



The results of the survey we conducted on behalf of the CCPR show that many of our clubs fall within the Non Domestic Rateable Value bracket of either A or B, therefore incurring a cost of £100 or £190 on first application.

It is clear from the surveys and from the Independent Licensing Review Panel's interim report that, the costs of advertising applications in local papers were extortionate and exceeded all expectations. A number of clubs, in band bracket B, actually incurred costs of £1000 and over on their application (this includes advertising, architects, and general admin etc). Advertising costs are something that the Panel have commented upon (see the Fee Level General Information Leaflet).

Clearly the application process was unduly onerous for clubs. The verbal reports received here at RYA House conclude that the application form covering 18 pages and more was found to be complicated and generally difficult and time consuming to complete.

90% of clubs were, not unsurprisingly, upset by the huge increase in fees, which in effect means they have had to finance solicitors fees, architects fees. The application itself has also taken up much of its committee members time. A number said they may have to consider closing down their bar – but we have not received any further information on this.

Many clubs, despite having been sent our very helpful Licensing Act Leaflet (a copy of which can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the Legal Department), did not appear to have realised that it is possible to make a personal appointment with licensing authorities in order to discuss the authorities requirements and the process generally.

We know of one club that is experiencing problems with its licensing authority over the club's rules. As advised in our leaflet, we suggested that they take the matter up with LACORS with our help and we are waiting to hear back from the club as to whether it wishes to proceed down this route.

If any other clubs are experiencing problems, we would be interested to hear from them. Indeed, we would welcome any feedback you may wish to give us on your experience of applying for your conversion or new licence and indeed the effects of the costs involved on your club.

Contacts:

For more information kindly contact the RYA Legal Department on 0845 350373 or legal@rya.org.uk

Disclaimer:

The RYA Legal Department provides generic legal advice for its members, affiliated clubs and RTCs. This leaflet represents the RYA's interpretation of the law. It takes all reasonable care to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. The RYA cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions contained in this leaflet, or for any loss caused or sustained by any person relying on it. Before taking any specific action based on the advice in this leaflet, members are advised to check the up to date position and take appropriate professional advice.

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