classification Guidelines • Appendix 3 – Applicant request

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CONDITION OF LICENCE

1. No film shall be exhibited unless:-
 - (a) It has received a 'U', 'PG', '12A', '12', '15', or '18' certificate of the British Board of Film Classification.
 - (b) It is a current news-reel which has not been submitted to the British Board of Film Classification.
 2.
 - (a) No persons under the age of twelve years, unless they are accompanied by an Adult, shall be admitted to any Exhibition when a '12A' film is in the programme.
 - (b) No persons under the age of fifteen years shall be admitted to any Exhibition when a '15' film is in the programme.
 - (c) No persons under the age of eighteen years shall be admitted to any Exhibition when a '18' film is in the programme.
 3. Notwithstanding the conditions hereinbefore contained, a film may be exhibited, or children, or any class of children, may be admitted thereto, or admitted unaccompanied, if permission of the Council is first obtained and any conditions of such permission are complied with.
 4. A representation or written statement of the terms of any certificate given by the British Board of Film Classification shall be shown on the screen immediately before the showing of any film to which it relates and the representation or statement shall be shown for long enough in a form large enough for it to be read from any seat in the auditorium.
 5. There shall be prominently exhibited in each public entrance whenever the premises are open to the public a notice indicating in tabular form and in clear bold letters and figures:-
 - (a) the title of each film to be shown on that day, other than trailers and films of less than five minutes' duration;
 - (b) the approximate times of commencement of each such film;
 - (c) whether each film has received a 'U', 'PG', '12A', '12', '15', or '18' certificate from the British Board of Films Censors;
 - (d) the effect of such 'U', 'PG', '12A', '12', '15', or '18' certificate in relation to the admission of persons under the age of eighteen years; and
 - (e) appropriate advice in respect of '12A' certificate films to enable an accompanying adult to decide upon the suitability of the film for children under the age of twelve years.
 6. The nature of any certificate received in respect of a film from the British Board of Film Classification shall be clearly indicated by the letter 'U', 'PG', '12A', '12', '15', or '18' in any advertisement of the film displayed at the premises.
 7. There shall not appear on any advertisement of a film displayed at the premises any reference to the Council or any wording to the effect that the film has been banned or not passed by the British Board of Film Classification.
 8. No advertisement displayed at the premises of a film to be exhibited at the premises shall depict as a scene or incident in the film any scene or incident which is not included in the film as certified by the British Board of Film Classification or approved for exhibition by the Council, as the case may be.
 9. Where the Council has given notice in writing to the licensee objecting to an advertisement on the ground that, if displayed, it would offend against good taste or decency or be likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to the public feeling, that advertisement shall not be displayed at the premises except with the consent in writing of the Council.
 10. Where the Council has given notice in writing to the licensee prohibiting the exhibition of a film on the ground that it contains matter which, if exhibited, would offend against good taste or decency or be likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or be offensive to the public feeling, that film shall not be exhibited in the premises except with the consent in writing of the Council.
 11. The licensee shall ensure that all attendants when on duty at the premises shall wear either distinctive clothing or suitable arm-bands.
 12. The premises shall not without consent in writing of the Council be used for the purpose for which the license is granted on:-
 - (a) Sunday at any time or,
 - (b) other days between the hours of 1.00 am and 8.00 am.
 13. Only films which have received a certificate from the British Board of Film Classification in the categories 'U', 'PG', '12A', '12', '15' and current news-reels will be permitted to be shown on Sundays during the hours of 3.30 pm to 7.30 pm.
- N. B. These conditions must be displayed with the licence in a conspicuous place on the premises at all times.**

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Classification Guidelines

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8	General classification considerations	28	R18
10	Specific classification considerations	31	Intervention
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22	12A/12		

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit, co-regulatory body. Our classification function is funded through fees charged to those who submit films and video works for classification.

- We classify:
- films, trailers and advertisements on behalf of local authorities who license cinemas under the Licensing Act 2003¹
 - video works distributed on physical media under the Video Recordings Act 1984
 - video works which are distributed over the internet under a voluntary, self-regulatory service
 - commercial and internet content distributed via mobile networks under a voluntary, self-regulatory service

In addition to our classification functions, we are designated as the age-verification regulator under Part 3 of the Digital Economy Act 2017. The BBFC's responsibilities under this Act include:

- making sure that online commercial pornography services carry age-verification controls
- providing guidance on what kind of age-verification arrangements will ensure that these services comply with the law
- taking enforcement action against online pornographic services that do not carry effective age-verification and/or those that contain extreme pornographic material (as defined under UK law) which is illegal to possess

¹Since 31 March 2016 the BBFC has sub-contracted the assessment of cinema advertisements for commercial goods and services to the Cinema Advertising Association, while retaining responsibility for classifying all feature films, trailers, public information films and charity campaigns.

Our Classification Guidelines follow an extensive public consultation to which more than 10,000 people contribute across the UK, as well as other research, expert advice and our accumulated experience over many years. The Guidelines, and our practice in applying them, pay particular attention to changes in public taste, attitudes and concerns, and changes in the law. They also take account of new evidence from research and expert sources. The Guidelines are reviewed every four to five years, and how we apply them is reviewed when necessary.

We take responsibility for the Guidelines and for their interpretation. This responsibility is subject to the normal considerations of fairness and reasonableness.

Here, and throughout the Guidelines, video works are taken to include films and programmes released on DVD or Blu-ray, or distributed by means of download or streaming on the internet.

The Guidelines cannot be a comprehensive account of everything that may at any time be of concern. If issues arise which are not specifically covered here, they will be dealt with by us on their merits and in line with the standards expressed and implied in these Guidelines. The Guidelines are not a legal document and should be interpreted in the spirit of what is intended as well as in the letter.

We will provide guidance on the interpretation of these Guidelines on request and their application to particular films.





Guiding principles

Our guiding principles are:

- to protect children and vulnerable adults from potentially harmful or otherwise unsuitable media content
- to empower consumers, particularly parents and those with responsibility for children, to make informed viewing decisions

We fulfil these roles chiefly by providing age classifications and publishing advice (known as ratings info) for individual films and videos. Ratings info gives a detailed breakdown of the issues that result in a particular classification, as well as other issues likely to be of relevance to viewers.

Our extensive research into public opinion guides us as we seek to ensure that classification decisions generally reflect public sensibilities and expectations as these change over time. We seek to ensure that films and videos reach the widest audience that is appropriate for their theme and treatment.

While media effects research and expert opinion can provide valuable insights, it can be inconclusive or contradictory on issues of suitability and harm. In such cases we must rely on our own experience and expertise to make a judgement as to the suitability of a work for classification at a particular age category, taking into consideration whether the availability of the material, to the age group concerned, is clearly unacceptable to broad public opinion.

We do this without infringing the right of adults to choose what they view provided that it remains within the law and is not potentially harmful.

In relation to harm, we will consider whether the material, either on its own, or in combination with other content of a similar nature, may cause any harm at the category concerned. This includes not just any harm that may result from the behaviour of potential viewers, but also any moral or societal harm that may be caused by, for example, desensitising a potential viewer to the effects of violence, degrading a potential viewer's sense of empathy, encouraging a dehumanised view of others, encouraging anti-social attitudes, reinforcing unhealthy fantasies, or eroding a sense of moral responsibility. Especially with regard to children, harm may also include impairing social and moral development, distorting a viewer's sense of right and wrong, and limiting their capacity for compassion.

We will not classify material which is in conflict with the criminal law, and we will have regard to whether the material has arisen from the commission of an unlawful act.

We act as a regulator across the United Kingdom. However, the UK does not have a single legal system, and so we take account of the different legal systems that coexist in the UK. Further details about the applicable legislation can be found in the Annexe – legal considerations.

General classification considerations

There are general factors that may influence a classification decision at any level and in connection with any issue. These factors are of particular importance when a work lies on the borderline between two age categories.

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Context

We consider the context in which an issue (such as sex, language or violence) is presented within a film or video. In doing this we take account of factors such as the setting of a work (historical, fantasy, realistic, contemporary); the manner of presentation (for example, an aggressive and directed use of bad or discriminatory language may result in a higher classification than a light-hearted and self-referential use of the same term); the apparent intention of the film; the original production date of the work (for example, outdated attitudes might be considered less offensive, and consequently classified at a lower category, in an old, obviously dated, work); the expectations of the likely audience; and any special merits of the work.

Theme

Classification decisions will take into account the theme of a work, but will depend significantly on the treatment of that theme, and especially the sensitivity of its presentation. The most challenging themes (for example, sexual violence, paedophilia and suicide) are unlikely to be appropriate at the lowest levels of classification (U or PG). However, there is no reason in principle why most themes, however difficult, could not be presented in a manner which allows classification at 18 or even, where suitable, at lower levels. Classification decisions are likely to be less restrictive where difficult themes are handled in a reassuring and age appropriate manner, or where there is a positive outcome. Classification decisions are likely to be more restrictive where difficult themes are handled in a manner likely to create or reinforce anxiety.

Tone and impact

The overall tone of a work may also affect the classification decision. While the presentation of specific issues, such as sex and violence, may not be problematic at a particular category, a work with a dark or unsettling tone may receive a higher classification. Other tonal considerations which might have an influence on classification include the extent to which the work presents a despairing view of the world, or the extent to which transgressive or harmful behaviour is condoned or made to appear normal.

We take into account the impact of a work (i.e. how it makes the audience feel), for example the presentation of credible real world scenarios about which viewers, especially younger viewers, are likely to be anxious (e.g. terrorism, abduction, suicide, self-harm). We also take account of audience expectations regarding genre, for example in relation to horror films where threat may be more significant than the level of violence, or in the case of action films, where viewers are likely to have certain expectations regarding the type of highly choreographed and unrealistic violence they are likely to contain.

Where multiple classification issues are present in the same work, this may produce a cumulative impact that makes a higher classification more appropriate.



Specific classification considerations

This section of the Guidelines identifies concerns which apply, to a greater or a lesser degree, at all classification levels, and sets out the general approach that we take. The concerns are listed in alphabetical order.

Pages 18 to 28 of the Guidelines provide specific guidance for U through to R18 with regard to such concerns. This should be read together with the General classification considerations.

Dangerous behaviour

Classification decisions will take into account any detailed portrayal of criminal and violent techniques, and glamorisation of easily accessible weapons, such as knives. Works which portray anti-social behaviour (for example, bullying) uncritically are likely to receive a higher classification. Works which, taken as a whole, actively promote illegal behaviour may be cut or refused a classification.

Portrayals of potentially dangerous behaviour (especially relating to suicide, self-harm and asphyxiation) which children and young people may potentially copy, will be cut if a higher classification is not appropriate. The relative ease and likelihood of imitation are also considered.

Classification decisions may be less restrictive where the risks of any dangerous behaviour are likely to be obvious to the intended audience, or where material is intended to educate younger viewers about dangers. Classification decisions will be more restrictive where novel information is presented (for example, about specific suicide techniques), where harmful behaviour is glamorised, or where risks are not made clear.

Discrimination

Potentially offensive content relating to matters such as race, gender, religion, disability or sexuality may arise in a wide range of works, and the classification decision will take account of the strength or impact of their inclusion. The context in which such content may appear also has a bearing. Works with such content may receive a lower category where discriminatory language and behaviour is implicitly or explicitly criticised; or the work has a historical setting within which outdated attitudes or outmoded expressions would be expected; or the work is obviously dated, with little or no appeal to children; or the work seeks to challenge discriminatory attitudes and assumptions. Works with such content may receive a higher category where discriminatory language and behaviour is accompanied by threat or violence; or where there is a clear power imbalance; or where such behaviour is left unchallenged; or where discriminatory attitudes and assumptions are normalised. Where discriminatory language or behaviour occurs, this will normally be indicated in ratings info.

Drugs

No work taken as a whole may promote the misuse of drugs and any detailed portrayal of drug misuse likely to promote the activity may be cut. Works which normalise or glamorise drug misuse are likely to receive a higher classification than works which show drug misuse while emphasising the dangers.

Where smoking, alcohol abuse or substance misuse feature to a significant extent in works which appeal to children, this will normally be indicated in ratings info. Classification decisions will also take into account any promotion or glamorisation of such activities.

Language

Language which people may find offensive includes the use of expletives with a sexual, religious or racial association, derogatory language about minority groups and commonly understood rude gestures. The extent of offence may vary according to age, gender, race, background, beliefs and expectations brought by viewers to the work as well as the context in which the word, expression or gesture is used.

For these reasons, it is impossible to set out comprehensive lists of words, expressions or gestures which are acceptable at each category. The advice at different classification levels, therefore, provides general guidance taking account of the views expressed in public consultation exercises.

Nudity

Nudity with no sexual context is in principle acceptable at all classification levels, but will not generally occur more than occasionally at U.

Nudity with a sexual context will receive a higher classification. Where the principal purpose of depicting nudity is to sexually arouse it will usually only be passed at the adult categories (18 or R18).



Specific classification considerations continued

Sex

The portrayal of sexual activity can range from kissing to detail of unsimulated sex. The normalisation of overtly sexualised behaviour is a concern at the junior categories (U, PG and 12A/12). The classification system allows progressively stronger portrayals of sexual behaviour as the categories rise.

Sex works (works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal or stimulation) will only be passed at 18 or R18.

We will apply these Guidelines in relation to sex to the same standard regardless of sexual orientation of the activity portrayed.

Sexual violence and sexual threat

Depictions of the stronger forms of sexual violence, including rape, are not permitted at the junior categories.

When considering scenes of sexual violence, aggravating factors include:

- the presence of a gang dynamic (e.g. a ‘gang rape’ scene)
- a focus on the victim being overpowered or powerless
- prolonged, detailed or gratuitous depiction
- an emphasis on nudity
- an emphasis on the pleasure of the attacker

- a strong emphasis on the distress and fear of the victim
 - a credible ‘real world’ setting
 - a protracted build-up of sexual threat
- Mitigating factors include:
- brevity and lack of detail
 - a clear educational message aimed at young people
 - a strong narrative justification

We may refuse to classify content which makes rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour look appealing or acceptable, reinforces the suggestion that victims enjoy such behaviour, or invites viewer complicity in such behaviour.

References to sexual violence are likely to be treated less restrictively than depictions of sexual violence, although any references at the junior categories will generally be oblique or undetailed.

Sexual threat and abusive behaviour are not permitted at the lowest levels of classification and will only be permitted at 12A/12 if brief and negatively presented.

Threat and horror

Where films are targeted at a younger audience, classification decisions will take into account factors such as the frequency, length and detail of scary or otherwise unsettling scenes as well as factors such as the impact of music and sound, and whether there is a swift and reassuring outcome.

The classification of threat and horror will take account of the general tone, impact, realism and supernatural elements of a work as well as the level of detail in individual scenes. Fantasy settings or the inclusion of humour may be mitigating factors. The presentation of ‘real world’ issues and fears may be an aggravating factor.

Violence

Classification decisions will take account of the degree and nature of violence in a work.

Works which feature the following are likely to receive a more restrictive classification:

- portrayal of violence as a normal solution to problems
- heroes who inflict pain and injury
- callousness towards victims
- the encouragement of aggressive attitudes
- characters taking pleasure in pain or humiliation
- the glorification or glamorisation of violence
- gratuitous violence
- violence presented in a credible and realistic context (e.g. gang violence, domestic violence)

Works which feature the following are likely to be treated less restrictively:

- violence in a historical context
- violence in an action or fantasy context
- violence that lacks detail
- violence that looks unreal, fake or overly staged
- comic violence
- violence that is challenged or punished
- violence in a context where it is likely to be expected by the intended audience

We are unlikely to classify content which is so demeaning or degrading to human dignity (for example, it consists of strong abuse, torture or death without any significant mitigating factors) that it may pose a harm risk.

Other matters

Education videos

When classifying an education video, including a sex education video, for use in schools, we will take account of the educational purpose of the video and the context in which it is to be viewed (for example in the classroom mediated by a teacher).

Music videos

In addition to the usual issues, the classification of a music video will take account of any elements which are of particular concern to parents, including glamorisation of behaviour which they consider inappropriate such as drug misuse or sexualised behaviour. Where music videos are short and self-contained, material may be less likely to be justified by context.

Photo or pattern sensitivity, motion sickness and reactions to low frequency sound

A small number of viewers are sensitive to flashing and flickering light, or some shapes and patterns, and may experience seizures or other serious physical effects. Some viewers experience feelings of motion sickness or other symptoms when viewing works which feature hand held or otherwise moving camerawork, or which feature very low frequency sounds.

It is the responsibility of film makers and distributors to identify works in which such issues arise and to ensure that, when required, appropriate warnings are given to viewers. However, if it is obvious during viewing that the work contains strong examples of such imagery

or sounds, we will advise the distributor of the need to ensure that appropriate warnings are in place. Where necessary, we may require assurances regarding the display of appropriate warnings as a condition of classification.

Release format

Classification decisions may be stricter on video works than on film. This is because of the increased possibility of under-age viewing as recognised in the Video Recordings Act (see Annexe), as well as the increased possibility of works being replayed or sections viewed out of context. Accordingly, a video work (either packaged or online) may occasionally receive a higher classification than on film, or require new or different cuts. (Video works may also receive a higher classification because they contain additional content.)

The screen format or visual presentation of a submission may also alter a classification, for example, if the image has been processed in the 3D format, or is shown with an altered aspect ratio such as on an IMAX screen, or if the work is experienced as a piece of immersive linear VR (virtual reality).

Titles

We will require changes as a condition of classification if the title of a work incites racial or religious hatred, or other criminal behaviour, or encourages an interest in abusive or illegal sexual activity.

If the title of a work is likely to cause significant offence to a significant number of people if displayed in a public place, we will advise the distributor to consider carefully the places in which it is likely to be seen and to take appropriate action, for example, by obscuring certain words on packaging or marketing materials. (This advice is not given in relation to video works classified R18 as such works may only be supplied or offered for supply in a licensed sex shop.)

Trailers and advertisements

Audiences may choose to see a full-length feature based on expectations of the particular genre at the given classification and on the published ratings info. In contrast, audiences have no choice, and often no expectation, about the accompanying trailers or advertisements which may be very different in tone and content to the film the audience has chosen to view. In addition, because trailers and advertisements are short and self-contained, material is less likely to be justified by context and more likely to cause offence.

For these reasons, classification decisions for trailers and advertisements may be more restrictive than for equivalent material in a main feature. Strong language will not be allowed in trailers at the U, PG and 12A/12 categories. Strong language may be permitted in trailers at 15, unless significantly aggravated by other factors. Infrequent very strong language may be permitted in trailers at 15 but usually only where there are mitigating factors such as a comic context.

The more restrictive approach set out above may be relaxed where an advertisement is part of a public information campaign or has a charitable purpose.

Cinemas are responsible for the exhibition of cinema trailers and advertisements, and we have no involvement in deciding which films they precede. Questions or complaints about the exhibition of trailers or advertisements should be directed to the cinema management in the first instance.

Video games

With a few limited exceptions we do not classify video games. We consider for classification those video games contained on discs which feature primarily linear video content and any pornographic video games.

We also advise the video games authority on the classification of linear video footage contained in games which is not integral to the game. This includes, for example, rewards and video content in games which is designed to be viewed in its own right, without taking forward the narrative drive of the game.

Virtual reality

The BBFC is responsible for classifying linear VR (virtual reality) content whereas the video games authority is responsible for classifying non-linear VR content.

The classification categories

We endeavour to classify submitted works in one of the following categories:

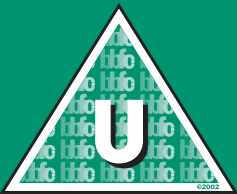


The following pages set out guidance on how the specific classification considerations (for example, sex and violence) are applied from U through to R18. The criteria should be read in combination with the general approach set out earlier under ‘Guiding principles’, ‘General classification considerations’ and ‘Specific classification considerations’.

Because works from time to time present issues in ways which cannot be anticipated, these criteria will not be applied in an over-literal way if such an interpretation would lead to an outcome which would confound audience expectations.

Universal

Suitable for all



A U film should be suitable for audiences aged four years and over, although it is impossible to predict what might upset any particular child. U films should be set within a positive framework and should offer reassuring counterbalances to any violence, threat or horror.

Dangerous behaviour

Potentially dangerous or anti-social behaviour which young children may copy must be clearly disapproved of or be presented unrealistically. No emphasis on realistic or easily accessible weapons.

Discrimination

Discriminatory language or behaviour is unlikely to be acceptable unless clearly disapproved of.

Drugs

References to illegal drugs or drug misuse must be infrequent and innocuous, or have a clear educational purpose or anti-drug message suitable for young children.

Language

Infrequent use only of very mild bad language.

Nudity

Occasional nudity, with no sexual context.

Sex

Only very mild sexual behaviour (for example, kissing) and references to such behaviour.

Threat and horror

Scary or potentially unsettling sequences should be mild, brief and unlikely to cause undue anxiety to young children. The outcome should be reassuring.

Violence

Violence will generally be very mild. Mild violence may be acceptable if it is justified by context (for example, comedic, animated, wholly unrealistic).



Parental Guidance

General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children



A PG film should not unsettle a child aged around eight or older. Unaccompanied children of any age may watch, but parents are advised to consider whether the content may upset younger or more sensitive children.

Dangerous behaviour

No detail of potentially dangerous behaviour which young children are likely to copy, if that behaviour is presented as safe or fun. No glamorisation of realistic or easily accessible weapons such as knives. No focus on anti-social behaviour which young children are likely to copy.

Discrimination

Discriminatory language or behaviour is unlikely to be acceptable unless clearly disapproved of, or in an educational or historical context, or in a particularly dated work with no likely appeal to children. Discrimination by a character with whom children can readily identify is unlikely to be acceptable.

Drugs

References to illegal drugs or drug misuse must be innocuous or carry a suitable anti-drug message.

Language

Mild bad language only. Aggressive or very frequent use of mild bad language may result in a work being passed at a higher category.

Nudity

There may be nudity with no sexual context.

Sex

Sexual activity may be implied, but should be discreet and infrequent. Mild sex references and innuendo only.

Threat and horror

Frightening sequences or situations where characters are in danger should not be prolonged or intense. Fantasy settings and comedy may be mitigating factors.

Violence

Violence will usually be mild. However, there may be moderate violence, without detail, if justified by its context (for example, history, comedy or fantasy).



12A/12

Suitable for 12 years and over



Films classified 12A and video works classified 12 contain material that is not generally suitable for children aged under 12.

No one younger than 12 may see a 12A film in a cinema unless accompanied by an adult. Adults planning to take a child under 12 to view a 12A film should consider whether the film is suitable for that child. To help them decide, we recommend that they check the ratings info for that film in advance.

No one younger than 12 may rent or buy a 12 rated video work.

Dangerous behaviour

No promotion of potentially dangerous behaviour which children are likely to copy. No glamorisation of realistic or easily accessible weapons such as knives. No endorsement of anti-social behaviour.

Discrimination

Discriminatory language or behaviour must not be endorsed by the work as a whole. Aggressive discriminatory language or behaviour is unlikely to be acceptable unless clearly condemned.

Drugs

Misuse of drugs must be infrequent and should not be glamorised or give detailed instruction.

Language

There may be moderate bad language. Strong language may be permitted, depending on the manner in which it is used, who is using the language, its frequency within the work as a whole and any special contextual justification.

Nudity

There may be nudity, but in a sexual context it must be brief and discreet.

Sex

Sexual activity may be briefly and discreetly portrayed. Moderate sex references are permitted, but frequent crude references are unlikely to be acceptable.

Sexual violence and sexual threat

There may be verbal references to sexual violence provided they are not graphic. The stronger forms of sexual violence, including rape, may only be implied and any sexual threat or abusive behaviour must be brief and negatively presented.

Threat and horror

There may be moderate physical and psychological threat and horror sequences. Although some scenes may be disturbing, the overall tone should not be. Horror sequences should not be frequent or sustained.

Violence

There may be moderate violence but it should not dwell on detail. There should be no emphasis on injuries or blood, but occasional gory moments may be permitted if justified by the context.



15

Suitable only for 15 years and over



No one younger than 15 may see a 15 film in a cinema.
No one younger than 15 may rent or buy a 15 rated video work.

Dangerous behaviour

Dangerous behaviour (for example, suicide, self-harming and asphyxiation) should not dwell on detail which could be copied. Whether the depiction of easily accessible weapons is acceptable will depend on factors such as realism, context and setting.

Discrimination

The work as a whole must not endorse discriminatory language or behaviour, although there may be racist, homophobic or other discriminatory themes and language.

Drugs

Drug taking may be shown but the work as a whole must not promote or encourage drug misuse (for example, through detailed instruction). The misuse of easily accessible and highly dangerous substances (for example, aerosols or solvents) is unlikely to be acceptable.

Language

There may be strong language. Very strong language may be permitted, depending on the manner in which it is used, who is using the language, its frequency within the work as a whole and any special contextual justification.

Nudity

There are no constraints on nudity in a non-sexual or educational context. Sexual nudity may be permitted but strong detail is likely to be brief or presented in a comic context.

Sex

Sexual activity may be portrayed, but usually without strong detail. There may be strong verbal references to sexual behaviour. Repeated very strong references, particularly those using pornographic language, are unlikely to be acceptable. Works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal are unacceptable.

Sexual violence and sexual threat

There may be strong verbal references to sexual violence but any depiction of the stronger forms of sexual violence, including rape, must not be detailed or prolonged. A strong and sustained focus on sexual threat is unacceptable.

Threat and horror

There may be strong threat and horror. A sustained focus on sadistic threat is unlikely to be acceptable.

Violence

Violence may be strong but should not dwell on the infliction of pain or injury. The strongest gory images are unlikely to be acceptable. Strong sadistic violence is also unlikely to be acceptable.



18

Suitable only for adults



No one younger than 18 may see an 18 film in a cinema.
No one younger than 18 may rent or buy an 18 rated video work.

Adults should be free to choose their own entertainment. Exceptions are most likely in the following areas:

- where the material is in breach of the criminal law, or has been created through the commission of a criminal offence
- where material or treatment appears to us to risk harm to individuals or, through their behaviour, to society. For example, the detailed portrayal of violent or dangerous acts, or of illegal drug use, which may cause harm to public health or morals. This may include portrayals of sadistic violence, rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour which make this violence look appealing; reinforce the suggestion that victims enjoy rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour; or which invite viewer complicity in rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour or other harmful violent activities
- where there are more explicit images of sexual activity in the context of a sex work (see right)

In the case of video works, which may be more accessible to younger viewers, intervention may be more frequent than for cinema films.

Sex works at 18

Sex works are works whose primary purpose is sexual arousal or stimulation. Sex works containing only material which may be simulated are generally passed 18. Sex works containing clear images of real sex, strong fetish material, sexually explicit animated images, or other very strong sexual images will be confined to the R18 category. Material which is unacceptable in a sex work at R18 is also unacceptable in a sex work at 18.



R18

To be shown only in specially licensed cinemas, or supplied only in licensed sex shops, and to adults only



The R18 category is a special and legally-restricted classification primarily for explicit works of consenting sex or strong fetish material involving adults. Films may only be shown to adults in specially licensed cinemas, and video works may be supplied to adults only in licensed sex shops. R18 video works may not be supplied by mail order.

The following content is not acceptable:

- material which is in breach of the criminal law, including material judged to be obscene under the current interpretation of the Obscene Publications Act 1959 (see Annexe – legal considerations)
- material (including dialogue) likely to encourage an interest in sexually abusive activity which may include adults role-playing as non-adults
- the portrayal of sexual activity which involves real or apparent lack of consent. Any form of physical restraint which prevents participants from indicating a withdrawal of consent
- the infliction of pain or acts which are likely to cause serious physical harm, whether real or (in a sexual context) simulated. Some allowance may be made for non-abusive, consensual activity
- penetration by any object likely to cause physical harm
- sexual threats, humiliation or abuse which do not form part of a clearly consenting role-playing game



Intervention

Where possible we will carry out our responsibilities through appropriate use of the classification categories, particularly in order to protect children from any potential harm.

If necessary, however, we may cut or even refuse to classify a film or video work.

In some cases, we require assurances, cuts or other changes (for example, the addition of warning captions) as a condition of classification, or as a condition of classifying at a particular category. In some circumstances we may refuse to classify a work at any category. We publish details of all interventions on our website.

Cuts for category

If the submitted work is suitable for classification, but only at a category higher than that requested by the customer, we will consider whether a lower category could be achieved through relatively minor or simple changes. If so, we may offer the customer a choice of accepting either the higher or lower category (the latter with defined changes as necessary).

Cuts for category are unlikely to be available if the required changes would be very extensive or complex, or would not address for example, a tonal or thematic issue running throughout the work.

Compulsory cuts

If a submitted work raises issues or concerns that cannot be addressed by classification at a particular age category, we may require cuts or other changes as a condition of classification. Such intervention is most likely when the submitted work contains:

- material which may promote criminal activity
- material which is obscene or otherwise illegal
- material created by means of the commission of a criminal offence
- portrayals of children in a sexualised or abusive context
- material which makes rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour, or sadistic violence look appealing

- graphic images of real injury, violence or death presented in a salacious or sensationalist manner which risks harm by encouraging callous or sadistic attitudes
- material which reinforces the suggestion that victims enjoy rape or other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour
- material which invites viewer complicity in rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour, or other harmful violent activities
- sex works which contain material listed as unacceptable at R18

When the issue relates to the circumstances of filming (for example, in relation to animal cruelty or public indecency) the customer will normally be given an opportunity to present evidence before a final decision is reached.

Refusal to classify

As a last resort, the BBFC may refuse to classify a work, in line with the objective of preventing non-trivial harm risks to potential viewers and, through their behaviour, to society. We may do so, for example, where a central concept of the work is unacceptable, such as a sustained focus on rape, other non-consensual sexually violent behaviour or sadistic violence. Before refusing classification we will consider whether the problems could be adequately addressed through intervention such as cuts. In deciding whether to refuse to classify, we will keep in mind the inherent difficulty of using behavioural research to draw conclusions about real world risks, and will have regard to the full range of available evidence, including the views of the public and our own knowledge and experience.

Engagement with the public

We publish detailed information about the content we classify, which we call ratings info. It's a helpful guide, particularly for parents, that gives a summary of how and why a film or video was given its age rating.

Ratings info includes:

- a short description of the issues contained in a film or video, and this appears on the black card shown on the cinema screen before a film starts, for example:



strong violence, sex, language, drug misuse

- we publish a longer, fuller version on our website and app

All content classified since the early 2000s has a short line of ratings info, and content classified more recently also has a longer version, giving you a detailed idea of what issues – bad language, drugs, sex and violence, or the use of discriminatory language or behaviour, for instance – you're likely to find in the film. It also raises any other issues that may be of concern, such as divorce or bereavement.

We try to avoid giving away major plot points. When ratings info does contain plot spoilers we always post a warning. Occasionally, the longer version of ratings info describes full sequences in a film – for example, it might describe a specific fight scene to give you a flavour of the sort of violence in the film and how strong it looks and feels – so be aware of this.

We publish ratings info the moment a film or video is classified, but the longer version may not be available until 10 days before the film opens. Sometimes, we classify films many weeks or even months before they are due to open, which is why not all films listed on our website will have a link to the longer ratings info yet. We encourage viewers to check ratings info when they are choosing content for children and for themselves.

bbfc.co.uk

Our website provides a comprehensive database of all the content we classify, including ratings info and information about cuts. You can read the Classification Guidelines, search through our press releases, research and Annual Reports. We also publish case studies on films, including many set film texts for Film Studies courses in the UK, a timeline of key events in our history and regular podcasts.

cbbfc.co.uk

Content for younger children, including the chance to rate trailers for children's films and learn more about our work, can be found on CBBFC, our website for children. Parents can also find advice about choosing content for children on VoD platforms and information about our education programme.

BBFC app

Our free app for iOS and Android devices lets you check the latest film classifications and ratings info, watch trailers and read our Guidelines.

Twitter – @BBFC

We update our Twitter account, @BBFC, with all our news and latest film classification decisions. You can ask us quick questions there too. For more detailed questions, you can email us on feedback@bbfc.co.uk

Newsletters

We produce a regular newsletter about our latest classification decisions, podcasts and news. Our education team sends a newsletter to teachers once a term, focussing on our outreach programme, partnerships and resources, including case studies. For industry we send a regular update on our services, news and classification turnaround times each quarter. You can sign up to receive any of these newsletters on our website, bbfc.co.uk

Podcasts

You can stream and download our regular short podcast on our website, Soundcloud and iTunes. Each episode focuses on a particular theme, film or TV series, and their age rating, highlighting key issues we took into account and any interesting facts about the classification process, for example any advice we gave, or reductions made by the film maker or distributor to secure a particular age rating.



Appeals, advice viewings and feedback

Appeals

We offer a formal reconsideration procedure which is open to any customer dissatisfied with the determination made in respect of their work. The reconsideration is free of charge and will normally take fewer than 10 working days.

A customer may also appeal directly to an independent authority. Such an appeal may take place following, or instead of, our reconsideration. In the case of films, the customer (or any member of the public) may address itself to the local authority which licenses cinemas in a particular area. In the case of video works a customer may appeal to the Video Appeals Committee. The VAC is independent of the BBFC and can be contacted by post as follows:

The Secretary
The Video Appeals Committee
3 Soho Square
London
W1D 3HD

Customers should note that a reconsideration or an appeal involves looking at the issues afresh. This means that the outcome could, in some circumstances, be more restrictive than the original determination.

Advice viewings

A customer may submit works for advice at any stage of the production process. We will inform them of the likely classification a work will receive, and where appropriate any changes required to achieve the customer's preferred classification. However, advice given in such circumstances is not binding and we reserve the right to reach a different decision when the final version of the work is submitted formally for classification. If the final version of the work submitted for classification differs in any significant respect from that seen for advice, and if those changes appear to reflect advice we have given, then details of the changes will appear on our website.

Feedback

If you want to send us any feedback about our age ratings or classification decisions, please don't hesitate to email us at feedback@bbfc.co.uk or write to us at:

Chief Executive's Office
BBFC
3 Soho Square
London
W1D 3HD



Annexe – legal considerations

The following legislation is not listed according to chronology or importance. Instead, it reflects a useful way of explaining the structure of the legal framework that applies to our work.

Page 57

The Licensing Act 2003

England and Wales

Cinemas (Northern Ireland) Order 1991

Northern Ireland

Cinemas Act 1985

Scotland

Cinemas require a licence from the local authority in which they operate. The licence must include a condition requiring the admission of children (anyone under 18) to any film to be restricted in accordance with our recommendations or those of the licensing authority. One of the key reasons for the licensing requirement is the protection of children, including from potentially harmful content in films.

The Video Recordings Act 1984

Video works (including films, TV programmes and some video games) which are supplied on a disc, tape or any other device capable of storing data electronically must have a BBFC classification unless they fall within the definition of an exempted work.

When considering whether to award a certificate to a work, or whether a work is suitable at a particular category, we are required by the Act to have special regard to the likelihood of works being viewed in the home, and to any harm that may be caused to potential viewers or, through their behaviour, to society by the manner in which the work deals with:

- criminal behaviour
- illegal drugs
- violent behaviour or incidents

- horrific behaviour or incidents
- human sexual activity

In considering these issues we have in mind the possible effect not only on children but also on other vulnerable people.

The Obscene Publications Acts 1959 & 1964

England and Wales

The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Scotland

The Obscene Publications Act 1857

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to publish a work which is obscene. A work is obscene if, taken as a whole, it has a tendency to deprave and corrupt a significant proportion of those likely to see it. Under the Obscene Publications Act 1959, no offence is committed if publication is justified as being for the public good on the grounds that it is in the interests of science, art, literature or learning or other objects of general concern.

In Scotland, case law implies a similar test would be applied. In Northern Ireland, while there is no express defence of “public good” it is likely that English law would be taken into consideration.

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010/Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Scotland

It is illegal to be in possession of an extreme pornographic image. Under the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 an extreme pornographic image is one which is pornographic and grossly offensive, disgusting or otherwise of an obscene character, which features an apparently real person, and which portrays, in an explicit and realistic way, an act which:

- threatens a person’s life
- results, or is likely to result, in serious injury to a person’s anus, breasts or genitals
- involves sexual interference with a human corpse
- involves intercourse or oral sex with an animal
- involves non-consensual penetration of a mouth, vagina or anus with a penis or non-consensual sexual penetration of a vagina or anus by anything

Under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 an extreme pornographic image is one which is pornographic and obscene, and which depicts in an explicit and realistic way, an act which:

- takes or threatens a person’s life
- results, or is likely to result, in a person’s severe injury
- involves rape or other non-consensual penetrative sexual activity

- involves sexual activity involving (directly or indirectly) a human corpse
- involves sexual activity between a person and an animal

Works we classify under the Video Recordings Act are excluded from the scope of the offence across the UK.

The Protection of Children Act 1978

England and Wales

Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

Scotland

Protection of Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1978

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to make, distribute, show or possess indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs of a child. It is also illegal to make, distribute, show or possess indecent images of children which have been derived from a photograph or pseudo-photograph (for example, by tracing). Offences relating to the possession of such images are contained within the Criminal Justice Act 1988 (England, Wales and Scotland), and the Criminal Justice (Evidence, Etc.) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

The Coroners and Justice Act 2009

England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The Criminal Justice and Licensing Act 2010

Scotland

It is illegal to be in possession of a prohibited image of a child. A prohibited image of a child is a non-photographic or non-pseudo-photographic image which is pornographic and grossly offensive, disgusting, or otherwise of an obscene character, and which focuses solely or principally on a child’s genitals or anal region, or which portrays specified sexual acts by, of, or in the presence of a child, including masturbation, oral sex or penetration, including sexual acts with animals. A child is defined as being under 18 and an image of a child or other person can include imaginary representations. Works we classify under the Video Recordings Act are excluded from the scope of the offence unless images have been extracted from such works for the purpose of sexual arousal.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003

England and Wales

Sexual Offences (Scotland) Act 2009

Scotland

The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to expose oneself with intent to cause alarm or distress – this offence augments the common law misdemeanour of indecent exposure. It is also prohibited for a person to record the private act of another, where the intention of the recording is for the sexual gratification of himself or a third party and where the recorded party has not consented to so being filmed.

The Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015

England and Wales

Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016

Scotland

Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

Northern Ireland

It is an offence to disclose a private sexual photograph or film without the consent of any individual who appears in the photograph or film, if it is done with the intention of causing that individual distress (or causing them fear, alarm or distress in Scottish law).

The Public Order Act 1986

England, Scotland and Wales

The Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987

Northern Ireland

It is illegal to distribute, show or play to the public a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening, abusive or insulting if the intention is to stir up racial hatred or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation, or if racial hatred or hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation is likely to be stirred up. It is also illegal to distribute, show or play to the public a recording of visual images or sounds which are threatening if the intention is to stir up religious hatred.

In Northern Ireland the relevant group of persons may be defined not only by colour, race, nationality or ethnic or national origins, but also by “religious belief” or “sexual orientation” or “disability”.

The Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act 1937

England, Scotland and Wales

It is illegal to show any scene “organised or directed” for the purposes of the film that involves actual cruelty to animals. This Act applies to the exhibition of films in public cinemas but we also apply the same test to video works. For the purposes of this legislation and The Animal Welfare Act 2006, only vertebrates which are domesticated or otherwise under the control of man are defined as “animals”.

The Animal Welfare Act 2006

England and Wales

The Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Northern Ireland

The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

Scotland

It is illegal to supply, publish, show or possess with intent to supply a video recording of an “animal fight” that has taken place within the UK since 6 April 2007.

The Tobacco Advertising and Promotion Act 2002

It is illegal, in the course of a business, to publish a tobacco advertisement.

Blasphemy

In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the common law crime of blasphemy exists but has not been utilised for prosecution in modern times. The offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel under the common law of England and Wales were abolished in The Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

Human Rights Act 1998

The Act permits such restrictions on freedom of expression as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

The Digital Economy Act 2017

Under Part 3 of the Act it is unlawful to make pornographic material available on the internet to persons in the United Kingdom, on a commercial basis, other than in a way that secures that, at any given time, the material is not normally accessible by persons under the age of 18. The BBFC is the designated age-verification regulator under Part 3 of the Act. The BBFC may take enforcement action against non-compliant pornographic services and/or where a service makes extreme pornographic material, as defined by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, available on the internet to persons in the United Kingdom.

Other unlawful material

In carrying out its responsibilities the BBFC will have regard to whether the material itself appears to be unlawful in the United Kingdom, or has arisen from the commission of an unlawful act.



Get more info on our app

bbfc.co.uk/app

British Board of Film Classification

3 Soho Square,
London,
W1D 3HD

T 020 7440 1570

bbfc.co.uk/about-bbfc/contact-us

BBFC Classification Guidelines 2019

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL]FW: [EXTERNAL]Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query
Date: 08 October 2025 16:50:18

CAUTION: This email originated from outside our organisation. Do not click links, open attachments, or enter any details unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. If you think the email is suspicious please complete the Suspicious email form on interlink.

[REDACTED]
Thanks again for your email and for your time this morning.

I can now confirm that the final showcase films have been selected and confirmed by the judging panel.

As discussed earlier on the phone, we do not foresee any issues with appropriateness of content and would regard all films selected as representative of a 12A BBFC rating.

In relation to the particulars you list, I can confirm that all are correct.

As we also spoke about, I can confirm that the youngest students in attendance are generally in Year 12 (not 11). This means that they would most likely fall into the 15/16 age bracket in any case.

All students will be under the supervision of their teachers when attending (they all tend to arrive in larger school groups) and in the case of some students, their parents will also attend in person.

It was good to receive clarification from you when we spoke earlier. Please let me know if you need any more information from me to progress this further.

Many thanks.

Ingrid

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 September 2025 20:04
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL]Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query

Hi [REDACTED],

Apologies for my delay in replying to you and thank you very much for your response and for offering some clarification around the grounds for this approval request. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our showcase selection and judging process is almost over and I should be in a much better position to reply to you with more detail next week when it is completely finished (we have had over 200 films to review).

I should shortly be able to provide a response in relation to each of your points of understanding.

Thanks again for your patience and hopefully we can get an opportunity to discuss on the phone next week once I have sent you my reply.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2025 15:11
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query

WARNING: This email originated from outside the organisation. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links or responding to requests for information.

[REDACTED]

FW: Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query

Tried to catch you on the phone to discuss the matter detailed within the email thread. Feel free to return to me via my mobile to discuss the issue. In the interim, I outline the following to assist in progressing with the approval you seek.

I confirm the Building Control Licensing Service deliver the statutory function of Cinema Licensing for Belfast City Council (BCC). Further to consideration of your email, the proposal to broadcast 'unclassified' films is the matter which falls within the scope of the Cinema (NI) Licensing Order 1991.

It is an established Condition of Management for all premises granted a Cinema Licence by BCC to only broadcast films which have been classified with a Certificate issued by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).

However, a further Condition of licence granted by the Council does provide circumstances allowing for an unclassified film to be broadcast if it is satisfied with the film. In such circumstances, it is necessary for the request to be brought to Licensing Committee for determination.

To move forward in this matter, I set my understanding of particulars related to the 27th November 2025 proposal.

- *No films will have received classification from BBFC or equivalent body*
- *Films to be broadcast are 'the top three films in six competitive categories'; the unclassified films will therefore have been viewed by the supervising teacher at the school in which the pupil attended, and, the examination board which assessed the submission prior to grading for the purposes of GCSE / A Level award*
- *With the assumption that schools have viewed the exhibitions to be broadcast, schools or CCEA will therefore be in a position to provide the Service written*

confirmation, for example, that films have been viewed and would be considered to fall within the BBFC classification description of a 12a rated film;

- *British Board of Film Classification – 12a rating link [BBFC | BBFC](#)*
- *Children who will be in attendance at the exhibitions will be accompanied by teachers, who fulfill the requirement for a supervising adult to be present, as detailed by the BBFC description*

If you are agreeable to the above particulars, and could provide the written response sought, a report will be taken forward to Licensing Committee in September with the aim of acquiring the approval you seek

Regards

[REDACTED]

For information on how Belfast City Council may use your personal data visit www.belfastcity.gov.uk/privacy

Please Note: We have implemented a new computer system and this has impacted processing of applications. It may take us a bit longer to respond to you, please bear with us and thank you for your patience.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 August 2025 14:08
To: Building Control Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL]Cineworld Screening Event Approval Query

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To Whom it may Concern,

I am the Education Manager for GCE and GCE Moving Image Arts at CCEA (Council for Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment Northern Ireland) and we run an annual awards showcase screening event in Cineworld showing the best films produced by our A-Level and GCSE students (representing schools from across Northern Ireland).

We are contacting you to request a council approval letter for the running of this event again in November 2025.

As a background, I can confirm that this will be the seventh year we will be running the

event in Cineworld (or previously Odyssey Cinemas) having run it in the QFT a number of years again prior to that - the showcase has been running annually in Belfast since 2007. We run the event with funding from Northern Ireland Screen and as part of the Foyle Film Festival and Cinemagic, our event delivery partners.

The event is due to take place this year on **Thursday 27th November 2025**. At the event, the top three films in six competitive categories will be screened to a live audience of 475 students, teachers, Principals and industry partners and stakeholders. Awards and certificates will then be handed out to the top three winning students in each category by filmmakers and industry professionals.

This year, for the first time, Cineworld head office in London have requested a local council approval letter in order to run the event (presumably in lieu of formal BBFC content certification, as the films being shown are amateur productions).

Having not been asked to provide this before, I contacted [REDACTED] (copied into this email) and he recommended contacting you in the first instance.

I would be most grateful if you could confirm that this is something you can progress for us or if there is another department we need to approach.

Also, please let us know what further information you require or if there is any paperwork you need us to complete.

We are keen to progress this sooner rather than later as the event is promoted to schools across Northern Ireland from early September and up to 18 schools attend each year and tend to make their arrangements and book buses etc. well in advance – so we want to make sure the event booking is finalised and secured prior to such commitments from external stakeholders being made.

Many thanks in advance for your support in this matter.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moving Image Arts
Performing Arts
Leisure, Travel & Tourism
Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment
29 Clarendon Road, Clarendon Dock, Belfast. BT1 3BG.



W. www.ccea.org.uk

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Subject:	Guidance for students and landlords in respect of their rights and responsibilities regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation.
Date:	19 November 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kevin Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager
Contact Officers:	Kevin Bloomfield, NIHMO Manager Jenna Roddy, Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	At your meeting on 22 January 2025 Councillor McKay requested that officers would seek to provide students who were attending universities and regional colleges with information on their rights in relation to leasing a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO).
1.2	After discussion the committee agreed that officers would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. engage with Corporate Communications (Communications, Marketing and External Affairs) in order to update the Council's website with additional and specific guidance for students and landlords in respect of their rights and responsibilities regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation;

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. post links to that information through a social media campaign, linking in with the universities, regional colleges and Students' Unions; 3. provide guidance, with a QR code linking to the information online, highlighting the rights and responsibilities, to be circulated to landlords for them to provide to their new tenants; 4. consider the budget requirement for an enhanced information campaign from financial year 2025/26 onwards; and 5. seek to provide information on HMOs across Northern Ireland, rather than just for the City of Belfast. <p>The purpose of this report is to update members on the information campaign</p>
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the content of the report
3.0	Main report
	<p>Campaign background</p> <p>3.1 The NIHMO Unit produced an information guide for HMO tenants, following a request from Licensing Committee in January 2025 that officers would seek to provide students who were attending universities and regional colleges with information on their rights in relation to leasing a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO),</p> <p>3.2 The NIHMO team engaged with Communications, Marketing and External Affairs team to publish the guide on the Belfast City Council website and promote it.</p> <p>Campaign aims</p> <p>3.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of the tenants' information guide, as a useful resource for both prospective tenants and tenants already in HMO accommodation. • Provide information to landlords, who can pass this on to their tenants. • Target secondary audiences such as parents of students and University Students' Unions, who offer advice on accommodation. <p>Key audiences</p> <p>3.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students from universities and regional colleges • Renters of Houses in Multiple Occupation • Parents of students • HMO landlords and managing agents • Student accommodation advisors <p>Communication approach</p> <p>3.5 The campaign began week commencing 15 September 2025, to coincide with the start of the university year.</p> <p>3.6 Communication channels included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast City Council website (www.belfastcity.gov.uk) • Press • Belfast City Council social media accounts (Facebook and X)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast City Council intranet (Interlink) • City Matters residents' magazine (winter edition 2025) • Communication through partner links – universities and National Students' Unions and Landlords Association. <p>Campaign by channel</p>
3.7	<p><u>Belfast City Council website</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know your rights – a guide for HMO tenants was published on the Belfast City Council website on 15 September 2025. Content and keywords were optimised for search engines, making information easier to find on the website. <p>So far, the guide has been viewed over 140 times, and we will continue to promote it in the coming months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for tenants webpage and Information for students webpage was updated with content and a call-to-action button to the information guide. http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/HMOtenants web address was used in press release to direct to the information. <p>Views of the information for tenants webpage have more than doubled since the launch, compared to the previous month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guide was promoted on the Belfast City Council website homepage. • The guide was added to Belfast City Council A to Z page on website.
3.8	<p><u>Press</u></p> <p>A press release was issued on 15 September 2025, which led to media coverage in the Irish News, Belfast Live, U105 and 4NI.</p> <p>The image included the Deputy Chair of Belfast City Council's Licensing Committee and representatives from Queen's Students' Union, Ulster University Students' Union's Belfast branch and National Union of Students NI.</p> <p>Link to press release on Belfast City Council website:</p> <p>www.belfastcity.gov.uk/News/New-guide-on-tenants-rights-launched-ahead-of-Fres</p>
3.9	<p><u>Social media</u></p> <p>Posts from Belfast City Council's social media accounts supported the web content and press release, by encouraging students to access the guide.</p> <p>The posts included a video featuring the HMO Manager and the President of the National Union of Students NI.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Internal communications</u></p> <p>An article was added to Belfast City Council's intranet, Interlink, on 18 September 2025.</p> <p>The content was aimed at parents or guardians of young people looking to rent HMO accommodation and featured the social media video.</p>

	<p>The article received 168 views and was also displayed to frontline staff on 54 screens based at locations across the council.</p>
3.11	<p><u>City Matters</u></p>
	<p>An article about the role and responsibilities of HMO tenants and landlords, including a link to the guide, was featured in the latest edition of City Matters.</p>
	<p>This was distributed to over 160,000 Belfast homes at the start of November.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Other forms of promotion</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaflets were designed, which the NIHMO team could distribute to landlords for their tenants' information packs or noticeboards. The leaflet gave a summary of the guide's content and a QR code with link straight to the guide on the website. • The Marketing and Communication Coordinator spoke to Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University social media teams to encourage them to share messaging. • The HMO Unit engaged with and provided copies of the campaign material to the Landlords Association for Northern Ireland, Housing Rights, Renters Voice and each of the other 10 Northern Ireland Council. Additionally, the campaign information was shared with the Department for Communities Housing Team.
3.13	<p><u>Future communications</u></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further promotion, including advertising, is being considered for January – February 2026. These have been identified as the months when students start to look for new accommodation again. • A budget of £3,000 has been set aside from licence fee income towards the costs of the campaign in January / February. With a provisional budget of up to £10,000 for the financial year 2026/27
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	<p>NIHMO Unit operates on a cost neutral basis</p>
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	<p>None</p>
6.0	Appendices
6.1	<p>Appendix 1 – HMO Press Release</p>
6.2	<p>Appendix 2 – HMO Leaflet for Tenants</p>
6.3	<p>Appendix 3 – HMO Leaflet for Landlords</p>

New guide on tenants' rights launched ahead of Freshers' Week



Home News New guide on tenants' rights launched ahead of Freshers' Week

Date: 15 September 2025

Category: Supporting communities

As the new university year approaches, Belfast City Council has launched a free online guide to help people understand their rights when renting a house of multiple occupancy (HMO).

An HMO is defined as living accommodation which is the main residence for three or more people from more than two different households, where at least one person pays the rent.

'Know your rights – a guide for HMO tenants' covers every aspect of renting an HMO, from the pre-tenancy checks that people should carry out before signing a contract and their responsibilities while occupying the property, through to regulations on ending tenancies, including notice periods required and rules around deposits.

It details how landlords are legally required to provide adequate security arrangements for tenants and includes advice for tenants on keeping safe.

The guide also provides helpful information on how to deal with potential issues including harassment and unlawful eviction.

Councillor Arder Carson, Deputy Chair of the council's Licensing Committee, said: "While anyone can rent an HMO, most HMO tenants are students. The publication of this guide is therefore extremely timely as people will be preparing to begin or return to university over the next few weeks. The guide aims to help them navigate the many challenges of shared housing accommodation.

"First and foremost, I would urge anyone considering renting an HMO to check that it is licensed before they sign a contract. HMO licenses provide assurance that the property complies with legislation and meets safety and quality standards. Properties will also need to include suitable facilities for the number of people living there before a license is granted.

"The guide provides additional support for renters by detailing what rights they have as HMO tenants. It covers basic information around deposits, such as the maximum deposit that landlords can demand and documents that they must provide to tenants. It also outlines landlords' responsibilities, including minimum standards for maintenance or repairs to their rental property.





“The guide also includes useful information for tenants about the rights of the property manager, such as regulations around allowing them reasonable access to the property to carry out inspections, make repairs and comply with legal requirements such as fire and other safety regulations.

“I would encourage anyone who is about to rent an HMO or already does, to check out the guide. It is important that you know your rights and this information could prove to be invaluable if you get into difficulties or disputes with your landlord.”

Landlords and tenants seeking further advice around HMOs can contact the council’s NIHMO Unit directly on 028 9027 0414 or email nihmo@belfastcity.gov.uk

‘Know your rights – a guide for HMO tenants’ is available online at belfastcity.gov.uk/HMOTenants

 HMO-tenants-know-your-rights.jpg (3.24 MB) 



Belfast
City Council

Contact details
Belfast City Hall,
Belfast,
BT1 5GS
028 9032 0202



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NI Houses in Multiple Occupation

Know your rights and responsibilities

Scan the QR code to access
your **free** online copy.



When you first start renting an HMO, there's a lot for you and your housemates to remember.

Whether you're just moving in or getting settled, our handy online information guide is here to help.

What's in it?

- **Pre-tenancy checks** - Know what to look out for before signing anything.
- **You and your landlord's rights and responsibilities** - Understand what your landlord needs to do and what's expected of you too.
- **Personal safety tips** - Advice on securing your home and staying safe.
- **Ending your tenancy** - Planning to move out? Get it right and avoid any last-minute stress.

Use this guide to help you avoid common pitfalls, learn your rights, and enjoy your home.

Any questions?

Speak to your landlord first.

We're also here for advice.

You can get in touch with us by emailing nihmo@belfastcity.gov.uk or calling **028 9027 0414**.

Go to belfastcity.gov.uk/nihmo for more info.



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NI Houses in Multiple Occupation

Tenants can scan this QR code
to access a **free** online copy
or visit the website at
belfastcity.gov.uk/nihmo



Free online information guide for tenants

Make sure your tenants are well-informed about HMOs by signposting to this free guide from the NIHMO unit.

What does it include?

- **Pre-tenancy checks** - Things to know for tenants before they sign.
- **Tenant and landlord's rights and responsibilities** - Information on what's expected of the tenant and what you as a landlord need to do.
- **Personal safety tips** - Advice on securing their home and staying safe.
- **Ending their tenancy** - Doing this the right way and avoiding any last-minute stress.

Benefits of the guide

- Easy-to-use information.
- Sets out rights and responsibilities for you and your tenants.
- Encourages being a good neighbour in the community.





NI Houses in Multiple Occupation

Remember, as an HMO landlord, you need to:

- have a licence for each HMO you own,
- secure all tenancy deposits with a recognised scheme,
- make sure you complete any repair and maintenance issues as soon as is reasonably possible and no later than the terms set out in your licence,
- deal promptly and effectively with anti-social behaviour,
- respect the rights of your tenants,
- complete our landlord training, you can access this at belfastcity.gov.uk/nihmo

Any questions or suggestions?

You can get in touch
with us by emailing
nihmo@belfastcity.gov.uk
or calling **028 9027 0414**

