

Following lobbying to Government by The Blakeney Group via the Concert Promoters Association and We Make Events, the correspondence below has been received from DCMS. C@ and Ignite trails have agreed to comply with the following conditions, which were in place already.

Email to Jonathan Lomax - The Blakeney Group
5 Nov - 6:55 pm

Replied to the positive - 6 Nov - 8:30am

Dear Jonathan,

We have now consulted internally on this matter, including with legal colleagues and colleagues across Government, and can advise the following.

Government does not wish to see large events taking place which would risk large gatherings with lots of people congregating. The new [National \(No. 4\) Regulations](#) enable outdoor recreation following gatherings limits to continue, which includes walking the outdoor grounds of venues with Christmas illuminated trails. Therefore, we would be content in principle for these installations to be allowed to proceed, subject to the following conditions:

- All sites operating Christmas illumination trails will be expected to operate within strict social distancing and COVID-safe guidelines.
- Each site must ensure that crowds are controlled, and that there is no singular event that has more people in attendance (e.g. a launch night).
- Each site must take measures to ensure that visitors do not congregate around particular installations.
- Each site must provide assurance on how visitor numbers will be controlled, and how social distancing will be maintained throughout (e.g. one-way routes, crowd management, etc).
- Operators will need to ensure that any food or drink provision at these sites is in line with the requirements set out in the Regulations.
- We would expect operators to make clear that the requirements set out in the Regulations around household groups and linked household groups to be strictly adhered to.
- Relevant Local Authorities should be made aware of the need to ensure that these steps are taken, and will have the power to close these down where the steps above are not taken.

Are these measures ones with which operators of Christmas trails will be willing and able to comply?

Given the time sensitivity here, grateful if you could provide a response on this overnight, which we will then feed back to colleagues at No 10 for their final decision.

Many thanks,
Hannah



Hannah Jones
Senior Heritage Policy Advisor
4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2BQ
hannah.jones@dcms.gov.uk
[@dcms](#) [/dcmsgovuk](#) | www.gov.uk/dcms

Email to Jonathan Lomax - The Blakeney Group
6 Nov - 14:20 pm

We will assist in relaying the information to the sector

Hi Jonathan,

Following your confirmation below, No 10 have confirmed that they are content for the Christmas trails to go ahead on the condition that all operators comply with the conditions set out below.

Are you in a position to relay this message to the relevant organisational bodies?

Kind regards,
Hannah



Hannah Jones
Senior Heritage Policy Advisor
4th Floor, 100 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2BQ
hannah.jones@dcms.gov.uk
[@dcms](#) [/dcmsgovuk](#) | www.gov.uk/dcms

Above shows emails received - a formal communication will be forthcoming from DCMS early in the week - until then this can be used in communication with local authorities and public health officials

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