

# TV Broadcasts, Satellite and Cable

This FACT FILE has been created by CCLI as a guide to the copyright implications of showing live TV broadcasts during church services or other church activities. If you do not find all the information you need in this FACT FILE, visit [www.ccli.co.uk](http://www.ccli.co.uk) or contact CCLI (details overleaf).

## COPYRIGHT AND THE LAW

Since a church is deemed a public place, you will need a performance licence for music that is played live, from a pre-recorded source or as part of a broadcast, **except** when this takes place during an act of divine worship.

However, when it comes to television, additional laws apply. Part 4 of the Communications Act 2003 makes it an offence to install or use a television receiver, to watch or record any television programmes whilst they are being shown on television, without a valid TV licence.

Therefore, in order to show a live television broadcast during a public church activity\* you will require a TV licence to receive/watch the broadcast and two performance licences to cover live music and sound recordings included in the broadcast, namely the PRS for Music Church Licence and the PPL Church Licence.

\*Except for acts of divine worship.

## 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 these 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.

\*Here we mean live TV via the internet. Watching 'on-demand' programmes over the internet does not require a TV licence.

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.

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.

## 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 public you also need a PRS for Music Church Licence and a PPL Church Licence, both available from CCLI.

## SHOWING DIGITAL TV IN PUBLIC

To show digital TV in public using the Freeview service, you need a TV licence, a PRS for Music Church Licence and a PPL Church Licence. For cable and satellite services, in addition to the above licences, you may be charged extra to show their broadcasts in public. CCLI recommends that you contact your network provider for details of their fees, terms and conditions etc.

For cable and satellite services, in addition to a TV licence and a PRS for Music Church Licence, you may be charged extra to show their broadcasts in public. CCLI recommends that you contact your network provider for details of their fees, terms and conditions etc.

## CAN WE SHOW SKY SPORTS FOR CHURCH SOCIALS/CLUBS?

Satellite and cable companies offer a number of viewing packages for home and public viewing. You will need to contact your service providers to enquire about the particular channels you may wish to watch in a public setting. For example, see [www.business.sky.com](http://www.business.sky.com).

## 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 later 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.

## WATCHING THE OLYMPICS

Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) is the host broadcasting organisation for the Olympics. At the time of going to press, so far as CCLI is aware you only need a TV licence, a PRS for Music Church Licence and a PPL Church Licence to show the Olympics in your church. You can visit [www.obs.es](http://www.obs.es) for more information about the OBS.

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*The information included in 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 CCLI aims to provide information that is accurate, CCLI accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions in the information provided.*

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