OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

OTAS Insight, event safety. Article

# Last entry and the people outside

## Plan last entry, temporary gate holds and the overflow of people without tickets for a New Year street gathering, about seven weeks out




An all standing New Year crowd is still a crowd plan, even when the street is familiar. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

**Operational** **Tactical** **Strategic**

**OTAS Insight v2.0** · 10 November 2026 · Correct as of 10 November 2026

OTAS Live Ltd.

SUMMARY

# A New Year street gathering is won or lost at last entry, at a gate hold, and among the people outside. Agree those three plans now, about seven weeks out.

**23 Oct**

date official tickets went on sale for a large London viewing, about 100,000 people [1]

**23:00**

published last entry time for a large all standing street party in Edinburgh [2]

**00:50**

published end time for that same street party [2]

**This week, write your last entry time, the words for a temporary gate hold, and what you will do for people who gather outside without a ticket.**

By OTAS Insights. Edited by Kris Dailly. Correct as of 10 November 2026.




An all standing New Year crowd is still a crowd plan, even when the street is familiar. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

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# 01
# Read this first

Sources: 22 public sources opened on 10 November 2026. They include a news report on London New Year tickets and official information for an Edinburgh street party. They also include HSE event, crowd and incident guidance, the Purple Guide, and NHS and UKHSA advice on cold. They include the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Northern Ireland health and safety Order of 1978. This Insight does not retell fireworks in the sky, late night evacuation, or a gate rush at opening. Those already have their own OTAS Insights, and this piece links to them. It is about last entry, temporary gate holds, overflow and dispersal after midnight. This Insight does not say any city has the right or wrong plan. We describe events and venues rather than naming them in the text. Some source links carry names. Each fact carries its source number. Everything without a source number is OTAS guidance for event professionals.

There is a planning window now, about seven to eight weeks before New Year's Eve. Official tickets for a large London fireworks viewing went on sale on 23 October 2026, for about 100,000 people in ticketed areas, through the official outlet only. City Hall organises the event with support from the Met Police, Transport for London, councils and the emergency services, and has warned that only tickets from the authorised outlet will be accepted [1]. A large all standing street party in Edinburgh publishes that gates open at 20:00 and last entry is 23:00, and that reentry is not allowed. It also says that specific entry gates may be closed temporarily throughout the event for safety reasons. Under 12s are not admitted. Under 16s must be with an adult over 18. People are asked not to bring bags larger than A3. Glass, umbrellas and drones are not allowed. The event is published as ending at about 00:50 [2]. Those published rules are useful because they already name the three problems many local street gatherings will face. Those problems are a last entry time, a temporary gate hold, and people who come without a ticket or arrive too late. This Insight is not about fireworks in the sky, how you evacuate at the end of the night, or what happens when everyone is told to come in at once. Those subjects have their own OTAS Insights, and you should use them alongside this one. This piece is about last entry, the hold, the overflow, and getting a standing winter crowd away after midnight.

> **In short:** a New Year street gathering will not wait for a meeting at 22:30. Before the week of the event, set a last entry time and write the words for a temporary gate hold. Plan for people who gather outside without a ticket. Agree how a standing winter crowd will leave after midnight.

## Five things to take away

| | |
|---|---|
| **01** | **Set a last entry time, and the time when the last person in the queue will still be processed, not only a time on the ticket** [2]. |
| **02** | **Write the words for a temporary gate hold, and name who can call it** [2]. |
| **03** | **Plan for the people who arrive without a ticket, or after last entry, as a crowd in their own right.** |
| **04** | **A bag search queue is part of last entry. If it runs long, you will miss your own cut off.** |
| **05** | **Dispersal after midnight is a winter plan as well as a crowd plan. Use the weather and late night evacuation Insights with this one** [12][21]. |

**ACTION**

**Read the case, then share the actions with your team.**



# 02

# What the large events have already published

Ticket and entry rules, as published [1][2]. We describe events and venues rather than naming them in the text. Some source links carry names. We do not judge any organiser.

Last entry only works if the queue, the search and the cut off time have already been agreed. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

### A ticketed viewing in London

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tickets** | Official tickets went on sale on 23 October 2026, for about 100,000 people, through the official outlet only [1]. |
| **Who runs it** | City Hall organises the event with support from the Met Police, Transport for London, councils and the emergency services, and has warned that only tickets from the authorised outlet will be accepted [1]. |
| **What this means for others** | A local street party may not be ticketed. The lesson still holds. You need a way to know who is inside, when you will stop letting people in, and what you will do for everyone else. |

### An all standing street party in Edinburgh

| | |
|---|---|
| **Times** | Gates open at 20:00. Last entry is 23:00. The event is published as ending at about 00:50 [2]. |
| **Holds and reentry** | Reentry is not allowed. Specific entry gates may be closed temporarily throughout the event for safety reasons [2]. That is a public, planned gate hold, not an improvised one. |
| **Who may come** | Under 12s are not admitted. Under 16s must be with an adult over 18 [2]. Many local gatherings will include families. Your plan has to say which of those rules you are using. |
| **What may not come** | People are asked not to bring bags larger than A3. Glass, umbrellas and drones are not allowed [2]. Each of those rules has a queue and a conversation at the gate. |

| | As published |
|---|---|
| **London tickets** | On sale 23 October 2026, about 100,000, official outlet only [1] |
| **Edinburgh last entry** | 23:00, gates from 20:00, no reentry [2] |
| **Temporary holds** | Specific entry gates may be closed temporarily for safety [2] |
| **End time** | Published as about 00:50 [2] |
| **Age rules** | No under 12s, under 16s with an adult over 18 [2] |

Table 1. Published New Year entry rules, as of 10 November 2026. News report [1], official event information [2].

**ACTION**

**Ask your team: at your last entry time, what will you do with the people still in the queue, and with the people who have just arrived outside?**



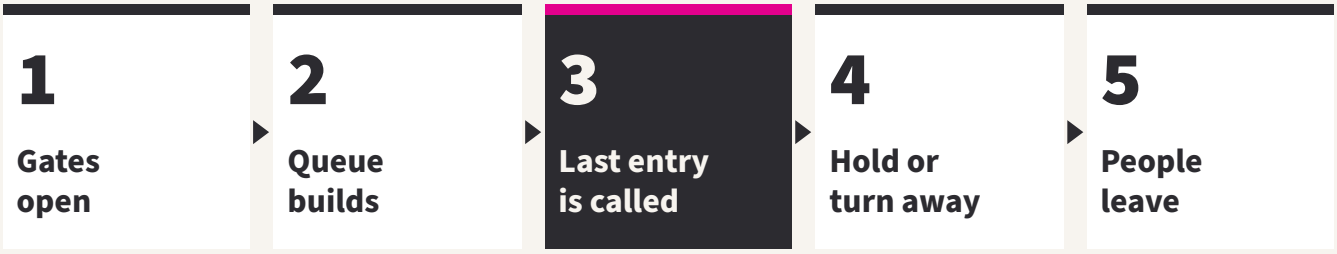
# 03

# Why last entry, the hold and the people outside fail first

OTAS guidance, drawn from the published rules and the official guidance above.

The people without tickets are still your problem if they gather at the fence. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

## Call last entry before the queue decides it




Last entry is the step that turns a growing queue into a decision you can explain. OTAS guidance.

### Last entry is a process, not a clock time

A 23:00 last entry only works if the last person you will admit is already in a queue you can finish [2]. If bag search, ticket checks or a late bus unloads at 22:50, you need a rule for who is processed and who is turned away.

### A gate hold must be explainable

The Edinburgh public information already says some gates may close temporarily for safety [2]. The same public information also says that if a gate is temporarily closed, people will be directed to the nearest entrance gate on arrival [2]. People at a silent, unexplained hold will push, film, or walk to the next opening. Write the words, name who calls the hold, and say when you will update them.

### The people outside are still a crowd

People who have no ticket, who missed last entry, or who came to watch from the street will gather at the fence. They need space, a way along the street, welfare in the cold, and a message. If you ignore them, they become an unplanned standing event against your own perimeter.

### No reentry changes the welfare plan

If people cannot go back in, they must be able to stay in, including toilets, water and a way to find help, or they must be able to leave and get home [2]. That choice belongs in the plan, not at the gate.

### Midnight is not the end

A published end time of about 00:50 [2] is a reminder that dispersal happens after the moment people came for. Transport is thinner. It is cold. Staff have been on since the afternoon. The late night evacuation Insight is the place for the full empty plan. Here, you need a start: a route, a message, and a time when the street should be thin enough to reopen.

**ACTION**

**Walk the outside of your perimeter as if last entry has just been called, and write what you will do with the people who are still arriving.**

# 04
# What to do at each level

## Operational

**Know the cut off**

**Use the hold words**

**Watch outside too**

Know the last entry time, the hold words, and what you may say to people who are turned away. Keep the search moving. Watch the outside of the fence as well as the inside. Follow a hold when it is called.

## Tactical

**Staff the last 30 minutes**

**Call the hold in time**

**Start the leaving message**

Staff bag search for the last 30 minutes, not only the average hour. Call or recommend a hold in time. Brief the overflow route and welfare. Start the first leaving message after midnight on the agreed words.

## Strategic

**Set the rules**

**Plan the overflow**

**Agree the first leaving plan**

Set the rules, the last entry process, the hold owner, the overflow plan and the first leaving plan [1][2]. Agree them with the police, the highway authority and your safety advisory group. Read this with the sky, evacuation and gate rush Insights.

**ACTION**

**Pick one action at your level and do it this week, while there are still about seven weeks to go.**

# 05
# What we do not know yet

- The full 2026 and 2027 terms for the London ticketed viewing, beyond the ticket sale report of 23 October [1]. If official terms are republished, we will update this Insight.
- How local street gatherings, which may include families and may not be ticketed, will set age and last entry rules in practice.
- Night transport plans for each city on 31 December 2026, which are often published later in December.
- Whether official public information for other UK city gatherings will add last entry or gate hold wording this year.

**ACTION**

**We will update this Insight if organisers or authorities publish more, including official terms and night transport plans. We will not judge how any city event is run.**

06

# Coming up: the last month, local gatherings and the week of the event

The next month is when local authorities, community groups and city events lock times, steward numbers and transport. The plan that works is the one you can explain at 23:00, at a closed gate, and to the people who are still outside in the cold.

**ACTION**

**If you need support setting last entry, a gate hold and an overflow plan for a New Year street gathering, reach out to us to see how we can support you.**

## Questions

### What if our gathering is not ticketed?

You still need a last entry rule, or a capacity rule, and a plan for people who keep arriving. Tickets are one way to do that [1]. A count, a wristband or a simple cut off time can also work if you can staff it and explain it.

### Should we copy the 23:00 last entry time?

Only if it fits your event, your transport and your search capacity [2]. The lesson is to have a time and a process, not to copy another city's clock.

### What do we do with families if a large event bans under 12s?

That is a published rule for one street party [2]. Many local gatherings will include children. Decide your rule, write it in the public information, and plan welfare and a way out for families who need to leave early.

### Where do fireworks, evacuation and a rush at opening belong?

In the three live OTAS Insights this piece links to. Do not copy those plans into this one. Use all four together.

### Does this replace our risk assessment?

No. This is general information for event professionals. Your own risk assessment, the police and your safety advisory group decide what applies to your gathering.

**At your last entry time, what will you do with the people still in the queue, and with the people who have just arrived outside?**

**ACTION**

**Send us your question and we will add the answer to the next update.**

# Sources

Web sources opened 10 November 2026 and labelled by source type. Links are for checking only. Listing a source does not mean it endorses OTAS or has worked with us.


1. **BBC News, official tickets go on sale for London New Year's Eve fireworks, 23 October 2026** bbc.com
2. **Edinburgh's Hogmanay, Street Party information, last entry, gate holds and conditions** edwinterfest.com
3. **HSE, event safety, incidents and emergencies** hse.gov.uk
4. **HSE, first aid legislation** hse.gov.uk
5. **HSE, event safety, outdoor equipment** hse.gov.uk
6. **HSE, first aid needs assessment** hse.gov.uk
7. **NHS, hypothermia** nhs.uk
8. **Resuscitation Council UK, Public access defibrillators: a guide for communities** resus.org.uk
9. **HSE, event safety, worker landing page** hse.gov.uk
10. **HSE, first aid at work, the health and safety (first aid) regulations** hse.gov.uk
11. **Met Office, weather warnings guide** metoffice.gov.uk
12. **OTAS Insight, When the weather makes the call** otas.live
13. **HSE, event safety, managing an event** hse.gov.uk
14. **HSE, event safety, crowd management** hse.gov.uk
15. **HSE, event safety, venue and site design** hse.gov.uk
16. **Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, section 3** legislation.gov.uk
17. **Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, article 5** legislation.gov.uk
18. **The Purple Guide (subscription)** thepurpleguide.co.uk
19. **NHS, head injury and concussion** nhs.uk
20. **UKHSA, Weather Health Alerting System** gov.uk
21. **OTAS Insight, Evacuating a venue late at night** otas.live
22. **OTAS Insight, When everyone is told to come in at once** otas.live


### Related OTAS Insights

These are links to other OTAS Insights pieces, not to any OTAS Live product or service.

**Who Owns the Sky Above Your Event?**
**Evacuating a venue late at night**
**When everyone is told to come in at once**
**When the weather makes the call**

Guidance: this Insight summarises HSE and industry guidance and health and safety law in Great Britain as published on 10 November 2026, plus published event information. Northern Ireland has its own health and safety law. It is not legal advice. Use it with the OTAS Insights on the sky, late night evacuation and a rush at opening. Ask the police, the highway authority and your safety advisory group what applies to your gathering.

Interest: OTAS Live Ltd, which publishes OTAS Insights, sells event operations services, handbooks and training related to this topic.

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Corrections: if you spot an error, tell us using the contact details on the OTAS Insights page and we will correct it and update the 'Correct as of' date. To ask for this Insight in another format, use the same contact details.

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Images are OTAS style images, generated from real photography. None is a record of a specific event.

**ACTION**

**Check the sources before you quote them, and tell us if any link has changed.**

OVER TO YOU

# At your last entry time, what will you do with the people still in the queue, and with the people who have just arrived outside?

If you need support setting last entry, a gate hold and an overflow plan for a New Year street gathering, reach out to us to see how we can support you.

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