



28th October 2020

RE: Live music, dancing at weddings – Government restrictions Level 5

Dear Minister,

On Wednesday 21st October, Failte Ireland updated their wedding event guidelines for **level 5** ([link](#)). live music and dancing are just two of the new guidelines imposed. On behalf of Ireland's wedding musicians and the wedding couples we work for, we are pleading with the government to review and reconsider these new and onerous guideline.

Since the nationwide move to Level 5 of the Plan for Living with COVID on 21st October, the Wedding Band Association has been inundated with calls and emails from couples distraught at the prospect of having the services associated with their big day – live music, hairdressing and professional make-up – denied to them by the new guidelines. Almost all couples book their wedding events months in advance. The Association is increasingly concerned that not enough consideration is given by the government to the reality that weddings are timeline vulnerable, with the long lead in to our events making them uniquely susceptible to the sudden level changes and guideline modifications.

Wedding bands/musicians have been legally contracted by wedding couples to provide their services and as the Level 5 measures permit weddings to go ahead (with 25 guests), the Association requests that our members be allowed to fulfil their contractual obligations in the coming weeks free of any worry that a failure to do so might result in a breach of contract law, loss of earnings and reputational damage.

We would remind the Minister that weddings are unique in that they take place in a highly controlled environment. The ability to contact trace is a built-in feature of an event where guest details are comprehensively known to the organisers. Hotels are now well-versed in all the preventative protocols as advised by the Health Service Executive. Wedding Band Association members have completed a number of Covid-19 safety officer training courses, along with a list of additional [measures](#) taken to maximise the health and well-being of our members and wedding guests, .

We are “In this together” but it appears that now musicians, makeup and hairstylists are being singled out for these arbitrary and onerous guidelines, despite a track record of successful compliance.

It falls to us to speak for the wedding couples who have found their plans and aspirations similarly disrupted over the past few months, as they have no lobby group to campaign on their behalf. Many couples getting married in the coming weeks have already been compelled to change their plans at short notice and at considerable financial and emotional cost in response to constantly evolving government restrictions. The feedback we are receiving from couples is that a wedding without live music, dancing, professional hairstyling and make-up services is hardly a wedding at all.

In the long term, all this uncertainty is doing immense structural damage to an industry that is worth many millions to the Irish economy.

The Association respectfully requests that Level 5 restrictions be amended without delay to allow for wedding events to proceed with live music and ancillary services in a safe and compliant manner as they have done heretofore.

We appreciate you taking the time to read this letter and look forward to your response.

Your sincerely,

Cathal Molloy - Founder of Wedding Band Association EST 2014

Tel: 01 4433649

Mob: 087 4143971

Web – www.weddingbandassociation.ie

Email – info@weddingbandassociation.ie