

# Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

2.30pm, Monday, 19 November 2018

## Request for Fee Refund – Public Entertainment Licence – Unique Events

Item number	5.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Council Commitments	
Wards	City Centre (11)

### Executive Summary

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The Council has received a request on behalf of Unique Events to agree to accept a reduced application fee for a temporary Public Entertainment Licence.

A fee reduction is sought on the basis that Unique Events has made the application on behalf of Social Bite, which is a registered charity.

## Request for Fee Refund – Public Entertainment Licence – Unique Events

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
  - 1.1.1 notes the terms of the request; and
  - 1.1.2 determine whether to allow the discounted fee of £300.

### 2. Background

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- 2.1 Unique Events has requested that the application fee paid for the required Public Entertainment Licences should be reduced.
- 2.2 The Council agreed that the fees charged for licence applications with effect from 1 April 2018 shall remain unchanged from 2017/18.
- 2.3 Unique Events is a well-established company which has promoted events in the city for several years, including a similar Social Bite Event in 2017.
- 2.4 Historically, fee reductions or refunds for large public entertainment events of this type have only been granted if the organiser is a charity or a community group.
- 2.5 Previous similar applications from non-charities have been refused. Unique Events is not a charity, however the event is intended to facilitate fundraising for Social Bite, a registered charity which provides support for homeless people.

### 3. Main report

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- 3.1 A representative of Unique Events has submitted a written request (Appendix 2), seeking that the application fee paid for a Public Entertainment Licence at West Princes Street Gardens should be partially refunded. A copy of the relevant correspondence is attached to this report at Appendix 2.
- 3.2 Unique Events applied for a similar event on behalf of Social Bite in 2017, for which the full application fee was paid without discount.
- 3.3 The fee structure for 2018/2019 was agreed with effect from 1 April 2018. The applicant has paid the relevant application fee in full. The relevant fee for a Public Entertainment Licence for premises with capacity up to 5,000 is £3,104. A charity would benefit from a discounted fee of £300.

- 3.4 The Council incurs significant costs in dealing with issues arising from licensed premises in the city. These costs are required to be directly recovered from licence fees and not the general revenue account
- 3.5 A representative of the applicant will be invited to address the Committee on the request for the fee reductions.

## **4 Measures of success**

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- 4.1 The premises are licensed in a proportionate and effective manner.

## **5 Financial impact**

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- 5.1 The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1 April 2017. Any reduced fee would be required to be absorbed by the licensing budget for 2018/19, and would in effect mean that other licence fees were used to offset Council costs.

## **6 Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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- 6.1 The fee structure was agreed by full Council. Any reduction risks setting a precedent. However, the Committee has discretion in this matter.

## **7 Equalities impact**

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- 7.1 There is no equalities impact arising from the contents of this report.

## **8 Sustainability impact**

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- 8.1 There is no environmental impact arising from the contents of this report.

## **9 Consultation and engagement**

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- 9.1 Officers of the Council have discussed the licensing requirement with the applicant.

## **10 Background reading/external references**

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- 10.1 [City of Edinburgh Council licence application fees list 2017/18](#)

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## **11 Appendices**

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