OTAS LIVE

Supporting Events and Professionals at Every Stage

OTAS Insight, event safety. Full report

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 section 9, then agree one task for each level before your next event.



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

What the guidance says, and what this Insight leaves to other pieces

In brief, from HSE, the Purple Guide and health guidance [3] to [22]. Not legal advice. Fireworks, late night evacuation and a rush at opening are covered in other OTAS Insights. This section does not retell them.

A temporary gate hold should be a planned pause, with words the people at the gate will hear. OTAS style image, generated from real photography. Not a record of a specific event.

Your duty, the crowd and the cold

- The Act. In Great Britain, an employer must conduct the undertaking so that, so far as is reasonably practicable, people who are not employees are not exposed to risks to their health or safety [16]. In OTAS's view, that can include people who gather just outside a ticket line, because your entry plan affects them.
- Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland has its own health and safety law, with a similar duty to people who are not employees [17].
- Incidents and crowds. HSE event guidance covers planning for incidents and emergencies, managing an event, crowd management, and venue and site design [3][13][14][15]. A street you know well is still a site you have to design for the night.
- The Purple Guide. The Purple Guide to Health, Safety and Welfare at Music and Other Events covers event planning, including crowd management and medical cover. Use the edition that applies to your event [18].
- Cold. People standing for hours, and people waiting outside, are in the winter night. NHS advice on hypothermia and the UKHSA Weather Health Alerting System are the starting point, with the OTAS weather Insight for triggers [7][20][12]. In England, UKHSA cold health alerts run from 1 November to 31 March. They do not cover Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland, so use Met Office warnings there [11][20].

What this piece does not cover

- Fireworks and the sky. Who owns the airspace, the display and the effects above your event is covered in Who Owns the Sky Above Your Event? Use that Insight for fireworks and effects. This piece does not repeat it.
- Leaving at the end of the night. How you evacuate or empty a venue late at night is covered in Evacuating a venue late at night. Use that Insight for the end of night plan. This piece deals only with how a standing street crowd starts to leave after midnight, in the cold, when transport is thinner.
- A rush at opening. What happens when everyone is told to come in at once is covered in When everyone is told to come in at once. This piece is about last entry and holds later in the night, not the first opening surge.

General information from published guidance and law, as of 10 November 2026. Not legal advice. Use the linked Insights for fireworks, late night evacuation and a rush at opening.

ACTION

Read this Insight with the sky, late night evacuation and gate rush pieces, and write one plan that does not copy the same advice three times.



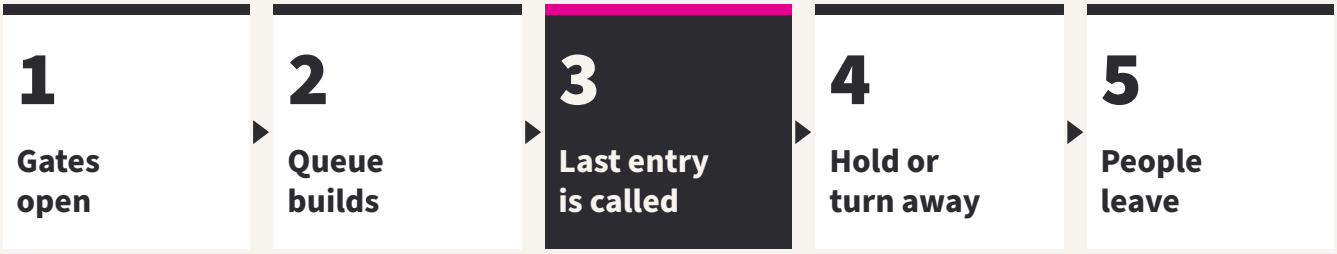
04

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.

05

Signs your New Year plan will not hold

Each of these is OTAS guidance, drawn from published event rules and HSE guidance.

Signs your New Year plan will not hold

01 A time with no process

The ticket says last entry 23:00, but there is no rule for the queue that is still standing there [2].

02 No words for a hold

Gates may need to close for a time, but nobody has written what the people at the gate will hear [2].

03 No plan outside the fence

The plan ends at the ticket line. People without tickets have no space, no message and no way along the street.

04 Search queues eat the cut off

Bag search is staffed for a steady flow, not for the last 30 minutes, so last entry is missed.

05 Midnight has no winter leaving plan

The plan covers the countdown, but not how a standing crowd leaves in the cold when transport is thin [7][20].

OTAS guidance, drawn from published event rules [2] and HSE [3][14][15].

ACTION

Read your New Year plan for each of these five signs, and fix the first one you find.

06

Plan last entry, from this week to after midnight

Five stages. OTAS guidance unless a source is shown.

Five stages, from the rules to after midnight



STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	STAGE 5
The rules	**Last entry**	**The hold**	**Outside**	**Midnight**
Tickets, times, who may come	A process, not only a clock	Words, an owner, an update	The people without tickets	The first leaving message

From the plan in this Insight. OTAS guidance.

Stage 1. The rules

Decide whether the gathering is ticketed or open, who may come, what may not come in, and whether reentry is allowed [1][2]. Write the last entry time and the end time. Say how this sits with fireworks, which belong in the sky Insight.

Stage 2. Last entry

Turn the last entry time into a process. When do you stop joining the queue? How do you finish the people already in it? How is bag search staffed for the last 30 minutes? Who tells the people who have just arrived?

Stage 3. The hold

Write the words for a temporary gate hold and for reopening that gate [2]. Name who can call it, and how often you will update the people at the gate. Do not leave a closed gate unexplained.

Stage 4. Outside the fence

Plan space, a way along the street, a message and welfare for people without tickets or after last entry. Brief the team that this crowd is part of the event, not a nuisance to be ignored.

Stage 5. After midnight

Set the first leaving message, the first route, and the time when the street should be thinning [2]. Use the late night evacuation Insight for the full empty plan, and the weather Insight for cold and wind [12][21].

Part	What it needs
The rules	Ticketed or open, age rules, prohibited items, reentry, last entry and end time [1][2]
Last entry process	When the queue is closed, how it is finished, and how search is staffed
Gate holds	Words, a named owner, and an update time [2]
Outside the fence	Space, a route along the street, a message and welfare
After midnight	First leaving message and route, with the late night evacuation Insight
Cold and staff	Welfare for a standing winter crowd, and a shift plan that lasts past 00:50 [2][7]

Table 2. What to agree in the next seven weeks. OTAS guidance.

ACTION

At your next table top exercise, call last entry at 23:00 with a full search queue and a group arriving outside, and see which plan you actually run.

07
Watch, act and hold

OTAS guidance unless a source is shown.

Situation	Watch	Act	Hold or close
Last entry nearing	Queue still growing, search slowing	Staff the last 30 minutes. Tell people how long it will take	Close the back of the queue at the agreed time, then finish those already in it
A gate hold	Density, a medical incident, or a need to slow entry [2]	Named person calls the hold. Give the words and an update time	Reopen only when that person says so, and tell the people at the gate
Overflow outside	People without tickets, or after last entry, gather at the fence	Open the overflow route and the welfare point. Give a message	Do not leave them against the perimeter with no information
After midnight	The moment has passed, the street is still full [2]	Give the first leaving message and the first route	Do not hold people in a standing street once the plan says they should be moving

Table 3. Watch, act and hold at last entry and at the gate. OTAS guidance.

ACTION

Print this table for your next New Year briefing and agree last entry and the hold words this week.

08
Last entry and hold log

Use one line for last entry, every hold and the first leaving message.

Time	Place	What was seen	Call made	Still in place?

Table 4. Last entry and hold log. Use one line for last entry, every hold and the first leaving message.

ACTION

Print this log for the night and give it to the person who owns last entry.

09
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.

10
New Year last entry checklist

OTAS guidance unless a source is shown.

Seven weeks out

- Rules written: tickets or open, age, items, reentry [1][2].
- Last entry process agreed, not only a clock time.
- Gate hold words and owner written [2].
- Overflow plan for people outside the fence.
- First leaving message drafted, with the late night evacuation Insight.

The week of the event

- Search staffing set for the last 30 minutes.
- Overflow route and welfare checked.
- Transport and cold plan checked [7][20].

On the night

- Last entry is called on the process, not on mood.
- Holds are explained.
- The first leaving message goes out after midnight on the agreed words.

ACTION

Print this checklist for your next New Year street gathering.

11
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.

12

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.

OTAS, our website and OTAS Insights are a work in progress. Get involved and tell us what to improve.

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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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