



MARCHES AND PARADES IN SCOTLAND

As from 1st April 2007, there are changes to the procedures for holding Marches and Parades in Scotland. From that date, all organisers of such events - with the exception of funeral directors in connection with funeral processions - require to give local authorities 28 days notice of their intention to hold a march or public procession. In exceptional circumstances, the Council concerned may be willing to grant a waiver of the 28 days notice provision.

Local authorities must consider a range of issues when deciding whether to prevent a procession or place conditions on it, including whether it may place too much of a burden on the police. Obviously, issues of public safety are key.

Councils also have to keep a list of processions which have been held in their area or which they have refused permission for so that members of the public can see which ones happen regularly and which are likely to happen in the future.

These changes have been brought in by amendments to Part V of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 made by the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2006. Although written principally for use by Local Authorities, useful guidance on the new procedures can be downloaded from the Scottish Executive web-site at :

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/06144351/3>

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