Public consultation: Entertainment licensing statistics

Consultation response

January 2019

Introduction

The statistics team at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport are consulting on the Entertainment Licensing Statistics publication.

The Entertainment Licensing Statistics publication is an annual Official Statistics publication, covering the number of licenses provided by each local authority in England and Wales that permit regulated entertainment. These figures are based on data provided by local authorities and imputed estimates to account for missing returns. Statistics detailing how many licences are held for each type of regulated entertainment are also available.

The latest release was published in February 2018, with the full series dating back to 2009.

DCMS are proposing to discontinue this release, on the basis that

1. DCMS are not aware of many users of these statistics

2. Due to the de-regulation of various types of entertainment within the Licensing Act, the statistics may not reflect an accurate picture of the number of premises and clubs hosting entertainment events.

3. Non-response from local authorities has been gradually increasing, meaning more of the estimates are being imputed, based on assumptions, which decreases the robustness of the overall figures over time.

We are keen to know how this proposal would impact on users. As such, this consultation seeks feedback on the Entertainment Licensing Statistics publication and specifically why you use the data, what information is used and how frequently you use the information. Users are welcome to respond only to those questions they consider relevant to them.

The consultation also provides an opportunity for you to comment on any aspect of the Entertainment Licensing Statistics publication. The consultation is open to everyone, including members of the public.

DCMS aim to continuously improve our statistical outputs as well as ensuring that they continue to meet user needs and make the most effective use of resources available. Discontinuing the Entertainment Licensing Statistics publication would free up resource to develop our key outputs, including the Taking Part Survey and DCMS Sector Economic Estimates, and to meet the growing demand for analysis to inform policy decisions on the many existing and emerging priorities within DCMS's remit. The priorities for DCMS's statistics team for 2018/19 are set out in our statistical work plan, published on 28 August 2018.

How to respond

Responses to this consultation should be sent to :evidence@culture.gov.uk, or by post to Emily Pycroft, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, 4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street, London, SW1A 2BQ. Alternatively, you can telephone Emily on 0207 211 6872.

Reponses should be received by 17 January 2018. We plan to publish a summary of responses to the consultation, and decisions made, in due course. Please indicate if you do not wish for your replies to be made public.

Questions

1) The Entertainment Licensing Statistics publication was last updated on 27 February 2018. Were you aware this had been published? Are you aware that this is an annual release?

- **Yes, we used the data as part of the Greater London Authority (GLA) work on the Night economy.**

2) Have you used these statistics at all? By 'used' we mean engaged with the contents of the release to inform your work or areas of interest.

- **Yes, these statistics were part of the evidence base for London's night economy and the Mayor's vision for a 24 hour-city.**

3) If yes, which elements of the release did you use in your work?

   a) Premise Licenses – total figures

   b) Premise Licenses – individual categories

   c) Premise Licenses – regional rates by 1,000 population

   d) Club premise certificates – total figures

   e) Club premise certificates - individual categories

   f) Club premise certificates - regional rates by 1,000 population

- **We used two datasets: 1) premise licenses – regional rates by 1,000 population; 2) Club premise certificates – regional dates by 1,000 population.**

4) Please describe how and why you use these statistics. Please be as specific as possible; for example, if you use the statistics to provide briefing and further analysis to others, it would be helpful to know what the end use is.

- **These statistics were used to provide part of the analysis for the *London at night: An evidence base for a 24-hour city*, more precisely, the section on the night cultural venues. This evidence has been crucial to support the work of the Night commission and of the Night Czar.**

5) How often do you use this publication?

- **This was the first time that we used this publication but as the Night Economy is increasingly being recognized as an important driver of economic growth, we want to update the evidence and publish reports on the Night Economy more regularly. This data, noting the potential issues regarding robustness, will be critical to our ongoing monitoring and policy development in this field.**

6) If this publication ceased altogether, what impact would that have on you as an individual or on your organisation (if applicable)?

- **The Night Economy is an important driver of economic growth. Internationally and domestically, its value has been increasingly recognised. However, data in the UK on the Night Economy is severely limited – the cessation of this data will only add to that shortfall. This is the only dataset to report on licensed premises and clubs and these establishments play an important role in the Night Economy. In the absence of this data our ability to understand and monitor this crucial part of our economy will be constrained. This in turn would restrict the GLA's ability to formulate well-evidenced policies in this field.**

7) Are there any data items or information within the existing publication to which it would be essential for you to continue to have access on an annual basis?

- **In order to continue our work on the Night economy, it is crucial for us to continue to have access to the number of premises licenses per 1,000 population and the number of clubs premises per 1,000 population. Ideally, we would like to have this data by local authority and real numbers rather than estimates. Whilst we understand that this is constrained by the low response rate from local authorities we believe that the DCMS is well placed to work with local authorities to correct this. The GLA would be happy to engage with the local authorities in the London region to support this aim (is that correct – can you check? Is Paul reaching out to London LA's on this??_)**

8) Are you aware of any other data sources on this topic which you'd be able to use if this publication ceased altogether?

- **As part of the evidence on the Night Economy, we used the Home Office statistics on alcohol and late night refreshment. However, we consider the Home Office data to complement rather than substitute the DCMS Entertainment Licensing Statistics.**

9) Do you have any other comments about the Entertainment Licensing Statistics publication?

- **As stated above, we believe that the DCMS is well placed to work with local authorities to correct for the low response rates in order to address the potential issue on the robustness of this data. The GLA would be happy to engage with the local authorities in the London region to support this aim. .**

10) Is your response based on your own views as an individual user or on behalf of an organisation? If responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of the organisation.

- **On Behalf of the Greater London Authority.**

11) May we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? This may be to follow up on any specific points we need to clarify.

- **Yes, my e-mail address is:** *Gabriele.piazza@london.gov.uk*