

JOELSON WILSON

LARGE EVENT LICENSING

JOELSON WILSON LLP
Solicitors
30 Portland Place
London W1B 1LZ

T: (+44) (0)20 7580 5721
F: (+44) (0)20 7580 2251
E: info@joelsonwilson.com
W: www.joelsonwilson.com
DX: 9001 West End

JOELSON WILSON

LARGE EVENT LICENSING

- The licensing of large stadia and events such as major conferences and music festivals requires particular skills and experience.
- Crucial, and early, decisions will need to be taken whether, for example:
 - to apply for a single premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 to cover a wide range of licensable activities, or
 - to seek a number of connected premises licences and
 - to apply for licences that will apply for a number of consecutive years' annual events at the same location
- Close liaison and consultation with the licensing authorities and responsible authorities is essential, as too is the tactful handling of the concerns of local residents and businesses likely to be affected by the event in question.
- The licensing authority will typically act as a co-ordinating body insofar as input from the responsible authorities is concerned and applicants seeking to draw up substantial operating schedules will benefit from the close involvement of licensing law specialists with experience of the discussions and negotiations that characterise such dealings
- Risk assessments will be essential in relation to such matters as crowd management and security, fire safety, prevention of noise nuisance, waste and traffic management, medical provision and all aspects of public safety. It is vital to instruct licensing law specialists who are used to working with, and alongside, independent experts in such fields
- Very often an applicant for a licence for such events will have to attend a hearing before the licensing authority in order to explain how areas of concern raised by representations from local people will be dealt with satisfactorily. These types of hearing can often be very complex and an applicant is best served by licensing law specialists with relevant previous experience
- Careful consideration of the issue of special police services under s25 of the Police Act 1996 (construed in the light of two recent High Court cases) is essential, together with specialist advice on how to conduct negotiations with the police, to ensure that the event organisers do not find themselves landed with a huge policing bill for which they have not budgeted
- As important as anything else is that your licensing law specialists understand how such large events operate in practice so that they can be involved from the outset to ensure, as far as possible, that no unforeseen emergencies arise whilst the event is in progress or that, if they do, measures are in place to handle them safely and efficiently so as to minimise any prejudice to future such events occurring

JOELSON WILSON

- Lawyers in our specialist licensing team have experience in licensing large venues and events ranging from the Millennium Dome to the Isle of Wight Festival and are independently recommended for their *"real talent in liaising with authorities, officials and councils ... delivery in court is top-notch - you always have to be on the ball if you are on the other side."*

Need to know more?

Ask us. "Truly proactive practitioners, well versed in licensing law, greatly knowledgeable and utterly dependable in fighting its clients' battles ..." – Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession 2008. For information/advice on alcohol or entertainment licensing matters, gaming, betting, lotteries or remote gambling, please contact:

**David Clifton or Suzanne Davies
Joelson Wilson LLP
30 Portland Place, London W1B 1LZ
Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7580 5721
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7580 2251
e-mail: drqc@joelsonwilson.com or scd@joelsonwilson.com
Web: www.joelsonwilson.com**

This document is not intended to be a comprehensive review of all developments in the law or practice, or to cover all aspects of those referred to. Readers should take legal advice before applying the information contained in this publication to specific issues or transactions.

Joelson Wilson LLP

July 2008