

5th July 2010
Our ref: TW/per

Rt. Hon. David Cameron: Prime Minister
House of Commons
LONDON



Dear Prime Minister,

TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES [TENS]

You have indicated an intention to free the populace of unnecessary legislation and we want a repeal of that section of the November 2005 Amendment to the Licensing Act 2003 whereby our 4 annual outdoor concerts on Mousehole Harbourside require that, two weeks ahead of each concert, a Temporary Event Notice [TEN] must be applied for at a cost of £21 a time.

Until the introduction of TENS, these harbourside concerts have been conducted for over 70 years without any such requirement. The salient facts are these:-

- Mousehole Male Voice Choir is a Registered Charity No. 271921 and these concerts are organised to raise funds for the choir's activities elsewhere which have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for local and national good causes.
- The concerts take place on private property administered by Mousehole Harbour Commissioners. There is no charge for admission and the public may come and go at will. A sealed collection is taken for choir funds to which the public may give (or not) as they wish.
- The content of the programmes will include both religious and secular music. No alcohol is sold, given, or consumed during the concerts which are approximately 1 hour in duration. The major risk to the public and the performers is the deliberation and accuracy of a seagull's defecation in flight.

If the weather is inclement, the concerts are transferred to the nearby Methodist Church and no TEN is then required; but the £21 fee is not returnable. If the Met Office were able to forecast the weather to a precise time two weeks in advance, there would be no requirement for a wasted fee but, since Cornwall's weather can change in minutes, that is a forlorn hope!

The further anomaly created by the whims of the legislators is that Morris Dancers are apparently exempt from the TEN requirement. You will see from the accompanying image that the uniform of the choir does not lend itself readily to the accoutrements of bells, ribbons, quarterstaves and straw hats. We might otherwise have an avenue for escape.

Please forgive my levity; the matter is serious but the regulation is ridiculous and badly conceived. We have no wish to break the law but neither do we wish to incur these non-refundable fees unnecessarily and humbly request your interest in repealing a requirement for TENS for our harbourside concerts.

With thanks in anticipation of your assistance on behalf of Mousehole Male Voice Choir,

Yours respectfully,

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