

The Guardian



Live Nation walks away from Hyde Park concerts over 'flawed' tender process

Company behind events including Live 8 and Bruce Springsteen concert cites issues such as noise restrictions for decision

Mark Sweney

Mon 22 Oct 2012 17:15 BST

Live Nation is quitting Hyde Park after more than a decade of putting on music events including Live 8, the Wireless Festival and Hard Rock Calling, citing issues including noise restrictions and logistics.

The world's biggest live music company, which most recently organised 25 days of events linked to the London 2012 Olympics in Hyde Park, has pulled out of what it branded a "flawed" tender process for a new five-year contract for the prime central London venue.

Live Nation has written a formal letter of complaint about the tender and bid process for the new contract.

It is understood that the letter raises issues such as noise - in July Bruce Springsteen and Sir Paul McCartney's microphones were switched off during a duet due to curfew issues. Other issues understood to have been highlighted by Live Nation include

crowd safety considerations in shutting off Park Lane and unrealistic revenue assumptions.

Live Nation's letter has been delivered to the Royal Parks Agency, an executive agency within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, which is running the process.

The letter is understood to be highly critical of the RPA's tender document, arguing that it fails to take into account the increasingly complex logistics and costs of running big events in such a central location in London.

Live Nation, the owner of Ticketmaster, has enjoyed a decade-long relationship with the RPA.

Since 2001, Live Nation has organised Hyde Park events including Live 8 and concerts by high-profile acts such as Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi and Shania Twain.

Royal Parks awarded Live Nation a formal contract for the period 2009 to 2012, with the tender process for the new contract to run from 2013 to 2019.

Live Nation declined to comment. The RPA had not responded to a request for comment at the time of publication.

To contact the MediaGuardian news desk email editor@mediatheguardian.com or phone 020 3353 3857. For all other inquiries please call the main Guardian switchboard on 020 3353 2000. If you are writing a comment for publication, please mark clearly "for publication".

To get the latest media news to your desktop or mobile, follow MediaGuardian on Twitter and Facebook.

Since you're here...

... we have a small favour to ask. The Guardian is editorially independent, meaning we set our own agenda. Our journalism is free from commercial bias and not influenced by billionaire owners, politicians or shareholders. No one edits our Editor. No one steers our opinion. This is important because it enables us to give a voice to the voiceless, challenge the powerful and hold them to account. It's what makes us different to so many others in the media, at a time when factual, honest reporting is critical.

More people are reading the Guardian's independent, investigative journalism than ever but advertising revenues across the media are falling fast. And unlike many news organisations, we haven't put up a paywall - we want to keep our journalism as open as we can. So you can see why we need to ask for your help. We do it because we believe our perspective matters - because it might well be your perspective, too. **For as little as £1, you can support the Guardian - and it only takes a minute. Thank you.**

Support The Guardian



Topics

- Music festivals
- Music industry
- Live 8
- Bruce Springsteen
- Madonna
- London
- news