



## News

### **Unexpired Public Entertainment Licences**

It has emerged that many operators are being strung along, yet again, by greedy licensing authorities. *ALMR* has learnt that many licensing authorities will **not** be providing a refund for Unexpired Public Entertainment Licences.

Public Entertainment Licences automatically expired on 24 November 2005 because under the Licensing Act 2003 they were no longer needed. In the vast majority of cases, operators should be entitled to a substantial rebate on the unexpired element of the licence fee. However, some authorities are actually **refusing** to provide any refund. They say there is no statutory requirement to do so!

ALMR has consulted our members and it has become patently clear that licensing authorities have been less than forthcoming in informing operators how they go about claiming their rightful rebate.

Said Nick Bish, Chief Executive of the *ALMR* "Yet again, hard working operators have been stung by our elected representatives. This should not be an issue for discussion. PEL's expired on 24 November and Council's surely have a duty to refund the unexpired element of the licence"

"Operators have been made to jump through hoops by the licensing authorities and it is just not right that they are hit by this double whammy. Authorities should inform operators how to apply for a rebate and should return what rightly belongs to operators as soon as is logistically possible"

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