

Do I need a PRS licence?

If music is ever played on your premises for customers or staff; for example, through radio, TV, CD, MP3 or computer speakers, or at live events, this is considered a 'public performance'.

The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 states you need to get permission from the copyright holder to 'perform' music in public - and a music licence grants you this permission.

Licensing is flexible and covers the vast majority of commercial music originating from the UK and all over the world.

Please note, if you play music that is outside of PRS for Music's control, you may need an additional licence from the relevant copyright owner(s).

There are certain circumstances under which you will not need to obtain or pay for a music licence. These are:

- When there is an exemption in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 that means you do not need one, such as when you play music as part of the curriculum in schools.
- or
- When your music use is covered by a PRS for Music Charging Policy and we have decided, at PRS discretion, not to charge for their licence in specific circumstances.
- or
- If you never play music, or in the unlikely event that all the music you play is out of copyright or is not controlled by PRS for Music.

Even if you think that one of these applies in your case, we always recommend that you contact PRS to discuss your music use. Call 0800 068 4828 to talk to the music licensing team.

Note: Please refer to the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 for more details or seek independent legal advice.

Do I need a PPL licence?

PPL is different from PRS for Music.

PRS for Music and PPL (Phonographic Performance Limited) are separate organisations who license different sets of rights in the use of music. You may need a licence from both organisations.

In most instances of recorded music being played in public, a music licence is required from both organisations. PPL collects and distributes licence fees for the use of recorded music on behalf of record companies and performers, while PRS for Music collects and distributes for the use of musical compositions and lyrics on behalf of songwriters, composers and publishers.

Find out more about PRS

<http://www.prsformusic.com>

Find out more about PPL

<http://www.ppluk.com>