

Important changes to music licensing



PRS for Music and PPL are working in partnership to license community buildings

Do you run a community building where recorded music is played? If so, there are some legal changes affecting music licensing that you should be aware of.

Currently, community buildings run by voluntary organisations are licensed solely by *PRS for Music* under a dedicated tariff. This is changing from 1 January 2012.

Why has music licensing for community buildings changed?

A change in the law this year means that community buildings playing recorded music in public are now, in almost all cases, required to hold a PPL licence as well as a *PRS for Music* licence.

What is the difference between *PRS for Music* and PPL?

Copyright law exists to protect music in different ways. *PRS for Music* collects and distributes fees for the use of musical compositions (including lyrics) on behalf of songwriters, composers and music publishers. PPL collects and distributes fees for the use of recorded music on behalf of record companies and performers.

How does this affect the *PRS for Music* licence for community buildings?

PRS for Music and PPL are introducing a new joint music licence for community buildings from 2012, incorporating charges from both organisations. The licence will be managed and operated by *PRS for Music*.

What will the joint licence cover?

The joint licence covers the permissions needed from *PRS for Music* and PPL to play recorded music, and from *PRS for Music* to host live music, at a community building.

When will the changes take effect?

PPL is operating a one year 'grace period' and will not charge community buildings for their recorded music use this year, even though the law came into effect on 1 January 2011. The new joint licence will take effect from 1 January 2012. Existing licensees and those taking out the current *PRS for Music* community building licence between now and 1 January 2012 will be converted to the joint licence when their account is reviewed, which is done on an annual basis.

We're here to help.

We understand that existing *PRS for Music* licensees in particular may need to plan for these changes and we are writing to affected customers. Our licensing team is available to answer any queries you may have. We have also put together some FAQs online, which we hope you will find helpful.

**Visit www.prsformusic.com/ppljointlicence
or call 0845 140 0090**

