

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS 1925 - 2014

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE FOR EVENT AT NEWTOWNSMITH AND EAST PIER, DÚN LAOGHAIRE, CO. DUBLIN

Event Licence for 26th December 2025 to 6th January 2026

Reg. Ref. OEL/02/2025

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- i. Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- ii. Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;
- iii. Planning and Development (Amendment) Regulations 2015

Part XVI of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, provides for the requirement of a licence for the holding of outdoor events. Section 231 refers to regulations relating to matters of procedure and administration for applications and the granting of licences. S.I. No. 600 of 2001 and S.I. No. 116 of 2012 relate.

An event is defined in Section 229 of the Act as:

- a. *"a public performance which takes place wholly or mainly in the open air or in a structure with no roof or a partial, temporary structure and which is comprised of music, dancing, displays of public entertainment or any activity of a like kind, and*
- b. *any other event as prescribed by the Minister under section 241."*

Article 183 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, defines an event as prescribed in Section 230 of the Act as being *"an event at which the audience comprises 5,000 or more people shall be an event prescribed for the purposes of Section 230 of the Act."*

The following codes of practice and guidelines are also considered relevant to event licences.

- i. Code of Practice for Safety at Outdoor Pop Concerts and other outdoor musical events Department of Education in January 1996.
- ii. Code of Practice for Management of Fire Safety in Places of Assembly, Department of Environment.
- iii. Code of Practice for Fire Safety of Furnishings and Fittings in Places of Assembly, Department of Environment.
- iv. Ensure compliance is achieved with the requirements of the Fire Services Act 1981 and Amendment 2003 and the Fire Safety in Places of Assembly (Ease of Escape) Regulations 1985.

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- v. Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.
- vi. Building Control Acts 1990 to 2014.
- vii. Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended in 2017).
- viii. Environmental Protection Agency Act and regulations.

APPLICATION

On the 12th of September 2025 Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council received an application for an events licence from MCD Productions, on behalf of Fáilte Ireland. It is proposed that a fireworks display and a small festival will take place at Newtownsmith and Dun Laoghaire Harbour on the 31st of December 2025.

The applicant has submitted a Draft Event Management Plan for the subject event.

Summary of Proposal

New Year's Festival (NYF) Dublin is an initiative of Fáilte Ireland produced on their behalf by MCD Productions. NYF Dublin 2025 will take place across multiple venues showcasing a wealth of Irish talent. This includes an outdoor fireworks display in Dún Laoghaire Harbour on Wednesday December 31st 2025. The event will consist of the following elements:

New Year's Eve Fireworks Display

- The display will take place at 7.00pm and last approximately 11 minutes,
- The fireworks will be fired from the East Pier which will be closed to the public,
- This will be a free event, and a provision will be made for an estimated total of 22,000 people across the activated viewing zones.

The Draft Event Management Plan includes details on the following matters:

- Event Management Structure,
- Event Safety Strategy,
- Medical Facilities,
- Traffic Management Plan,
- Accessibility,
- Communications,
- Sanitary Provisions,
- Event Risk Assessment,
- Environmental Impact, Clean-Up, Programme, Removal of Structures & Reinstatement / Remedial Works,
- Security / Stewarding Arrangements,
- Duties of Security and Stewarding Personnel,
- Emergency Procedures / Venue Evacuation Plans,
- Contingency Planning Considerations.

There is also a list of appendices at the end of the report including the following:

- Appendix A Draft Production Schedule,

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- Appendix B Drawings,
- Appendix C Draft Medical Plan,
- Appendix D Draft Security and Stewarding Schedule (to be submitted in due course),
- Appendix E Draft Traffic Management Plan.

It is considered that the submission complies with the requirements set out in Article 187 of the Planning and Development Regulations of 2001 in its form and content for the purposes of making an application.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Article 186(1) of the Regulations provides as follows: -

"An application must be made at least 13 weeks prior to the date of the holding of the event to which the application relates or, in the case of an application for a number of events at a venue in a period not exceeding one year, at least 13 weeks prior to the holding of the first event."

The application was lodged on the 12th September 2025 and is therefore in excess of 13 weeks prior to the date of the proposed event on the 26th of December 2025.

Article 186(1a) of the Regulations states: -

"A local authority shall not accept an application for a licence for a proposed event unless a pre-application consultation meeting under article 184 has taken place in relation to the event during the 12-month period prior to the date of the event to which the application relates or, in the case of an application for a number of events at a venue in a period not exceeding one year, 12 months prior to the holding of the first event."

The pre-application consultation meeting was held on the 16th of July 2025 and therefore this criterion has also been met.

DECISION ON APPLICATION

S. 231 (3) (a) of the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 (as amended) states that:

"Where an application for a licence is made in accordance with regulations under this section, the local authority may decide to grant the licence, grant the licence subject to conditions as it considers appropriate or refuse the licence."

NEWTOWNSMITH

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Newtownsmith is a public green space located in the administrative county of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The green area of Newtownsmith is located between the public roadway of Newtownsmith to the south and the foreshore of Scotsmans Bay to the northeast. The subject event site is located between the aforementioned areas and between the junction of Islington Avenue / Newtownsmith / Windsor Terrace to the northwest and Link Road / Newtownsmith / Marine Parade to the southeast.

The subject site is bound by a carpark area and further green space / pedestrian pathways to the northwest leading to the Dún Laoghaire Baths, and a large public green space to the southeast with pathways leading to Marine Parade. The southern side of Newtownsmith is an established residential area, with dwellings facing the proposed event area.

The public green space at Newtownsmith serves the local community and wider population within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The main activities within the public green space include walking and children's play. The public greenspace is in ownership of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

In the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028, the event site is zoned 'Objective 'F'; To preserve and provide for open space with ancillary active recreational amenities.' The subject site is located within the boundary of the proposed Dún Laoghaire Local Area Plan. Additionally, the majority of the subject site is within the Dalkey Coastal Zone and Killiney Hill/Rocheshill Proposed Natural Heritage Area. There are protected views along the roadway of Marine Parade, Newtownsmith and Windsor Terrace toward Dublin Bay / Howth Head.

Table 13.1.9 of the County Development Plan 2022-2028 outlines the land uses that are permitted in principle and open for consideration on land zoned 'F'. 'Cultural use' is identified as 'permitted in principle'. Cultural use is defined under Section 13.12 of the Plan as 'Use of a building or part thereof or land for cultural or purposes to which the public may be admitted on payment of a charge or free of charge and includes an art gallery, museum, public library or public reading room, theatre, public hall, exhibition hall.'

It is considered that the licence application complies with the provisions and land use zoning as set out in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028.

PUBLIC BODIES AND INTERNAL CONSULTEES

As part of the assessment process, Article 189 (1) of S.I. 600 requires that the licence

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application be circulated to certain prescribed bodies. In doing so the Council submitted copies of the application to:

1. An Garda Síochána,
2. Dún Laoghaire Gardai,
3. National Transport Authority (NTA),
4. Iarnród Éireann,
5. Uisce Éireann,
6. Health Service Executive (HSE) (Emergency Planning),
7. Environmental Health Office, Air and Noise Unit,
8. Dublin Fire Brigade.

DLR Co.Co INTERNAL CONSULTEES

The application was also referred to the following internal consultees:

1. Community and Cultural Development,
2. Parks Department,
3. Dún Laoghaire Harbour,
4. Traffic Department,
5. Transportation Department,
6. Water and Drainage Department.

Responses were received from the following bodies/internal departments -

Uisce Éireann

A written response was received from Uisce Éireann Office (dated 29th September 2025), with the following comment;

'A Chara,

Uisce Éireann (UÉ) has reviewed the plans and particulars submitted with the application and has no objections in principle subject to the following;

To ensure adequate provision and protection of water and wastewater facilities, Uisce Éireann recommends that,

1. *Where the Event Manager / Promoter proposes a new connection to public water mains, they shall sign a connection agreement with Uisce Éireann prior to any works commencing and connecting to the network and adhere to the standards and conditions set out in that agreement.*
2. *The Event Manager / Promoter should be cognisant of the potential impact that such an event could have on the water environment and should encourage water quality*

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protection and water conservation as part of the event management. Traditionally, Local Authorities would have assisted local events in the provision of water services either directly or in conjunction with neighbouring Local Authorities. Uisce Éireann, the national water utility, now has responsibility for the delivery of water and wastewater services to homes and businesses.

- 3. Wastewater collected at temporary sanitary facilities must be disposed of in an appropriately licensed waste or wastewater treatment facility. If the intended disposal route is to import the wastewater to an Uisce Éireann wastewater treatment plant, then the Uisce Éireann imported wastewater application process must be adhered to by the Event Manager. The Event Manager must apply to Uisce Éireann a minimum of eight weeks in advance of any imports being received. An application form can be requested by emailing imports@water.ie or made via the attached link.*
- 4. The Event Manager should endeavour to ensure that any temporary food outlets are operated appropriately in relation to the disposal of oils, fats and greases in order to minimise impacts on the wastewater collection and/or treatment system.*
- 5. There shall be no build over of public infrastructure from these proposals. Separation distances as per Uisce Éireann's Standards Codes & Practices shall be achieved where public infrastructure is in situ within and/or adjacent to site boundaries*.*
- 6. The development shall not impact public drinking water sources and/or abstraction point(s) and/or abstraction infrastructure**.*
- 7. All development shall be carried out in compliance with Uisce Éireann Standards codes and practices.*

Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to planning@water.ie.

WRITTEN SUBMISSION / OBSERVATIONS

One (1 no.) third-party submission was received during the public consultation period which expressed support for the proposal.

ASSESSMENT

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IMPACT TO NEWTOWNSMITH

- DLR Co. Co. raises no major concerns in relation to the impact of the event on the public green space at Newtownsmith. The event is temporary in nature and the green space at Newtownsmith could accommodate such volumes of people.

IMPACT TO WILDLIFE

- The Local Authority notes that the proposed event will take place in a public space, that is comprised of paved pathways and grass only. While the north boundary bounds the foreshore of Scotsmans bay, it is considered that there will be negligible impact on biodiversity due to the scale and temporary nature of the event.

OPERATION OF THE EVENT

- The consultation process has been carried out as required under legislation relating to Event Licences. Newspaper notices were issued as per Article 186(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).
- Pre-planning consultation minutes are made public following a decision on the event licence application as per the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- Newtownsmith is considered to be a suitable venue by both the Local Authority and the statutory agencies.
- Event opening times, finishing times, and attendance numbers are considered to be acceptable by both the Local Authority and the statutory agencies.
- Sanitation facilities are provided in compliance with the Code of Practice for Safety at Outdoor Events 1996.

DISTURBANCE IN THE LOCAL AREA

- Disturbance to the local area is anticipated to be kept to a minimum and is covered in the draft Event Management Plan. Further and more robust details will be required via the provision of finalised Event Management Plan submitted no later than two weeks prior to the date of the event.
- The event promoters have developed policing, security and stewarding plan which endeavours to minimise disruption caused by the event. A Security and Stewarding Schedule is to be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the date of the event.
- A Traffic Management Plan will be in place for the event. There will be some restrictions to local roads as part of the event. The final plan will be prepared in consultation with the relevant statutory bodies and internal departments.
- MCD Productions state they have a full-time residents liaison employee who will coordinate a pre-event letter to be distributed to local residents / business and make communications with local stakeholders.

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- Cleaning teams will be in operation throughout the site build and deconstruction of the event site. The applicant states that sufficient bins will be provided and where possible waste will be segregated to prevent contamination of recyclable items.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Contractors, Partners and Staff employed on the site will be provided with detailed health and safety information via the health and safety documentation in advance of the build.
- In accordance with the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council is the licencing authority for Outdoor Events in its jurisdiction.
- DLR will continue to work with the concert promoter and An Garda Síochána to ensure any instances of Anti-Social behaviour are kept to a minimum and dealt with immediately.

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT (AA) SCREENING

The proposed development has been screened for AA (report on file) and it has been determined that the proposed development alone or in combination would not significantly impact upon a Natura 2000 Site.

The proposed event is located c. 1.65 km away from the nearest European site, South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA. The AA screening process has considered the potential effects which may arise during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases as a result of the implementation of the proposed event.

The proposed site is connected to a number of European sites in Dublin Bay via an indirect hydrological pathway through an existing surface water network. Through an assessment of the pathways for effects and an evaluation of the project characteristics, taking account of the processes involved and the distance of separation from European sites, it has been evaluated that there are no likely significant adverse effects on the qualifying interests, special conservation interest or the conservation objectives of any designated European site. The ecological integrity of the European site/s is not foreseen to be significantly affected by the project.

Given the nature of the proposed event, its scale, the localised and temporary nature of the construction and operational effects identified as potential sources, the proposed development will not lead to a significant in-combination effect with any other plans or projects.

Following, the proposed event is not anticipated to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SCREENING

Similar to the above, having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development, which comprises an event licence for a temporary cultural event, in a fully serviced urban location, it is considered that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. The need for environmental impact assessment can, therefore, be excluded at preliminary examination and as such a screening determination is not required.

SUMMARY

The Local Authority has had regard to the pre-application consultation, the information relating to the application furnished to it by the applicant in accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).

It is considered that the application for an event licence complies with the requirements of the Act and Regulations. It is recommended that the outdoor event licence is granted, subject to the following conditions, which accord with Section 231 (3) and (4) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, (as amended)

CONDITIONS

1. The Outdoor Event Licence shall be for the date of 26th December 2025 to the 3rd January 2026. All plans and proposals submitted as part of the application shall be implemented in full save as may be required by other conditions attached hereto.
2. A Final Event Management Plan shall be formally agreed with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Dublin Fire Brigade H.Q., Health Service Executive and An Garda Síochána a minimum of two weeks (10 working days) before the date of the event and written confirmation of agreement shall be submitted to the Council prior to commencement. Subsequently, the agreed Final Event management Plan shall be implemented in full.

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

3. In the event of a dispute between An Garda Síochána and the promoter regarding any aspect of the event, the requirements of the relevant Chief Superintendent shall take precedence.

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4. Sufficient Garda personnel numbers as determined by the relevant Chief Superintendent, shall be employed at the event to ensure that it is properly policed. All Garda costs associated with the Policing Plan shall be defrayed by the event promoter. The number of members of An Garda Síochána to be deployed shall be decided by the relevant Chief Superintendent.

HEALTH SERVICE EXECUTIVE

5. Any additional requirements of the Emergency Management Office of the Health Service Executive shall be resolved directly with the office prior to the event.
6. All event medical plans should be developed in accordance with the recommendations of the Health Service Executive, Emergency Management Office.
7. The event medical plan for this event shall be agreed with all medical providers and the Health Service Executive, Emergency Management Office, no later than two weeks prior to the event.
8. Medical / First aid activity [if any] at the event shall be recorded, compiled in an event medical report and forward directly to the Health Service Executive, Emergency Management Office, within one month after the event to include the following information:
 - a. Number of patrons accessing medical / first aid services.
 - b. Number of patrons requiring actual treatment.
 - c. Number of patrons removed to hospital.
 - d. Types of injury / illness

(Names and personal details are not required)

9. This licence may be suspended by the Licensing Authority at the request of the Health Service Executive due to issues of public safety in relation to major public health risks. The HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HPSC) provide the most up to date guidance and supporting documents which are all available at www.hpsc.ie. The granting of this licence is subject to the event organisers adhering to government and local public health requirements applicable to the area in which the event is to take place. It must be noted that public health requirements may change between the time of the granting of the licence and the date in which the event is to be held. In this case the most up to date government and local public health requirements must be adhered to by the event organiser.
10. Access shall be facilitated to the immediate area for Health Service Executive Community Services providing domiciliary care services to the population adjacent

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to the venue. Where Hospitals, Health Centres or Residential units are located within Traffic or Pedestrian restricted areas associated with the event, access for Staff, Clients and Visitors must be maintained.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICE

11. All sanitary accommodation units must be in situ and in proper working order a minimum 24 hours prior to the commencement of the outdoor event and are accessible for inspection by the Environmental Health Service.
12. A suitable non-slip surface, adequately drained must be provided to all sanitary accommodation areas.
13. There must be wall-mounted receptacles which dispense liquid antibacterial gel. These must be supplied in sufficient numbers outside each block of toilets and they must be in proper working order for the duration of the outdoor events. The gel shall be replaced as required. Signs of sufficient size stating "anti-bactericidal gel" must be erected in areas where the public can see.
14. It is the responsibility of the Event Organiser to ensure that all sanitary facilities are maintained in a clean and hygienic condition. Record keeping of the cleaning programme may be reviewed by the Environmental Health Service.

DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE

15. The applicant shall engage with Dublin Fire Brigade to ensure that all requirements of Dublin Fire Brigade including necessary fire certs, access arrangements, risk assessments (MOE), and fire safety standards etc. are sufficiently adhered to and complied with.
16. In the event of a dispute between Dublin Fire Brigade and the promoter regarding any aspect of the event, the requirements of the relevant Chief Fire Officer shall take precedence.

OTHER

17. A Security and Stewarding Schedule shall be agreed with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and An Garda Síochána a minimum of two weeks (10 working days) before the date of the event and written confirmation of agreement shall be submitted to the Council prior to commencement.
18. A Traffic Management Plan shall be agreed with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, An Garda Síochána, and the National Transport Authority a minimum of

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two weeks (10 working days) before the date of the event and written confirmation of agreement shall be submitted to the Council prior to commencement. Subsequently, the agreed Final Traffic Management Plan shall be implemented in full.

19. Appropriate measures should be put in place to ensure member of the public and/or staff at the event are not put in danger with the staging of the event in unfavourable weather conditions or in case of wave overtopping.
20. Non-compliance with any of the above conditions shall result in a fine not exceeding €10,000 for each and every occurrence.

 Stephen McDermott, Senior Executive Planner

 Miguel Sarabia, T/Senior Planner

Order: License to be granted in accordance with Article 192 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, (as amended)

Dated: 21st Oct. 2025 Approved Officer: 

There unto empowered by order of Príomhfheidhmeannach, Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoighaire-Ráth An Dúin, Order No. 2670, dated 13/10/2025, delegating to me all the powers, functions, and duties in relation to the County Council of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in respect of this matter.