INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE HAS IMPACT ON POPULAR SLIGO LIVE MUSIC FESTIVAL VENUE KNOCKNAREA ARENA

SAT. 17TH OCT. 2026 | STEPHEN WILSON JR. SOLD-OUT CONCERT WILL NOW MOVE TO TF ROYAL THEATRE, CASTLEBAR AS PART OF SLIGO LIVE FESTIVAL

To ensure SLIGO LIVE audiences will not be disappointed, Sligo Live has today made the decision to move the sold-out STEPHEN WILSON JR. Concert on Saturday, 17th October 2026 from Knocknarea Arena to the TF ROYAL THEATRE in Castlebar.

The change is necessary because the original venue for the concert on the ATU Sligo campus will not be available as it is subject to restrictions resulting from a nationwide work to rule action by public sector unions which began last week. This action means that core venue staff, whose presence is required for legal and safety reasons, are not available outside normal hours or for functions outside the core activities of their employment..

With approx. 1,500 tickets already sold, the nearest premium venue capable of hosting this show is the TF ROYAL THEATRE in Castlebar, located about an hour from Sligo. Having explored all possible options,. the board of Sligo Live decided the move to be the only viable option to ensure this sold-out show goes ahead on the same date.

Sligo Live producer Willie Kelly confirmed that the Knocknarea Arena events are the only part of Sligo Live affected. **" All our Hawk's Well Theatre and other venue shows will go ahead as planned and promise to be a massive success with over 20 other music events scheduled across the 16-day festival.**

SLIGO LIVE FESTIVAL celebrates its 21st Anniversary this year and **it is the biggest, longest running and most successful indie Festival in the West of Ireland. Sligo Live runs from 17th October to 1st November 2026**. See full list on www.sligolive.ie.

Padraig McKeon, Chair of the Sligo Live Board:

"The core philosophy driving Sligo Live is to actively bring audiences into our town, championing top-tier music, comedy and hospitality locally. Relocating a major show away from town was an incredibly difficult choice that we did not arrive at lightly. However, delaying this decision would have imposed unacceptable planning risks on our ticket holders and created greater uncertainty. Our primary duty is to safeguard the experience of our audiences, while defending the wider momentum of the festival".

Mr. McKeon also clarified the arrangements for three other events are scheduled for the Knocknarea venue during Sligo Live, starting with Kyla Cobbler's sold out show scheduled for October 18. This show will be postponed to a date later in the year or

early 2027. As the Dara Ó Briain and Rosanne Cash shows are due to take place a week later, we will await possible developments on this industrial action next week before making any further decisions.. An alternative staging date is however currently being considered, if necessary, for both

This is a disappointing situation but is an unintended consequence of something that is beyond the control of both the Knocknarea Arena who are a valued Sligo Live Festival partner, and the union directly involved in ATU.

While these venue changes and reschedules are disappointing, the rest of the festival is set to be a massive success. Sligo Live Producer Willie Kelly emphasised that **over 20 other music events** scheduled across the 16-day festival (running from October 17th to November 1st) **will proceed exactly as planned**. All performances at the Hawk's Well Theatre and various other venues across Sligo will still provide an incredible experience for festival-goers. Full information and ticket details on Sligolive.ie

Willie also confirmed that all tickets purchased will be valid for the rescheduled shows and venues. Please keep in touch with Sligolive.ie for further information.

We realise that not all ticket purchasers will be able to attend the rearranged concerts and a full refund will be available for them from Point of Purchase. Sligo Live will place these returned tickets on sale to Stephen Wilson Jr. fans who were unable to obtain tickets prior to them selling out.

ENDS

Website: www.sligolive.ie