

programmes. If you have a TV in your business you are likely to need a *PRS for Music* licence.

#### **10. Why do I need a licence if the radio station or TV channel has already got one?**

The radio stations and TV channels are licensed to broadcast our music, however, this does not cover the playing of this music in businesses such as shops, cafés, bars, offices and workplaces. It is the responsibility of the business to obtain a separate licence.

#### **11. What ways are there to pay for a licence?**

Customers can pay their invoices by direct bank transfer or by cheque to our local agency. Payment details are provided on our all our invoices.

#### **12. What happens if I remove music from now on?**

A music user, such as the proprietor of a business, requires a copyright licence covering the duration of copyright music use in their premises. Music users can choose to stop using copyright music on their premises and will not require a copyright licence once performances have ceased. However, they may be required to pay a licence fee to cover any copyright music use to that date.

#### **13. I've paid to hire a band/singer. Why do I have to pay *PRS for Music* too?**

You have paid the band/singer to perform in your business, not for the royalties associated with the performance. The band/singer may be a member of ours or is very likely performing music belonging to one or more of our members.

If you are unsure of the copyright status of the repertoire being performed at an event you are holding, it is possible to complete a set list form and return it for us to determine the chargeable status of the event and if there is any amendment to the licence charges.

#### **14. Can I request to meet someone from *PRS for Music* face to face, rather than just contact you by phone or email?**

We have a local agent who works on behalf of *PRS for Music* based in Cyprus. If you would like a personal visit please give us a call on **(+357) 22 89 89 19** and we'll make the arrangements for you.

#### **15. Is there anywhere else I can receive independent advice about copyright?**

Please contact the Ministry of Commerce and Registrar of Companies at the address below for more information about copyright and the requirement for music licences. You can also speak to a lawyer.

##### **Department of Registrar of Companies and Official Receiver**

**Intellectual and Industrial Property Section**

**Room 504, 5th Floor**

**Corner Makarios Avenue & Karpenisiou**

**Cyprus**

Telephone: **(+357) 22 40 44 33**

Email: **deptcomp@drcor.mcit.gov.cy**

#### **15. I have been contacted by other organisations saying I need to take their licence. Why would I need another licence besides *PRS*?**

The law protects music rights in different ways. *PRS for Music* collects and distributes money on behalf of songwriters, composers and music publishers, for the use of their musical compositions and lyrics. Other organisations, for example, Grammo, collect and distribute money on behalf of record companies for the use of their recorded music and others represent the performers.

While *PRS for Music* and the other organisations all licence the use of music and collect royalties for the music industry, each represents different rights holders and have separate licences, terms and conditions.

This means that businesses and organisations playing recorded music in public (whether via CDs, radio/TV broadcasts, background music systems or other sources) will usually need to obtain a licence from a number of organisations who represent different right holders.

There are further FAQs on our website:  
**[www.prsformusic.com/cyprus](http://www.prsformusic.com/cyprus)**

Please contact our agency who represents *PRS for Music* in Cyprus-  
R. M. Scoufarides & Co. Ltd  
**(+357) 22 89 89 19**

## Contact details

*PRS for Music* in Cyprus

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(+357) 22 89 89 19

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Cyprus

**[cyprus@prsformusic.com](mailto:cyprus@prsformusic.com)**  
**[www.prsformusic.com/cyprus](http://www.prsformusic.com/cyprus)**

for all music,  
everywhere

**PRS FOR MUSIC**  
**LICENSING IN CYPRUS**

**PRS**  
for MUSIC

## Who needs a licence?

To know if a business needs a *PRS for Music* licence, the best way is to ask if it plays music for customers, staff or both through radio, TV, digital devices, computer speakers or live events.

If the answer is yes, then a licence is required in line with The Cyprus Copyright Act of 1976 (as amended from time to time) [the "Cyprus Copyright Act"].

Playing music in commercial premises such as a restaurant or a nightclub is an obvious example where a licence is required but it can also include having a music on hold functionality or having a TV play in the background. In both cases, a *PRS for Music* licence is required as music is being 'performed'. Even if it is the *Kamomata Tz' aromata* theme tune – whoever wrote the song is entitled to their royalties.

*PRS for Music's* licensing is flexible and covers not only music from Cyprus and the UK but from countries all over the world.

## Who is PRS for Music?

*PRS for Music* is a UK collection society that operates in Cyprus. We are a society of around 125,000 songwriters, composers and music publishers – our members. We represent the rights of these members (and the members of our affiliated societies around the world) by licensing organisations to use music. We distribute royalties to those members and societies fairly and efficiently.

We have been providing music licences to businesses that play music for customers, employees or both for more than 100 years.

The exciting bit is that not only does music benefit your business, but it also plays a vital role in the creation of new music because nearly 90 percent of all the money collected goes straight back to our members (the rest on our running costs).

## How tariffs are set

*PRS for Music* tariffs are structured to ensure they can cater for all types of businesses and performances. These tariffs cover anything from licensing a large club to a small hairdresser. Each one is tailored to cater for the needs of a particular business sector.

The main aim when setting a tariff is to ensure that our charges for music played or performed in public are fair to both the music creators and our customers. For example, we don't charge the same fee for music used in a small venue compared with a football stadium or arena.

## From repertoire to royalties

At *PRS for Music* our main role is to collect royalties on behalf of our 125,000 worldwide members behind the 22m works in our repertoire. As you can imagine with so many numbers, the operation is a big one.

How do we distribute the money when it's been collected? There are a number of methods to track the music being played in different environments such as tracking radio play, downloads and streams as well as collecting set lists from live concerts. This allows us to distribute as accurately and efficiently as possible and in 2016, *PRS for Music* used trillions of data lines to distribute its royalties.

## International Societies

We administer the rights of music creators from all around the world. We have over 100 agreements with affiliated collecting societies in 150 countries that collect and distribute royalties for performances in their country, and like us, distribute to their own members as well as members of other societies.

Under these agreements, we represent the rights of the members of our sister societies for the public performance of their works in Cyprus, the UK and a number of other smaller territories including Malta and Gibraltar. This means that a licence from *PRS for Music* covers you even if you're playing music written or composed by non-Cypriot or non-UK composers and songwriters.

For more information on our global network, please visit the International page of our website:

[www.prsformusic.com/international](http://www.prsformusic.com/international)



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## FAQs

### 1. What is copyright?

Copyright law protects literary, musical, audio-visual and artistic works (and other intellectual property). The Cyprus Copyright Act states that if you use copyright music in public, you must first obtain the permission of every writer or composer or copyright owner of the music you intend to play.

*PRS for Music* represents these copyright owners and so a music licence gives you the legal permission to play millions of songs controlled by us, saving you the time and money needed to gain permission from the music creators directly. A music licence from us is required regardless of whether you have paid for any other type of licence.

### 2. What music does a *PRS for Music* licence cover?

*PRS for Music* licences cover the vast majority of music from around the world including Cyprus. *PRS for Music* has a repertoire of over 22 million songs from every genre so if you're using music it's highly likely to be music within our repertoire.

However, if you play music that is outside of *PRS for Music's* control, you may need an additional licence from the copyright owner(s). You do not need a licence from *PRS for Music* in the unlikely event that all the music you play is out of copyright or not controlled by *PRS for Music*.

### 3. I wasn't aware of the requirement for a licence.

As with any licensing requirement, it is the responsibility of the music user to understand and meet their legal obligations.

Within Cyprus, everyone is required to comply with copyright law, as set out in the Cyprus Copyright Act. If music is used in your premises, it is your responsibility to ensure that the correct licences are in place so that you and/or any person working on your premises can perform copyright music in public lawfully.

### 4. What happens if I refuse to obtain a *PRS for Music* licence?

If a *PRS for Music* licence is required (including for any past use) and if you refuse to purchase one, *PRS for Music* may take things further by initiating and pursuing court proceedings

against you for infringement of our copyright and for the unlicensed public performance of our repertoire in your premises.

### 5. Is *PRS for Music* working on behalf of the Government?

No. *PRS for Music* is a membership organisation representing the rights of 125,000 songwriter, composer and music publisher members. We ensure creators are paid whenever their music is played, performed or reproduced. We are not affiliated with any government department.

### 6. A *PRS for Music* licence wasn't listed as a requirement on the Government website so why does my business need a licence?

A *PRS for Music* licence is not part of the licences required from the Government when setting up a business.

We strive to ensure that businesses are aware of the need for our licence. We try to work with many trade associations and government departments in Cyprus and are always looking to build on this to help ensure businesses understand their requirements.

### 7. Why are *PRS for Music* licensing businesses in Cyprus?

As well as its UK operations, *PRS for Music* works in a number of countries outside of the UK including Cyprus where we operate as a licensing body under the Cyprus Copyright Act.

### 8. Why am I charged higher royalties for the first year?

It is the music user's responsibility to ensure they have the correct licences in place before using any copyright material. Some of our tariffs apply a higher royalty rate for the first year to customers who have been using music without a licence. This higher rate helps to cover our costs of identifying and contacting businesses and organisations using music without a licence.

### 9. But I only have a TV?

A *PRS for Music* licence is required to play a TV in public for items such as theme tunes, adverts and music played within films and TV

