



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



Cabinet Office



Department
of Health &
Social Care



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Hospitality at outdoor food and drink festivals

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) would like to share clarification regarding the position of single day outdoor food and drink festivals which are planning to operate during step three of the roadmap.

As the requirement to provide hospitality through table service would render many of these events unviable, DCMS has agreed a written clarification with the Cabinet Office, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) explaining ways in which these events could go ahead.

Please share clarification with compliance colleagues, outdoor events guidance will also be revised to reflect this position.

Clarification:

The individual vendors would be considered the restricted business, rather than the festival site as a whole. Therefore the vendors may either:

- *sell takeaways that can be consumed elsewhere on the festival site (including alcohol if no seating is provided adjacent to the vendor);*
- *if serving alcohol for consumption on seating adjacent to the vendor, provide table service; or*
- *If not serving alcohol, try to enforce that customers remain seated whilst consuming the food and drink they serve.*

The festival may wish to provide seating for customers to consume the takeaways they purchase from the vendors. However, seating that is adjacent to a vendor is to be treated as part of the vendors premises for the purposes of the Steps Regulations and therefore the table service for vendors who sell alcohol/enforcing seating requirements would apply (Sch. 3, para 7(3)). 'Adjacent' is not defined within the Steps Regulations but the seating would have to be sufficiently far enough away from a particular vendor for it not to be adjacent to



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the vendor and therefore customers would be able to sit there to consume takeaways without the table service/enforcing seating requirements.

In practical terms we suspect this could be a challenge for festivals as seating may be sufficiently far enough away from one vendor to not be considered adjacent to that vendor but may at the same time be adjacent to another. It might be difficult to find a practical workaround for this but we would need to stress to festivals that any seating provided must be removed from the vendors to enable takeaways to be consumed there, otherwise the table service/enforcing seating requirements will apply.

Please pass this on to compliance officers involved in advising events and other activities. The Government will also be amending the current [outdoor events guidance](#) to reflect this new position.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-events-guidance-for-local-authorities>