

**IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY**  
**IN THE MATTER OF PRIVATE, INVITATION-ONLY WEDDING EVENTS**  
**AT THE SELBY CENTRE**  
**AND IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

**NOTICE OF LEGAL POSITION**

ON BEHALF OF MR CEMAL SAZDILI

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. This notice of legal position is served on behalf of Mr Cemal Sazdili in relation to private, invitation-only Turkish wedding events organised by him at the Selby Centre, 1 Selby Road, Tottenham, London N17 8JL (“the premises”).
2. It is acknowledged that, on 6 May 2026, the Licensing Sub-Committee (“the LSC”) of the London Borough of Haringey, sitting under section 53B of the Licensing Act 2003 (“the Act”), suspended premises licences LN/00002506 and LN/00003257 with effect from 8:45pm on Wednesday 6 May 2026, pending a full summary review under section 53A. The decision was taken following an application by the Metropolitan Police Service supported by a certificate signed by a Detective Superintendent under section 53A(2).
3. The position of Mr Sazdili is that the private Turkish wedding events he organises at the premises do not involve any licensable activity and are exempt under Schedule 1, Paragraph 1(2) of the Act. They are therefore not affected by the suspension of premises licences LN/00002506 and LN/00003257, which by their nature only authorise the carrying on of licensable activities.
4. The events are not open to the public and do not involve the sale of alcohol or the provision of regulated entertainment for commercial gain. They are family-oriented cultural celebrations attended only by invited guests of the bride and groom, in accordance with Turkish wedding traditions.
5. This notice sets out: (i) the legal framework establishing the events’ exemption from licensing; (ii) the legal effect (or absence of effect) of the suspension on activities that are not licensable; and (iii) the position on attendee numbers for exempt events.

**II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

6. The Licensing Act 2003 regulates licensable activities, including:
  - The sale or supply of alcohol (s.1(1)(a)).
  - The provision of regulated entertainment (s.1(1)(d)).
7. Schedule 1, Paragraph 1(2) of the Act provides an exemption for private events, stipulating that entertainment is not licensable if it is:
  - Provided at a private function;

- Attended by invited guests only; and
  - Not provided for commercial gain.
8. The wedding events organised by Mr Sazdili fall squarely within this exemption because:
- Each event is invitation-only and not open to the public.
  - No tickets or admission fees are sold for profit.
  - Any entertainment (such as music, traditional dance and cultural performance) is incidental to the wedding celebration and not commercial in nature.
9. Case law and statutory guidance confirm that genuine private functions of this nature do not require a premises licence, provided they comply with the three conditions above.

### **III. EFFECT OF THE SUSPENSION ON NON-LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES**

10. The suspension imposed by the LSC on 6 May 2026 attaches to premises licences LN/00002506 and LN/00003257. By section 11 of the Act, a premises licence is an authorisation for the carrying on of one or more licensable activities at premises. The suspension therefore prevents the carrying on of licensable activities under those licences.
11. The Act does not regulate activities that are not licensable. It follows, as a matter of law, that:
- Activities that are not licensable do not require a premises licence in the first place;
  - The suspension of a premises licence has no legal effect on activities at the premises that are not licensable; and
  - Section 136 of the Act creates offences only in respect of unauthorised licensable activities; it does not criminalise non-licensable activities lawfully taking place at premises whose licence is suspended.
12. The private wedding events organised by Mr Sazdili are not licensable, for the reasons set out at Sections II, IV and V of this notice. They could lawfully take place at the premises even if no premises licence had ever been granted, and they may continue lawfully to take place during the period of suspension and thereafter, provided they remain private, invitation-only and non-commercial in character.

### **IV. NO LICENCE REQUIRED FOR ALCOHOL**

13. Section 1(1)(a) of the Licensing Act 2003 provides that a licence is required for the sale or supply of alcohol. Where alcohol is provided free of charge to invited guests on a non-commercial basis, it falls outside the definition of a licensable activity.
14. In *Regina (Murphy) v Brentwood Borough Council* [2006] EWHC 1123 (Admin), it was confirmed that the mere consumption of alcohol does not constitute a licensable activity; only its sale or supply in a commercial context does so.
15. At Mr Sazdili's wedding events, no alcohol is sold to guests. Where alcohol is consumed, it is provided as part of the host's hospitality to invited guests, free of charge,

in the traditional manner of Turkish weddings. Accordingly, no licensable activity in respect of alcohol takes place.

## **V. INCIDENTAL ENTERTAINMENT EXEMPTION (Schedule 1, Paragraph 7)**

16. The events feature live music and cultural entertainment typical of Turkish weddings, including traditional davul and zurna, halay dancing and other cultural performance. Such entertainment is incidental to the principal event, namely the wedding celebration itself.
17. Schedule 1, Paragraph 7 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides an exemption for incidental music, the effect of which is that:
  - Background music and non-commercially provided live music does not require a licence;
  - The entertainment is not the principal reason for attendance, unlike a concert or ticketed event.
18. Under the Live Music Act 2012, amplified live music is permitted without a licence, in licensed premises and certain workplace settings, subject to specified conditions. In any event, where the private function exemption under Schedule 1, Paragraph 1(2) applies, the entertainment is not regulated entertainment at all and the question of audience numbers under the Live Music Act simply does not arise.

## **VI. NO STATUTORY LIMIT ON ATTENDEES FOR EXEMPT EVENTS**

19. The 499-person limit under a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) applies only to events that involve licensable activities and that do not qualify for an exemption. Where, as here, the event is exempt from licensing requirements under Schedule 1, Paragraph 1(2) of the Act, there is no statutory limit on the number of attendees imposed by the Licensing Act 2003. Capacity is governed instead by the lawful occupancy of the venue under building, fire and health and safety regulations.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

20. In summary:
  - The private Turkish wedding events organised by Mr Sazdili at the Selby Centre are exempt from requiring a premises licence under Schedule 1, Paragraph 1(2) of the Licensing Act 2003.
  - There is no licensable sale or supply of alcohol at these events, and no Temporary Event Notice or premises licence is required.
  - Any entertainment is incidental to the wedding celebration and does not trigger a licensing requirement.
  - The suspension of premises licences LN/00002506 and LN/00003257 affects only licensable activities under those licences. It has no legal effect on the lawful holding of non-licensable, exempt private events at the premises.
21. Accordingly, the Licensing Authority has no proper basis to interfere with the lawful holding of Mr Sazdili's private, invitation-only wedding events at the premises during the period of suspension or thereafter. Mr Sazdili will continue to fulfil his pre-existing

commitments to families whose wedding celebrations are scheduled at the premises.  
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### **VIII. LIST OF AUTHORITIES REFERRED TO**

- Licensing Act 2003
  - s.1(1)(a) (Sale or Supply of Alcohol)
  - s.1(1)(d) (Regulated Entertainment)
  - s.4 (Licensing Objectives)
  - s.11 (Premises Licence: Definition)
  - s.53A (Summary Review on Application of Senior Police Officer)
  - s.53B (Interim Steps Pending Hearing)
  - s.136 (Offences in Respect of Unauthorised Licensable Activities)
  - Schedule 1, Paragraph 1(2) (Private Events Exemption)
  - Schedule 1, Paragraph 7 (Incidental Music Exemption)
- Live Music Act 2012
- Regina (Murphy) v Brentwood Borough Council [2006] EWHC 1123 (Admin)
- Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Noise Control)