

10 September 2026

To: Mayor of Limerick
Chief Executives and Director General, City and County Councils
Chief Executive, Office of the Planning Regulator
Chief Executive, An Coimisiún Pleanála
Directors of Service - Planning, City and County Councils
Directors, Regional Assemblies

CC: Senior Planners, City and County Councils
Deputy Regulator, Office of the Planning Regulator
Directors of Planning, An Coimisiún Pleanála
Assistant Directors, Regional Assemblies
Maritime Area Regulatory Authority
National Transport Authority

New legislation underpinning the licensing of outdoor events

Commencement of remaining elements of Part 16 of the Planning and Development Act 2024

Purpose of Circular

This circular notifies local authorities and other key stakeholders of the commencement of the remaining provisions of Part 16 of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Act of 2024) in relation to the licensing of outdoor events.¹

By way of the Planning and Development Act 2024 (Commencement) (No. 2) Order 2026 (S.I. No. 466 of 2026), these provisions came into operation on 09 September 2026. A copy of this

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circular, the Commencement Order and the associated Regulations will be made available online at www.gov.ie/planning.

1. Commencement of the remaining provisions of Part 16 of the Act of 2024

1.1. Key messages

- The provisions in Part 16 of the Act of 2024 relating to the licensing of events are commenced from 09 September 2026. An overview of these provisions is provided below.
- The provisions relating to the licensing of outdoor events in Part 16 of the Act of 2024 broadly replicate the equivalent provisions contained in Part XVI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Act of 2000). Part XVI of the Act of 2000 is repealed with effect from 09 September 2026.
- The other provisions in Part 16 of the Act of 2024 that relate to funfairs and fairground equipment were commenced previously on 02 October 2025 (see S.I. No. 452 of 2025).
- The corresponding Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations 2026 (S.I. No. 468 of 2026) came into operation on 09 September 2026. An overview of these Regulations is provided below.

1.2. Summary of legislation coming into effect

1.2.1. *Part 16 (outdoor event licensing provisions)*

- I. **Section 477 (Prescription of activity as event)** restates section 241 of the Act of 2000 and provides that the Minister may prescribe an activity or class of activity to be an event.
- II. **Section 478 (Obligation to obtain licence for holding of event)** restates section 230 of the Act of 2000 and obliges a person who intends to hold an event covered by Part 16 to obtain a licence. It will be an offence to hold such an event without a licence, or to be in control of land when an unlicensed event is held.

- III. **Section 479 (Licence)** restates section 231 of the Act of 2000 with some modifications. It provides that regulations can be made concerning the procedures for licence applications, including public notice requirements and documentation required to be submitted with an application.

A local authority may grant a licence, with or without conditions, or may refuse to grant a licence. If a licence is granted, it may be subject to conditions concerning specified matters such as the safety of persons, insurance cover, provision of transport and minimisation of disruption to the area in which the event is held.

- IV. **Section 480 (Codes of practice in relation to events)** restates section 232 of the Act of 2000 and makes provision for codes of practice to be issued by the Minister or any other Minister to provide practical guidance on the requirements of this Part.

A transitional provision (inserted by section 121 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2026) provides that a code of practice issued under section 232 of the Act of 2000 or deemed to be such a code by way of section 268(2) of that Act, is now deemed to be a code of practice issued under section 480 of the Act of 2024.

- V. **Section 481 (Service of notice in relation to events)** restates section 233 of the Act of 2000 providing that where a local authority becomes aware that an unauthorised event is going to take place, or an event is going to be in contravention of the terms of its licence, it may issue a notice to prevent the event or such contravention. It also provides that the notice may require the removal of structures or the restoration of land to its prior condition. A person who fails to comply with the terms of a notice will be guilty of an offence.

- VI. **Section 482 (General obligations with regard to safety at events)** restates section 234 of the Act of 2000 and continues the duty on the holders of events, and on persons attending events, to take reasonable care for the safety of other persons.

- VII. **Section 485(1) (Consequential provisions for offences)** restates section 237 of the Act of 2000 and allows the revocation of an event licence when a person holding the licence is convicted of an offence under Part 16. The relevant local authority may bring proceedings for an offence under Part 16.

VIII. **Section 486 (Holding of event by local authority)** restates section 238 of the Act of 2000 and contains regulation-making powers in relation to procedures for the holding of an event by a local authority.

IX. **Section 492 (Exclusion of events and funfairs from planning control)** restates section 240 of the Act of 2000. Subsection (1) provides that the holding of an event, and works relating to the holding of that event, is not construed as ‘development’ for the purposes of the Act of 2024.

Subsection (2) provides that, notwithstanding sections 478 and 487, Part 16 of the Act of 2024 shall not affect the validity of a planning permission granted for an event under Part III of the Act of 2000. Where a planning permission has been granted under Part III of the Act of 2000 for the holding of an event in respect of land, a licence under Part 16 of the Act of 2024 is required for the holding of any event on the land concerned other than the event referred to in the planning permission.

X. **Section 493 (Exclusion of events and funfairs from planning control)** provides that a licence granted under Part XVI of the Act of 2000 in force immediately before the repeal of that Part by section 6 of the Act of 2024 shall remain in force and have effect on and after that repeal as if the licence was granted under Part 16 of the Act of 2024.

1.3. Transitional provisions

The following tables outline the relevant transitional provisions in Part 16 of the Act of 2024 and the Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations 2026 (‘Outdoor Event Licensing Regulations’) and the effect that those transitional provisions have.

Table 1.1: Transitional Provisions for Outdoor Event Licensing in the Act of 2024.

Provision	Section of Act of 2024	Section of Act of 2000	Effect
Licensing of Outdoor Events (Part 16)			
Codes of practice in relation to events	480(3) & (4)* * as amended by section 121 of the Planning and	232 & 268(2)	(3) A code of practice issued under section 232 of the Act of 2000 (including a code of practice deemed to be such a code of practice in accordance with section 268(2) of that Act) that was in force immediately prior to the coming into operation of the repeal of section 232 of the Act of 2000 shall be deemed to be a

	Development (Amendment) Act 2026		code of practice issued under section 480(1) until it is revoked by the Minister or the Minister of the Government who issued it. (4) Where a provision of a code of practice issued under section 480(1) conflicts with a code of practice deemed to be a code of practice by way of section 480(3), the provision of the code of practice issued under section 480(1) shall take precedence.
Exclusion of events and funfairs from planning control	492(2)(a) & (b)	Part III of the Act of 2000	(a) Notwithstanding section 478, Part 16 shall not affect the validity of any planning permission granted under Part III of the Act of 2000 for the holding of an event. (b) Where planning permission granted under Part III of the Act of 2000 has been granted for the holding of an event in respect of land, a licence under Part 16 shall be required for the holding of any event on the land concerned other than the event referred to in the permission.
Licences under Part XVI of the Act of 2000	493	Part XVI of the Act of 2000	A licence granted under Part XVI of the Act of 2000 in force immediately before the repeal of that Part by section 6 of the Act of 2024 shall remain in force and have effect on and after that repeal as if the licence was granted under Part 16 of the Act of 2024.

Table 1.2: Transitional provisions in the Outdoor Event Licensing Regulations.

Provision	Regulation	Effect
Transitional arrangements	21	(1) Where an application for a licence was made under Part 16 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001) before the revocation of that Part by Regulation 22 but the local authority did not make a decision under Part XVI of the Act of 2000 in relation to the application before such revocation, the said Part 16 of the Regulations of 2001 and Part XVI of the Act of 2000 shall, on and after that repeal, continue to apply and have effect for the purpose of that application, as if that Part had not been revoked. (2) Within the first seven weeks following the commencement of these Regulations, an application for an event licence may be made at least 13 weeks prior to the holding of the event and Regulation 6(1) shall not apply to such applications. (3) For applications received in accordance with paragraph (2), a local authority shall make a decision under section 479(4) of the Act of 2024 not earlier than eight weeks after the date of receiving the application and not later than four weeks prior to the holding of the proposed event, or in the case of an application for a number of events at a venue in a period not exceeding one year, not later than four weeks prior to the date of the holding of the first proposed event and Regulation 12(1) shall not apply to such application.

2. Partial repeals and revocations

The following tables list the provisions in the Act of 2000 that are repealed by section 6 of the Act of 2024 and the Regulations that are revoked by way of the Outdoor Event Licensing Regulations.

Table 2.1: Repealed Provision in the Act of 2000.

Section of Act of 2000	Title
229	Interpretation
230	Obligation to obtain a licence for holding of an event
231	Grant of licence
232	Codes of practice in relation to event
233	Service of notice in relation to events
234	General obligations with regard to safety at events
235	Powers of inspection in connection with events
236	Limitation of civil proceedings
237	Consequential provisions for offences
238	Holding of event by local authority
240	Exclusion of events and funfairs from planning control
241	Regulations for event

Table 2.2: Revoked Regulations.

Title	Extent
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001)	Part 16

3. Consequential Amendments

While not commenced, section 2(1) of the Licensing of Indoor Events Act 2003 (No. 15 of 2003) provides a definition for “indoor event”. This definition excludes an event for which a licence is required under the Act of 2000.

Schedule 7 to the Act of 2024 includes a consequential amendment at reference number 21 to update the definition of “indoor event” by also referencing an event licence under the Act of 2024.

4. The Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations 2026

The Planning and Development (Licensing of Outdoor Events) Regulations 2026 (S.I. No. 468 of 2026) came into operation on 09 September 2026 and provide for the following matters -

- I. **Regulation 1 (Citation)** provides the title of the Regulations.

- II. **Regulation 2 (Interpretation and application)** contains definitions for the purpose of the Regulations and provides that the Regulations also apply to an application for an event to be held on more than one day or for a number of events at a venue in a period not exceeding one year.
- III. **Regulation 3 (Events prescribed for purposes of section 479 of Principal Act)** prescribes an event for the purposes of section 479 of the Act of 2024 as one which the proposed audience comprises 5,000 or more people.
- IV. **Regulation 4 (Pre-application consultation)** sets out the pre-application consultation process, including preliminary risk assessment requirements.
- V. **Regulation 5 (Newspaper notice)** requires a notice of an applicant's intention to submit a licence application to be published in one local newspaper and one national newspaper within a two-week period before the application is made. A local authority may require an additional newspaper notice to be published if it considers a notice under this Regulation is misleading or contains inadequate information.
- VI. **Regulation 6 (Making of application)** sets out the licence application process, including timelines and pre-application consultation requirements.
- VII. **Regulation 7 (Form and content of application)** specifies the information and material required for a licence application.
- VIII. **Regulation 8 (Availability of documents)** provides that a local authority must make applications available to the public (including accompanying documents, maps and drawings).
- IX. **Regulation 9 (Consultation with prescribed bodies)** sets out the consultation process for a licence application, including timelines, by a local authority with the relevant prescribed bodies or any other body it considers appropriate.
- X. **Regulation 10 (Making of submissions or observations by any other person)** provides that any person may make a submission or observation in writing to a local authority in respect of a licence application not later than three weeks of the date of receipt of the application by the local authority. A submission or observation must

contain specified information and the local authority must acknowledge submissions or observations once that specified information is provided.

- XI. **Regulation 11 (Further information)** allows a local authority to request further information from an applicant, a prescribed body or any person that made a submission or observation in respect of a licence application. An applicant has 14 weeks to comply with such a request and a licence application will be declared withdrawn where an applicant fails to comply with a request within that time limit. A local authority can also invite any person to make a submission or observation in respect of a licence application.
- XII. **Regulation 12 (Decision on application)** sets the time limits for deciding licence applications and for amending conditions attached to an event licence. It provides notification requirements for local authorities with respect to licence application decisions and requires local authorities to comply with obligations under the 'Habitats Regulations (S.I. No. 477 of 2011) in the consideration of licence applications.
- XIII. **Regulation 13 (Publication of notice of intention by local authority to hold event)** sets out notification and consultation requirements in relation to the holding of an event by a local authority.
- XIV. **Regulation 14 (Availability of documents in relation to proposed event by local authority)** requires a local authority, where that authority proposes to hold an event, to make specified documents relating to that event available for inspection at its offices.
- XV. **Regulation 15 (Notification of prescribed bodies)** requires a local authority to notify prescribed bodies of a proposed event, including specified particulars of that proposed event and inviting submissions or observations. Corresponding time periods and extensions of such periods are provided for. A local authority may also notify or consult any other person or body in relation to the proposed event.
- XVI. **Regulation 16 (Making of submission or observation by other person)** provides that any person may make a submission or observation in writing to a local authority in respect of the proposed event not later than 3 weeks of the date of publication of the notice of that event. A submission or observation must contain specified information and the local authority must acknowledge submissions or observations once that specified information is provided.

- XVII. **Regulation 17 (Notification of decision)** sets out notification requirements for local authorities subsequent to a decision being made under section 486 of the Act of 2024 in relation to the holding of a proposed event.
- XVIII. **Regulation 18 (Additional means for notification)** provides alternative means of notifications by local authorities where a large number of submissions or observations are made as part of an organised campaign, or where it is not possible to ascertain the full name and address of persons who made a submission or observation.
- XIX. **Regulation 19 (Fees)** sets the fee for a licence application and for making a submission or observation on a licence application or a local authority proposed event. It also allows a local authority to waive or refund all or part of a fee in specified circumstances.
- XX. **Regulation 20 (Maps)** provides that any map, which is based on an Ordnance Survey map shall indicate the relevant Ordnance Survey sheet number.
- XXI. **Regulation 21 (Transitional arrangements)** contains transitional provisions in relation to the licensing of outdoor events. See Table 1.2 above for full description.
- XXII. **Regulation 22 (Revocation)** revokes Part 16 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 600 of 2001).
- XXIII. **Schedule:** contains the Preliminary Risk Assessment Form for proposed event(s) under sections 478 and 479 of the Act of 2024, including directions for completing the form.

5. Commencement schedule for remaining Parts of the Act of 2024

It is anticipated that the next Commencement Order made under the Act of 2024 will bring the majority of the remaining provisions into operation.

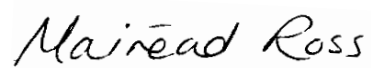
Details of the proposed phased commencement of the Act of 2024 are set out under Chapter 10 of the Implementation Plan, available to view at www.gov.ie/planning

6. Further information

A dedicated website relating to the Act of 2024 provides updates, further information and supporting resources and can be accessed at www.gov.ie/planning.

Any enquiries regarding this circular or the commencement of the Act of 2024 can be emailed to the Department at planningreform@housing.gov.ie.

Issued by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mairéad Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Mairéad Ross, Principal, Planning Legislation Reform Unit