

Facts About Manchester Pride - Factsheet 2017

It's official: you have a legal right to walk to access premises (homes or businesses) during Manchester Pride 2017. Without a wristband, accreditation or a resident or visitor pass. Just say "no".



On 22 April 2015, the Local Government Ombudsman ruled that Manchester City Council's wording of its Traffic Regulation Order for Manchester Pride 2014 was at fault.

8. The Order said that pedestrians could access premises by displaying a valid wristband, accreditation, or a resident and visitor pass. This was fault, because the Council has no legal basis in which to restrict pedestrians from accessing premises. Therefore if someone wished to access a particular premise the organisers should have allowed access even if the person did not have a wristband, accreditation, or a resident and visitor pass.

The full ruling can be read here:
www.factsmcr.com/go/010

What can I do if I don't buy a Manchester Pride wristband?

You can walk into the gay village through the gates. Last year Inspector Spurgeon of Greater Manchester Police confirmed that you do not have to stop and engage with a security guard.

A guard can ask you if you would like to buy wristband, be escorted or accept a free "walk through" wristband. You can say "no thanks" to these and just keep on walking. There is no good

reason to accept a free wristband.

The Local Government Ombudsman has said that you have the right to use the public streets to walk to premises (homes and businesses). The Department For Transport says that guards may not delay you while people who have wristbands are let in ahead of you. That would be unlawful.

Some businesses won't let you in, but others will. We think the pop-up bars and takeaways will serve you.

You won't get into the concert areas which are on private property such as the car-park.



The bottom line is that if you fancy a wander in the gay village and are relaxed about which bars and clubs will or won't let you in, then this is for you.

What should I do if I experience a problem at the gates?

Please stay polite and calm. Don't give the police or guards any reason to take action against you.

If you have an issue, between the hours of 12:00-22:00 you can call Veronica Wong of Manchester City Council on 07771 607341. Or you can contact the

Event Control Room on 07939 429 261.

The FactsMCR campaign will be running a live blog on its website throughout the weekend. Please report your experience good or bad using the mail form at factsmcr.com or send an email to: pride2017@factsmcr.com. There is a pop up Facebook group: "I Love My Right to Access Premises At Manchester Pride 2017."

Videos are helpful. If you capture wrongdoing by guards, police or other

officials we would like to see it so we can continue to move this forward.

Also we'd like to know which bars let you in and which don't.

Pride marches were started to commemorate the riots at Stonewall in 1969. They were a protest and about rights. This is also a protest - about our rights having been taken away and people being excluded from a gay village area during an event called Pride unless they paid up.

Did they know it was unlawful all along?

On Monday 25 November 2002 a meeting was held at Marketing Manchester. The meeting was told that two methods could be used to close the streets but that a charge could not be made to enter. Despite this, just nine months later, they went ahead, closed off the gay village and charged.

At that meeting were Manchester City Council, Greater

Manchester Police, the Lesbian and Gay Foundation, George House Trust and the organisers of Europride 2003.

See the minutes here:
www.factsmcr.com/go/024

EURO PRIDE
SAFE! PLANNING MEETING
10.00am MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2002 @ MARKETING MANCHESTER

MINUTES:
Present: Sarah Rowland and Jon Drape (Event & Prod Mgr), Steve Olson and Joe Larigan (Operational Services MCCC), **Simon Morgan (GMP)**, Roger Barrow (City Centre Mgr Co), Terry Walker (MCC), Claire Curran and Andrew Spiller (Marketing Manchester), Paul Harrold (LSP), Michelle Neal (DHT), Clive Sutton (MCCC), Jenny Devonport (Environmental Health MCCC), Andy Strong (Learning 1st MCC)

Apologies: Andy Haslam (GMASS), Ann Walker (GAMP), Dave Gleanease (GAMP)

1. Introduction
It was explained aim of meeting had been convened by GR and JD to discuss Mind Crisis in the wider context of Euro Pride and strategy issues relating to next year's South Gate

to allow to monitor numbers

- JD noted issues of **lighting, sound and level of touring**. SD explained that the highway could be closed under the Town Police Clause Act. SD also explained that a road could be closed on one occasion per year for up to three days for an event of however, **regardless of this a charge could be levied to enter the area closed off by other means**.
- JD concerns that **planners seem to be people trying to gain entry therefore issue of tickets as opposed to wristbands** however good idea for controlling numbers - tickets as opposed to wristbands

10/26/02 Andrew Haslam - Greater Manchester Council

What about the charity money?

Manchester Pride devotees will say you should buy a wristband because Pride is a "charity" and raises funds for causes.

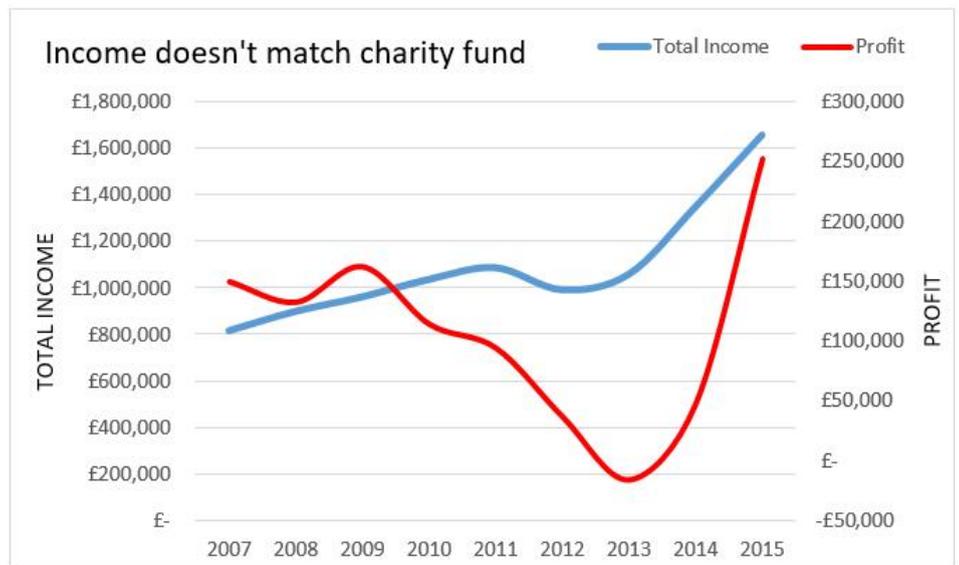
However we calculate that on average only 6% of Pride's total income has been left for good causes in recent years.

If you pay £18.15 for a Pride day ticket then 6% of that is just £1.09 for causes. Less than the Ticketmaster fee which is an additional £1.65. With fundraising this low is it a fraud to refer to "pledge-bands"?

Also we are being misled about how much is "raised" in each particular year and how much actually reaches causes in the following 12 months.

In 2013 Pride made a loss of £16,566 (with costs of £1,074,851 and income of £1,058,285). Despite this, a charity figure of £34,000 was publicised. The Manchester Evening News (MEN) told you that £34,000 had been raised "this year." This was untrue - a marketing tactic to combat criticism.

The money was from Pride's reserves in the bank and they didn't even give out the entire £34,000 to causes in the following 12 months.



In fact Manchester Pride regularly doesn't give out the full amount "raised" and holds money over to the following year.

"A record amount for charity" wrote the MEN in November 2016. What it didn't mention was that Pride had moved its end of year accounting date giving it a 15 month financial year and six weeks of extra income before the announcement.

If you're walking in without a band and don't want causes to lose out, then we suggest you give a couple of pounds to a genuine charity. One that is more effective and honest than Manchester Pride.

The History

In 1998 for the first time a wristband was needed to get into bars and clubs during Mardi Gras. 51,000 bands were sold that year and £131,062 was raised for good causes.

In 1999 the gay village was fenced off completely and a band was required to enter. Nothing at all was raised.

The event reverted to being free in 2000, as GayFest, with £105,716.77 raised. It was GayFest once again in 2001 and Mardi Gras in 2002. Official documents shows that key crime was down 53% at the free GayFest 2000 compared to the fenced Mardi Gras 99 and 39% down on 1998. Despite this, crime was used as a justification for fences and tickets in future years.

At a meeting at Marketing Manchester on 25 November 2002 all concerned were told they couldn't charge people to enter closed streets. But they did exactly that nine months later for Europride and every year after. Video evidence shows that people who didn't buy a wristband experienced regular problems attending the Monday

HIV/AIDS Vigil year after year.

In 2012 Crunch Bar demanded that customers who didn't have wristbands should be allowed to reach its premises. In 2013 the City Council admitted that people had a right to cross the site.

Campaigners wrote to the Department For Transport (DFT) and on 21 August 2014 the DFT replied saying:

"This legislative requirement is not ambiguous. It means pedestrians wishing to access premises that can only be accessed from the restricted roads, must be granted entry to those roads."

See that letter here:
www.factsincr.com/go/006

In coverage the Manchester Evening News referred to campaigners as "trespassers" even though they had seen the DFT letter.

Manchester Pride 2014 began with some people being allowed in but then there was a change of mind. At 5pm on the Saturday, campaigners attempted to enter at the Sackville Street gate. Video footage shows that police officers stood, watched the unlawful obstruction, laughed and ignored requests for

assistance. GMP receives a payment of around £50,000 from Pride each year.

In April 2015 the Local Government Ombudsman ruled that Manchester City Council's Traffic Order was at "fault." That the public had the right to access premises via the public streets where those premises couldn't be reached by means of an alternative route outside the fences.

A letter from Greater Manchester Police details how, just before the 2015 event, Manchester Pride's security team was briefed by Inspector Spurgeon. He told them what their responsibilities and powers were and "certainly made it clear they could not restrict access and the approach was a simple appeal for people to purchase wristbands."

Many people walked into the gay village without a wristband in 2015. However there was a media blackout and the Manchester Evening News told readers, falsely, that the gay village would be closed to people who did not have wristbands "as usual."

In 2016, again people were able to walk in without a band. However the media silence continues...