



Church Copyright Fact File

TV Broadcasts, Satellite, Cable and Pay-TV

This Fact File has been created by CCLI as a guide to the copyright implications of showing live TV broadcasts during church activities. If you do not find the information you need here, visit ccli.com or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

What do I need to know?

In order to show a live television broadcast during a public church activity, you will require a combination of licences.

Since a church is deemed a public place, in addition to a TV licence, PRS for Music and PPL licences are required to cover any music in the broadcast, **except** when the broadcast takes place during an Act of Worship (i.e. a regular worship service).

A recent change to Section 72 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 means that the Church Video Licence is also now required to show many television programmes, with the exception of news, major national events and live sport.

News, live sport and major national events

Show news, major national and historic events such as Royal Weddings, Remembrance Sunday and New Year's Eve as well as live sport.

- ✓ TV Licence / Pay-TV Subscription
- ✓ PRS for Music Church Licence
- ✓ PPL Church Licence
- ✗ Church Video Licence

Regular TV programmes, shows and series

Show live or on-demand television programmes shows or series or scenes from them.

- ✓ TV Licence / Pay-TV Subscription
- ✓ PRS for Music Church
- ✓ PPL Church Licence
- ✓ Church Video Licence

Receiving TV broadcasts

The law defines a broadcast as a wireless transmission of images, sounds and other information for reception by members of the public. A broadcast may be by means of terrestrial, satellite or cable communication networks. Each of these might be provided by different companies offering different licence packages, performance fees and rights provisions.

However, irrespective of the broadcaster, a TV licence is required if you own equipment that can receive such live broadcasts and you use it to do so, even if they come via cable, satellite or the internet*. This is in addition to any other subscription service you may use.

**The rules regarding On Demand or Catch Up services may vary. We advise checking the terms and conditions of the particular service you wish to use.*

Your church requires a TV licence if any congregation members or activity group on your church premises watch or record television programmes whilst they are being broadcast using a television receiver, computer, games console, mobile phone**, digital box or DVD/VHS recorder. A church will usually only require one TV licence to cover its church building. Group licences are available should you wish to use TV on multiple premises owned by the church. However, in some cases different premises will need a separate TV licence.

***Individuals who use a mobile phone for their own use are normally covered by their own home TV licence.*

Showing Pay-TV channels/services in public

In addition to the combination of licences required to show terrestrial television broadcasts (see above), you may be charged extra to show cable, satellite or Pay-TV broadcasts in public. CCLI recommends that you contact your network provider for details of their fees, terms and conditions etc.

Streaming On-Demand or Catch-Up TV

On-Demand or Catch-Up TV services such as BBC iPlayer are usually intended for private/domestic viewing only. However, you may be able to show television programmes from using these services if you have the appropriate licences in place. Always check the terms and conditions of the on-demand service that you wish to use and contact them if you are in doubt.

Recording from TV (time-shifting)

Time shifting is the term used to describe recording a TV programme whilst you are out so that you can watch it at a more convenient time without infringing any copyright in the broadcast. This is permitted solely for private and domestic use and does not extend to the public viewing of recorded TV broadcasts.

We only listen to the radio

Generally speaking, you do not need a TV licence to listen to the radio. However, if you listen to a radio station using digital equipment which also receives TV programmes then you do need a TV licence *unless* your receiver is connected only to a hi-fi system. To listen to the radio in a public place you also need a PRS for Music Church Licence and a PPL Church Licence, both available from CCLI.

What is copyright?

Copyright is an intellectual property right given to the creators of original musical, literary and dramatic works. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (CDPA) is the legislation that currently operates in the UK and provides the creator with two main rights:

Economic

this allows the creator to charge anyone who wishes to copy, perform or record their work for any commercial or non-commercial use.

Moral

this allows the creator to protect their work from any change which might be considered offensive or not in keeping with their wishes.

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This Fact File is provided for information purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If in doubt you should consult a legal expert. Whilst we aim to be as accurate as possible, CCLI can accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.