



Environment and Public Protection

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Dear Event Organiser

Cancellation of all Large Gathering Events

The current position in L B Bromley in respect of large gatherings has been brought to a head by the proposal by several event organisers planning to have events at which there will be a significant number of people (a large gathering) in the coming weeks and months.

Government guidance clearly states the following "At this time, venues should not permit live performances, including drama, comedy and music, to take place in front of a live audience."

I had serious reservations about the events in question taking place in the current Covid situation. Further to this I instigated a number of meetings to discuss the issues with Public Health England (PHE), Metropolitan Police and the London Covid Response Team to obtain their views and guidance to assist the authority to make a decision about whether these events should be allowed to go ahead.

Their responses are briefly summarised below.

- London Covid Response Team - "according to Government guidelines (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-guidance-for-mass-gatherings>): "In line with the social distancing guidance it is advised that large gatherings should not take place". For the time being, there is no reason to suggest that mass gatherings guidance will be altered. *Festivals are not compatible with social distancing and staying alert guidance.*"
- Colleagues in PHE confirmed that the Covid infection rate in Bromley is no longer decreasing and that guidance in their opinion would not permit large gathering to safely take place. As such any event involving large gatherings should be prohibited from taking place.
- The Metropolitan Police stated they are of the opinion that currently no large gathering of people is advisable within the current covid restriction.

Clearly the advice we are getting from the lead bodies in this area is that large gathering of people are still not compatible with the current guidance and advice.

As a responsible organiser I am sure you appreciate the serious nature of the current covid situation. I also appreciate you have tried to mitigate the covid risk for your event however, at this time we do not feel it is appropriate to have large gatherings or movement of people where it is not for essential activities.

To that end the decision has been made to ban all large gathering events which involve live performances, including drama, comedy and music within the borough boundary. This will include festivals and similar type activities, it is highly likely that this will also include organised fireworks displays as well, if any proposals are received.

I hope that in light the early notification of this decision you will now cancel your event to prevent any further cost to yourselves being incurred.

I am afraid that if you do not cancel your event yourselves. I am satisfied that we have sufficient evidence to issue a "Direction" notice under the new powers bestowed on local authorities by The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations 2020 which will prevent the event from taking place.

This decision was not taken lightly and it will be regularly reviewed as the Covid situation progresses.

Yours faithfully

Steve Phillips

Steve Phillips
Head of Health, Safety and Licensing