



Urgent call for review on Live music & Dancing at weddings

Date: 12.7.2021

Dear Minister Martin,

Firstly, the Wedding Band Association would like to thank you and the department for your ongoing efforts and support to date. We understand that you are well aware of the issues we continue to face as Wedding Bands and the impacts the guideline of “No live music/dancing” at weddings is presenting for not only our members, but venues and more importantly wedding couples. We understand that you have been calling for the review on live music guidelines and this is welcomed, but we are still in a situation where we have no date, guidance nor engagement.

Some venues are permitting bands/dancing while others are not and although we 100% support public health advice, we are continually left in a precarious position. We urgently seek for this guideline of “No live music/dancing” at weddings to be omitted as we believe we can return to work safely. Since Northern Ireland lifted the guideline on live music, many of our members are now performing and honouring their contracts to wedding couples who are getting married north of the border. We believe we should be in a position to follow the same steps as Northern Ireland, safely returning to work and providing safe entertainment here in the Republic.

Covid Officer Trained

We commissioned our members to complete a COVID Officer training course last August (2020) with iSafe consultancy and we also published an extra set of measures that we would adhere to. We will continue to present solutions to find our way back to honouring our contracts to our couples and we are more than confident we can provide our services safely. Since guest numbers increased to 50 guests on the 5th of July, it has now escalated more issues around contracts and booking fee refunds. This is now generating more problems, anxiety and frustration for both wedding couples and wedding bands. At this stage wedding couples and wedding bands have to question, **why** are 50 guests allowed to attend a wedding but permit music & dancing? We constantly revert back to the fact that “weddings are unique events”

Speculation

Again, some venues might permit a broken down version of the band ie: one/two piece or DJ plus dancing. While we support venues that fully adhere to the guidelines, we cannot accept a venue deciding to present couples with alternatives. Live music is live music regardless of how many musicians. This is just another example we face as musicians/bands.

Working Group

The Wedding Band Association are calling on the government to urgently address the plight this guideline is having on wedding couples, wedding bands and wedding venues. We need the guideline to be reviewed/omitted and we seek an urgent update. If a review is not priority, then we propose that a working group be formed with inclusion of other stakeholders with-in the wedding industry in order to address ongoing issues and have them resolved and addressed.

Your Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathal Molloy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cathal Molloy - Founder of the Wedding Band Association

Email : info@weddingbandassociation.ie

Web: www.weddingbandassociation.ie