

Approved by the PCC 25 November 2025



From the Church of England

Safer Environment and Activities Guidance Section 8

Hire of Premises

8.1. When letting parish buildings to third party groups the Church Body concerned should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the group's proposed activities do not present a safeguarding risk.

8.2. In addition to its importance in meeting the Church's commitment to safeguarding, this is required to avoid the possibility that, if an incident occurs, the Church Body's insurance cover in relation to public liability would not be affected.

8.3. To that end the Church Body should include terms in the letting agreement to the effect that:

- the third-party group will take all reasonable steps to ensure that no person is at risk of harm in the course of the group's activities (including by conducting its activities in accordance with best safeguarding practice); and
- the activities of the group are covered by an insurance policy providing public liability cover in respect of any claims arising out of the group's activities in relation to children and vulnerable adults taking part in its activities; and
- the group hiring the premises have a safeguarding policy that is the equivalent to the parish's policy. If they do not, then they should be invited to sign up to the parish's safeguarding policy, including the Code of Safer Working Practice, as part of the letting agreement.
- The letting agreement should include a clause to the effect that any failure on the part of the third-party group to comply with the above three points would constitute a breach of the agreement and may, depending upon the severity of the failure, result in the agreement being terminated.

8.4. If a third-party group is unwilling to accept such terms the Church Body should decline to allow it to use the premises.