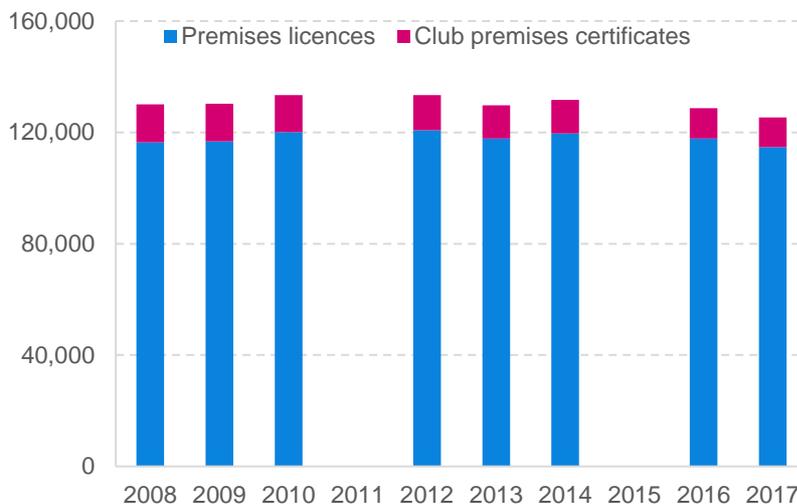




Entertainment Licensing 2017

- There were **114,700** premises licenses authorising regulated entertainment in force in England and Wales as at 31 March 2017, a **3% decrease** compared to 31 March 2016.
- There were **10,700** club premises certificates authorising regulated entertainment in England and Wales on 31 March 2017, a **3% decrease** compared to 31 March 2016.
- This continues the downward trend in the number of premises licences and club premises certificates seen in the last few years since 2014.

Total number¹ of premises licences and club premises certificates, 31 March 2008 to 2017²



Notes:

1. Totals are a combination of licensing authority returns and modelled estimates, rounded to the nearest hundred
2. Data were not collected during the years 2011 and 2015.

This release provides modelled estimates of the number of premises and clubs which are licensed to provide regulated entertainment. The types of regulated entertainment which may require a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 are:

- A performance of a play
- An exhibition of a film
- An indoor sporting event
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment (both indoors and outdoors)
- A performance of live music
- Any playing of recorded music
- A performance of dance

Premises are things such as restaurants, shops, bars and parks. They may have a licence covering several forms of entertainment. This licence may also cover alcohol and late night refreshment. Private members clubs can also be granted licences called club premises certificates.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Code of Practice for Official Statistics

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority and the Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport have together made the decision to remove the National Statistics badging from these statistics. This is because the statistics are not thought to meet in full the National Statistics standard for quality or user engagement. Previous releases of these statistics will not be affected i.e. they will retain their National Statistics badge. These statistics remain Official Statistics and as such are produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.

Background

Released: 27 February 2018

Geographic Coverage: England and Wales

This release provides modelled estimates of the number of premises and clubs which are licensed to provide regulated entertainment.

The types of regulated entertainment which may require a licence under the Licensing Act 2003 are:

- A performance of a play
- An exhibition of a film
- An indoor sporting event
- Boxing or wrestling entertainment (both indoors and outdoors)
- A performance of live music
- Any playing of recorded music
- A performance of dance

Premises, which include things such as restaurants, shops, bars and parks, may have a licence covering several forms of entertainment. This licence may also cover alcohol and late night refreshment. Private members clubs, which could include sports and political clubs, can also be granted licences called club premises certificates.

Licences are granted by Licensing Authorities, which are usually local councils. Detailed information about entertainment licensing can be found [here](#). Alcohol and late night refreshment licence statistics, published by the Home Office, can be found [here](#).

Statistics presented in this publication are based on a combination of data provided by Local Authorities and estimates based on these, imputed from a model described in Annex B. Contextual information on entertainment licensing policy can be found in Annex A.

Chapter 2: Premises Licences

This section provides modelled estimates of the number of premises licences in force in England and Wales. Premises, which include things such as restaurants, shops, bars and parks, may have a licence covering several forms of entertainment. This licence may also cover alcohol and late night refreshment.

2.1 Summary

There were 114,700 premises licences authorising regulated entertainment in force in England and Wales on 31 March 2017, a 3 per cent decrease compared to 117,800 licences on 31 March 2016.

Premises licences accounted for 91.5 per cent of the total number of licences in force which authorised regulated entertainment on 31 March 2017. Club premises certificates accounted for the other 8.5 per cent.

The statistics do not give direct evidence as to the causes behind changes over time, but may reflect deregulation of some forms of entertainment meaning some venues no longer require licenses, as detailed in Annex A.

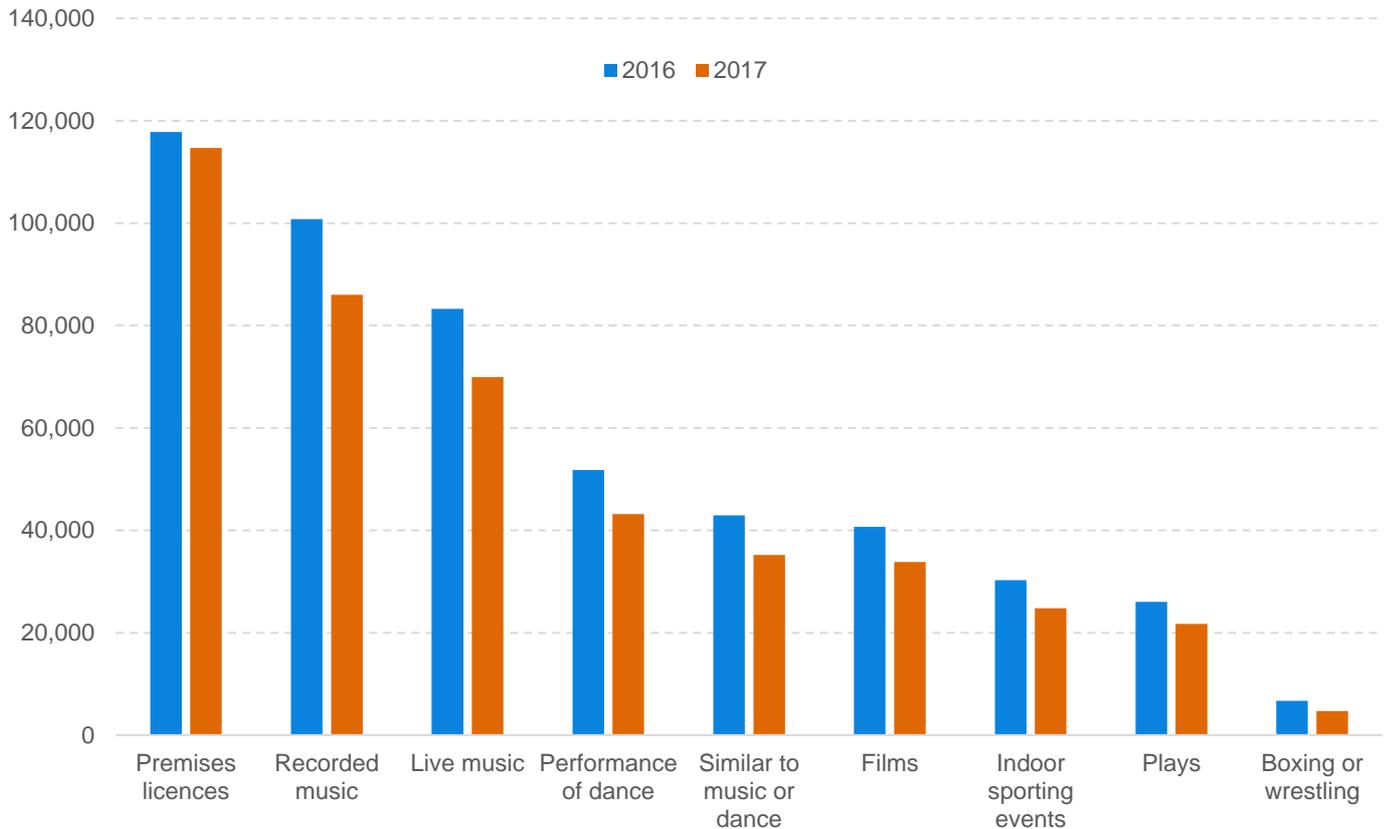
2.2 Premises licences by category of regulated entertainment

The most commonly authorised form of regulated entertainment was recorded music which was licensed in 86,000 premises. Around three in every four (75%) premises licences for entertainment covered recorded music.

Between 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017, there were decreases in the number of premises licences covering all types of entertainment. The smallest decrease was for licences authorising the playing of recorded music (15% decrease, down from 100,800 in 2016 to 86,000 in 2017). The largest decrease was for licences covering boxing or wrestling (30% decrease, down from 6,700 in 2016 to 4,700 in 2017). This category has the fewest licences granted, however, so is susceptible to larger percentage changes over time.

Figure 1 shows the number of premises holding licences for each licensable entertainment type on 31 March 2016 and 2017.

Figure 1: Number of premises licences as at 31 March 2016 and 2017 per category of regulated entertainment^{1,2}



Notes:

1. Totals are a combination of licensing authority returns and modelled estimates, rounded to the nearest hundred
2. Licences can authorise multiple kinds of entertainment, so sub categories will sum to more than the total

2.3 Premises licences by region

As in 2016, London, South East and the North West had the greatest number of entertainment premises licences (over 14,500 licences each). The region with the fewest entertainment premises licences was the North East with just over 5,000.

The regions with the most entertainment premises licences per head of population are different from the regions which have the greatest absolute number of these licences.

Wales was the area with the greatest number of entertainment premises licences per head of population (2.5), but amongst the areas with one of the lower absolute number of such licences (7,800). This is a similar result to 2016.

Conversely, the West Midlands had a moderate number of entertainment premises licences in force (9,800), while it had the lowest rate per head (1.7). Again, these results are similar to those in 2016.

Chapter 3: Club Premises Certificates

This section provides modelled estimates of the number of club premises certificates in force in England and Wales. Private members clubs, which could include things like sports or political clubs, may have a licence covering several forms of entertainment. This licence may also cover alcohol and late night refreshment.

3.1 Summary

There were 10,700 club premises certificates authorising regulated entertainment in England and Wales on 31 March 2017, a 3 per cent decrease compared to 10,900 club premises certificates on 31 March 2016.

Club premises certificates accounted for 9 per cent of the total number of licences in force which authorised regulated entertainment on 31 March 2017.

The statistics do not give direct evidence as to the causes behind changes over time, but may reflect deregulation of some forms of entertainment meaning some venues no longer require licenses, as detailed in Annex A.

3.2 Club premises certificates by category of regulated entertainment

The most commonly authorised form of regulated entertainment by club premises certificates was recorded music, with 8,100 club premises certificates in force. Around three in four (76%) club premises certificates for entertainment covered recorded music.

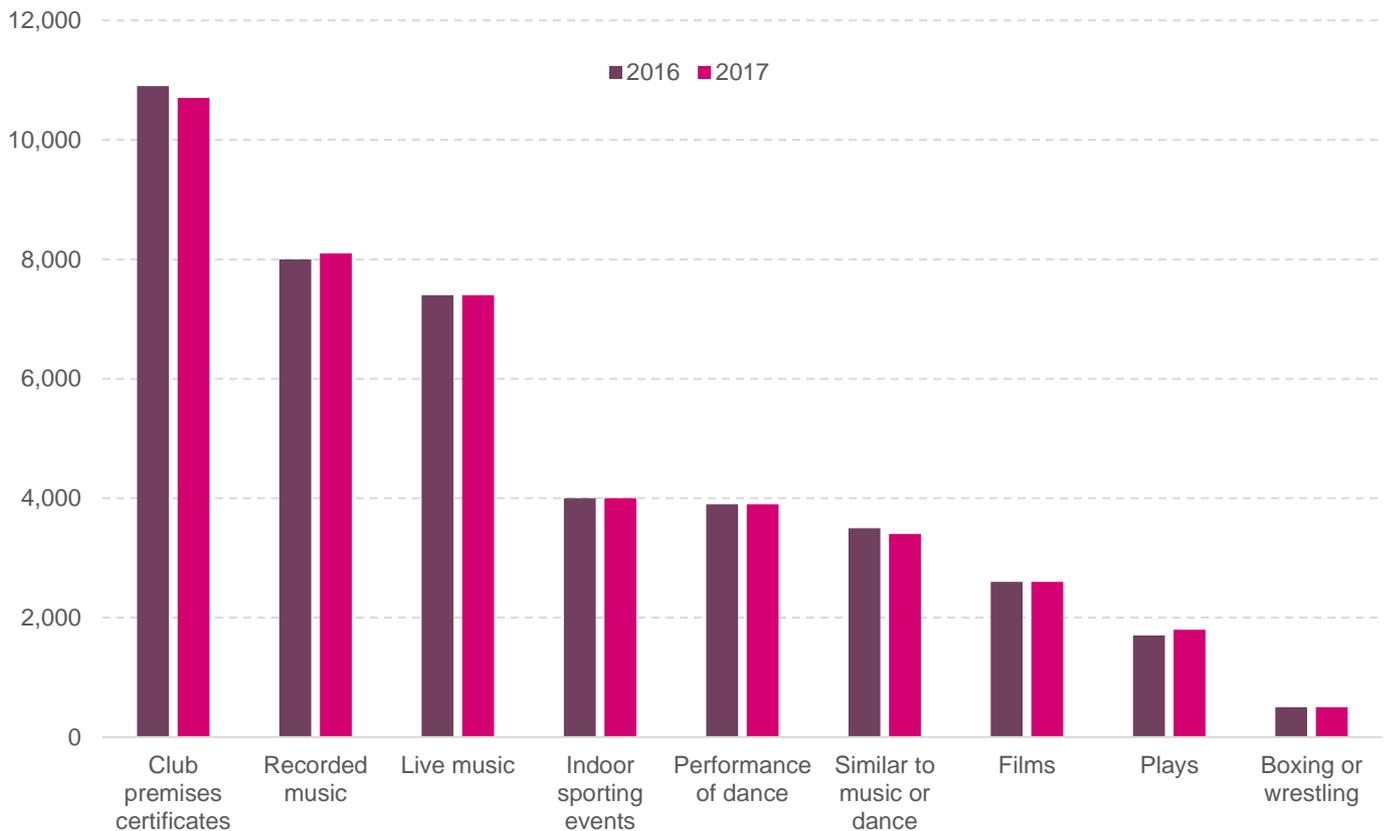
The least commonly authorised form of regulated entertainment by club premises certificates has been for boxing and wrestling, with around 500 such certificates in force in both 2016 and 2017.

Whilst the total number of club premises licences decreased between 31 March 2016 and 31 March 2017, licences covering some forms of entertainment increased. This could be because licences covering limited numbers of entertainment decreased, reducing the overall numbers of licences, while those covering multiple kinds of entertainment increased, covering the shortfall otherwise expected per category.

There was a 3 per cent increase in the number of clubs premises certificates authorising performances of plays, (up from 1,700 in 2016 to 1,800 in 2017), and a 1 per cent increase in the number of clubs premises certificates authorising the playing of recorded music (up from 8,000 in 2016 to 8,100 in 2017).

Figure 2 shows the number of entertainment club premises certificates for each licensable entertainment type on 31 March 2016 and 2017.

Figure 2: Number of club premises certificates as at 31 March 2016 and 2017 per category of regulated entertainment^{1,2}



Notes:

1. Totals are a combination of licensing authority returns and modelled estimates
2. Licences can authorise multiple kinds of entertainment, so sub categories will sum to more than the total

3.3 Club premises certificates by region

Only three regions had 1,300 or more entertainment club premises certificates in force on 31 March 2017 (South East; Yorkshire and The Humber; and North West). Meanwhile, three regions had fewer than 900 entertainment club premises certificates in force on 31 March 2017 (East Midlands, North East, and London). These results are similar to those found in 2016.

Wales is the region with the greatest number of club premises certificates in force per head of population (0.3), but it is also among the regions with the lowest absolute number of club premises certificates (900).

London had both one of the lowest absolute number of club premises licences (700) in 2017, and the lowest per person (0.1), while the North East had a lower number of licences (600) but a greater number per person (0.2). These results are similar to those in 2016.

Annex A: Further Information

This chapter provides background information on these statistics and laws and policies pertaining to Regulated Entertainments.

Accompanying tables showing both the actual and modelled number of premises licences and club premises certificates authorising regulated entertainment are available alongside this release.

A table showing the number of premises licences and club premises certificates authorising entertainment **by individual Licensing Authority** has also been published. These data consist of the actual returns received from Licensing Authorities i.e. the figures have not been modelled. Non-responding Licensing Authorities are included within the table for information (84.9% and 86.3% of all licensing authorities provided figures on the number of premises licences and club premises certificates authorising entertainment, respectively). The sum of the licences shown in these tables will be substantially less than the modelled totals for England and Wales since the modelled totals incorporate estimates for non-response.

It is important to note that the Licensing Authority table does not, on its own, provide an insight into areas where particular forms of entertainment are most popular – the Licensing Authority data largely reflect the size of the population in each authority. Additionally, as with the aggregated national figures, possession of a licence to provide a certain type of entertainment does not necessarily mean that activity is actually taking place.

Figures on the modelled number of entertainment premises licences and entertainment club premises certificates per 1,000 population are available in Table 6 of the main tables. These allow for comparisons to be made between regions, but still do not provide an indication of the regulated entertainment which has actually taken place, rather an indication of the number of licences available for regulated entertainment per head of population.

Definitions

Premises licences can be used for the sale or supply of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment or the provision of late night refreshment.

Club premises certificates allow a qualifying club to carry out activities specified under the [Licensing Act 2003](#).

Please note that this release deals only with premises licences or club premises certificates which authorise the provision of regulated entertainment. It also does not include data for regulated entertainment authorised by a Temporary Event Notice. Data for Temporary Event Notices as a whole is published by the Home Office in their publication Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment Licensing England and Wales 2016/17 available [here](#).

Figures in this publication (unless otherwise stated) relate to the modelled number of premises licences or club premises certificates authorising entertainment in force on 31 March 2017 in England and Wales. There are no corresponding figures for Scotland or Northern Ireland. Scottish liquor licensing statistics are available but these do not distinguish the provision of regulated entertainment.

The number of entertainment premises licences and entertainment club premises certificates in force do not provide a measure of the regulated entertainment which actually takes place. This is because a premises or club being authorised for a certain type of regulated entertainment does not mean that they necessarily provide it. For example a premises may

have previously provided a form of regulated entertainment which it has now ceased to, but not had it removed from its licence.

Complementing this release, data on licences authorising alcohol and late night refreshments are published by the Home Office in their publication Alcohol and Late Night Refreshment Licensing England and Wales 2016/17 available [here](#).

The Home Office publication includes figures for the total number of premises licences and club premises certificates in force, not just those authorising the provision of regulated entertainment as in this release.

Data response

Statistics presented in this release are based on the actual returns received from responding Licensing Authorities. Of the 350 Licensing Authorities in England and Wales, 345 of them (98.5%) made a return. Of all Licensing Authorities, 297 (84.9%) and 302 (86.3%) provided the total number of premises licences and club premises certificates respectively authorising regulated entertainment in force in their authority on 31 March 2017.

Throughout this publication modelled estimates have been used to account for non-response. Non-response refers to a Licensing Authority either not returning a questionnaire or leaving a specific question in the questionnaire blank. Full information on the modelling procedure can be found in Annex B.

Revisions

Figures from 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012 and 2013 referred to in this report have not been revised from previous publications. Figures for 2014 and 2016 have been revised due to the release of updated Local Authority area classifications in July 2017. These classifications are used in the modelling procedure. For more information about this update see the information in Annex B.

Additional information

The Licensing Act 2003 defines the provision of regulated entertainment as a licensable activity. The Act brought together 6 existing licensing regimes including public entertainment, cinemas and theatres. Once granted, the licence is valid until surrendered, subject to the payment of any annual licence fee due and any premises which held an old scheme licence was eligible to apply for it to be converted. The statistics presented in this report enable the Government to track the uptake of such licences throughout England and Wales and to gauge what impact the legislation has had and continues to have on the number of clubs or premises able to provide different entertainment types.

The Live Music Act 2012 came into force on 1 October 2012. This amends the Licensing Act 2003 ("the 2003 Act") by partially deregulating the performance of live music and removing regulation about the provision of entertainment facilities. It may therefore be expected that licences authorising live music performances may decrease, as may applications for new licences. However as the Live Music Act only partially deregulated live music in defined circumstances, the live music category is likely to remain in place on most pre-existing licences. These statistics do not provide an indication of whether the Act has increased the provision of live music itself. Full information on this Act is available [here](#).

Further deregulatory reforms to entertainment licensing have been implemented in phases. The first phase, by secondary legislation removed the requirement for a licence between 8:00-23:00 for performance of plays and exhibitions of dance (up to an audience limit of 500) and indoor sport up to audience limit of 1000 people. It also clarified the position on combined fighting sports such as Mixed Martial Arts, so that it is clear in law that such activities remain licensable as boxing or wrestling activities. This came into force on 27th June 2013. For more information see [here](#).

A [second phase](#) that removed the licensing requirement between 08.00-23.00 for certain activities in defined circumstances came into force on 6 April 2015.

There was no data collection in 2011 as a result of the Machinery of Government change which reallocated policy responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 between the Home Office and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. It was decided to keep the frequency of collection under review, with a plan to repeat the exercise following any forthcoming legislative changes. As such, the first collection following the Machinery of Government change was in 2011/12. To reduce the administrative burden on local authorities, there was no statistical collection exercise for year ending March 2015. The data collection was resumed for the year ending March 2016.

Annex B: Methodology

Overview

Licensing authorities (i.e. local authorities) provide returns to the Home Office and DCMS detailing how many premises licences and club premises certificates are held in that local authority, and provide a breakdown of the numbers of licences held covering each type of regulated entertainment.

Some local authorities do not, or cannot, provide a return at all. Some provide figures on the total number of licences issued, but not the breakdowns for each type of regulated entertainment, and some provide figures on the number of licences of each type, but not the total number of licences and certificates.

A methodology is therefore used to estimate the total numbers of licences issued, and then a second is used to estimate the numbers issued covering each type of regular entertainment.

Local authority area classifications

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses data from the 2011 census to group similar Local Authorities into broad groups based on key characteristics common to the population in that grouping. These are called “area classifications”, and have descriptors such as “Services, Manufacturing and Mining Legacy”, “Country Living”, “Ethnically Diverse Metropolitan Living”, etc.

The methodologies used to impute missing data are reliant on these area classifications. Area classifications based on the 2011 census were first produced in 2015, and later updated in 2017. More information about the ONS area classifications can be found [here](#).

The methodology used in the Entertainment Licensing 2016 statistics (available [here](#)) was based on the 2015 area classification. Prior to that, the methodology used in the Entertainment Licensing statistics was based on the type of Local Authority, for example, whether the Local Authority was a Unitary Authority or London Borough.

The methodology was changed for the 2016 release of the Entertainment Licensing statistics (available [here](#)) to instead use classifications based on the socioeconomic and personal characteristic based ONS area classifications, following evidence from the [Taking Part survey](#) that participation in different forms of entertainment differs with these groups.

For the 2017 release of the Entertainment Licensing statistics, the methodology has remained the same, but the updated area classifications from 2017 have been used. The 2014 and 2016 figures have also been re-modelled based on these updated area classifications.

Total licences issued

Some licensing authorities could not provide the total number of premises licences and club premises certificates issued. If data was previously available for a given authority from the 2014 or 2016 statistics, these were grossed by the overall trend for all other licensing authorities in the same area classification group.

This results in each licensing authority either having a total as per their return provided (84.9% and 86.3% for premises licences and club premises certificates respectively), or having an imputed estimate (15.1% and 13.7% for premises licences and club premises certificates respectively).

Categories of licences

Some local authorities could or did not provide data on the types of regulated entertainment for which licences had been granted.

In these cases, a similar approach was taken. The percentage of total licences permitting each type of entertainment, per local authority, was found, then averaged over each of the area classifications. These percentages were then used to calculate licences per type of regulated entertainment.

For example, if on average 10% of licences for local authorities of a certain classification permitted live music, then it is assumed a local authority of that classification with a hundred total licences but unknown breakdowns granted 10 licences permitting live music in the model.

Annex C: Background Notes

1. The Entertainment licensing data collection is commissioned by the Home Office on behalf of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, as part of their data collection for the *Alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment licensing statistics*. See [here](#) for full details of The Licensing Act 2003
2. Note that the Act has been partially amended by the [Live Music Act 2012](#) and the [“2013 order”](#).
3. Past instances of this release had badged National Statistics status. The badging has been removed this year because the statistics are not felt to meet the National Statistics standard in full in relation to quality or user engagement. Previous releases of these statistics will not be affected i.e. they will retain their National Statistics badge. These statistics remain Official Statistics and as such are produced in compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. For more information on the Code of Practice, see [here](#).
4. The latest results presented here are on the number of premises licences or club premises certificates authorising the provision of regulated entertainment in force in **England and Wales** on **31 March 2017**.
5. The questionnaire covers all 350 licensing authorities in England and Wales.
6. Prior to 2012, these figures were reported on as part of the DCMS publication: Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing. There was no entertainment licensing data collection in 2011 and it is not feasible to retrospectively collect this data reliably.
7. The total compliance cost of licensing authorities responding to the regulated entertainment section of the questionnaire is estimated at £1,931.
8. We can provide the documents in this release to meet the specific requirements of people with disabilities. Please call 020 7211 6000 or email evidence@culture.gsi.gov.uk
9. The responsible statistician for this release is Emily Pycroft. For enquiries on this release, please contact Emily Pycroft on 0207 211 6872.
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