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**Licensing Committee**

**Re: Objecting to the re-licensing of 8 lap dancing clubs in Leeds**

We the undersigned are concerned about the collective damage done to society by the continued proliferation of the lap dancing industry.

We note that Leeds City Council have decided to consider each license on a case by case basis when other cities have set a cap on the number of lap dancing clubs or imposed strict restrictions on the character of the locality that they can operate within.

In light of this we ask that the licensing committee use their discretionary powers when considering all eight clubs to:

- Significantly reduce the number of clubs (by at least half) in operation in Leeds and set a low limit on the number allowed in the city.

*OR*

- Refuse all applications and set a nil limit for the future.

**Where they do exist they should not be:**

1. Located on or be visible from main thoroughfares, main shopping streets or community spaces.
2. Located near civic buildings or places of worship.
3. Able to tout, offer lifts to or advertise their clubs using cars or women as promotional tools.

**This is so that:**

1. Leeds can be experienced during the day by residents and visitors without encountering a lap dancing club.
2. Civic celebrations and memorial services can take place without lap dancing clubs in the background.
3. At night the sex industry does not dominate the character of the city.
4. People in Leeds are safeguarded from the effects of the sex industry.
5. People can easily avoid the sex industry if they wish to.
6. The licensed sex industry where it operates does so in a discreet manner.

We welcome the new powers available to Local Authorities and call upon Leeds City Council to use them to make the city of Leeds a healthier place for all residents.

Yours Faithfully,



Rachel Reeves  
 Member of Parliament for Leeds West

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Atha, Cllr Bernard  
**Sent:** 30 March 2012 21:34  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Labour Members  
**Subject:** RE: Sexual Establishment Licence applications

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank so much for replying so promptly. I apologise for bothering you as no sooner had I sent my e mail than I received a fairly comprehensive document which answered all my questions but one. One question does remain and that is as follows. Moral judgements are excluded as valid objections. Is this a local decision or is it in legislation of some kind?

I am extremely hostile to such establishments as are in question as they debase the role of women and men's attitudes to them and excite the baser instincts of men in a corrupting manner. That is why I think moral judgements should be valid if not proscribed by legislation.

Kind regards and my thanks

Bernard

Cllr B P Atha



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**From:** Macniven, Cllr Christine

**Sent:** 02 April 2012 14:05

**To:** Entertainment Licensing

**Subject:** RE: Sexual Establishment Licence applications

I object to the licensing of all of these clubs. Wellington St and York Place are in the heart of the business community and the presence of such establishments will detract from the nature of the area. My objection to Headrow and New Briggate hosting such clubs is on the grounds that their high visibility will be offensive to the population of the city and children and young people in particular. Christine Macniven



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**From:** Maqsood, Cllr Kamila  
**Sent:** 30 March 2012 16:31  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** RE: Sexual Establishment Licence applications

Dear Victoria,

I wish to express my objections at all five application for Sex Establishment licences in our city.

regards

*Cllr Kamila Maqsood  
Gipton & Harehills ward  
07910848474*



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

**Labour Councillor Lisa Mulherin**  
**Ardsley and Robin Hood Ward**  
Civic Hall  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR

Leeds City Council  
Licensing & Registration (Entertainment Licensing)  
Civic Hall  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR

Contact  
Civic Tel 0113 247 6992  
Civic Fax 0113 247 4046  
Home Tel  
lisa.mulherin@leeds.gov.uk  
Your ref  
Our ref LM  
Date 27 April 2012



To whom it may concern:

**Re: Objection to the re-licensing of 8 lap dancing clubs in Leeds**

In my opinion the re-licensing of 8 lap dancing clubs in the city of Leeds would run counter to the city's aims to create a Child Friendly city in particular and a city which is equally attractive for people of all ages, cultures, faiths, both male and female to enjoy.

People should be free to visit our city's publicly funded cultural facilities e.g. the City Library, events at the Town Hall, or Leeds Grand Theatre without having to pass lap dancing clubs on the doorstep. Children in particular should not have to pass lap dancing venues and as such they should not be licensed in close proximity to our cultural and civic buildings, public transport hubs, main shopping streets or places of worship.

If we are serious about creating a Child Friendly City we should be ensuring that children and families (and I include grandparents) can feel free to visit and enjoy the city without exposure to such venues.

In view of the powers available to Leeds City Council under the Policing and Crime Act 2009, I note that other cities have used these powers to set a cap on the number of lap dancing clubs or imposed strict restrictions on the character of the area that they can operate within.

I support the call of other Councillors, community and faith leaders for the licensing committee to use their discretionary powers under the new Act to:

- Significantly reduce the number of clubs (by at least half) in operation in Leeds and set a low limit on the number allowed in the city.

OR

- Refuse all applications and set a nil limit for the future.

AND

**Where they do exist they should not be:**

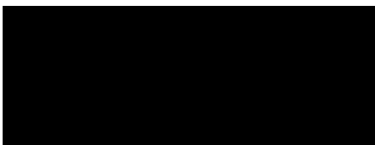
1. Located on or be visible from main thoroughfares, public transport hubs, main shopping streets or community spaces.
2. Located near civic buildings, publicly funded leisure facilities or places of worship.
3. Able to tout, offer lifts to or advertise their clubs using cars or women for promotional purposes.

**This is so that:**

1. Leeds can be experienced by residents and visitors and in particular children without encountering a lap dancing club.
2. Civic celebrations and memorial services can take place without lap dancing clubs in the vicinity.
3. At night the sex industry does not dominate the character of the city.
4. People in Leeds and children in particular are safeguarded from the effects of the sex industry.
5. People can easily avoid the sex industry if they wish to.
6. The licensed sex industry where it operates does so in a discreet manner.

I hope that the Licensing Committee will use its powers to further improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Leeds by taking these actions.

Yours faithfully,



Councillor Lisa Mulherin

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 April 2012 16:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Sexual Establishment Licence applications

Hi [REDACTED]

I am raising an objection on two grounds to the application/s, for the consideration of the licensing panel.

Firstly, could you confirm whether under the discretionary grounds for refusal section (c), has the Local Authority set a limit on the number of such establishments that is permissible in a particular locality?

**(c) The number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;**

I am raising this objection not in relation to a particular establishment at this stage, but the prospect of 6 sexual entertainment venues in a 2 square mile radius area. It is worth noting that the applicants "Purple Door" and "Liberte" are 5 doors away on the same street.

Secondly in relation to "Purple Door" and "Liberte", these will be in a conservation area in the city centre and I am objecting under (di) and (dii) below.

**(d) The grant would be inappropriate, having regard -**  
**(i) to the character of the relevant locality;**  
**(ii) to the use of which any premises in the vicinity are put;**  
**(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.**

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** Leeds Object [leedsobject@rocketmail.com]

**Sent:** 24 April 2012 22:01

**To:** Entertainment Licensing

**Subject:** Objection to SEV application - Wildcats

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women



should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association<sup>[ii]</sup> identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted we would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

We understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. We would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' We would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' We would

again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

### **Further considerations we would like to make about granting a licence to Wildcats:**

Object has worked with women who have been affected by lap-dancing clubs and their role within the sex industry, below are extracts from their testimonials; the full accounts can be read at <http://www.object.org.uk/lapdancing-testimonies>

#### **Lap-dancing fuelling demand prostitution:**

"There was a clear link between the lap-dancing clubs and the brothels, although not formal. It is known that taxi drivers (including licensed black cabs) can receive commission for taking groups of men to lap-dancing clubs. However there were also minicabs that would then pick up punters from the lap-dancing clubs and bring them to the sauna. They would receive about £20 from the maid for bringing a group of men". *Liane*

#### **Experience of a young woman encouraged to audition for 'easy money':**

"I had never thought about the effect of lap dancing clubs or the sex industry before this - always thinking these women had the power etc. My one small encounter with that culture made me realise what foul places they really are and I am ashamed of myself for being sucked into what I see as 'sexual propaganda' which surrounds the industry". *Tina*

#### **Experience on women working as lap dancers:**

"The management in all the clubs treated the girls very badly, they were discriminatory, frequently derogatory in their comments to and about the girls, they routinely practised favouritism, among the girls who were the high earners, and certainly purposely perpetrated an atmosphere, of intense competition between the girls, it was certainly meant to intimidate us and divide us. The management in all the clubs routinely put on too many girls on a night, so there was intense competition between the girls for the customers. The customers' attitudes varied between politeness to downright hostility and abuse." *Alexandra*

"[The industry is seen as] a dream built on a myth that you can become famous, rich etc., it is perceived as being glamorous, and particularly due to the success of celebrated topless models like Jordan (Katie Price), girls and young women perceive this as being a stepping stone onto greater things, however, for every Jordan there are millions of girls who will never become famous, and will either: go into prostitution as they get older or give up the industry and do something else, but be emotionally and even physically damaged by the industry. The industry by its very nature is highly discriminatory and ageist, it is a certain fact that men want to see nubile young women naked, not 40 year old women, so the very core of the industry is extremely derogatory, and degrading to women of all ages." *Alexandra*

"I don't know any where you get paid a wage. It varies but you have to pay what's called a house fee. You pay club £10 up to £80 for being there. That's not for doing anything. You

give them that up front. Then they take a percentage of what you earn. It varies depending on what you earn. 10% if you don't do very well, or 25% if you have a good night. If the managers see you having a good night, they bump up the commission level. Lots of people would lie so they wouldn't have to pay. [there are] lots of hidden costs they don't tell you about." *Sarah*

"You have a code of conduct but it's not adhered to too much. It's just to placate the local authorities. We weren't even encouraged to read it. You just sign it quickly. I was worried about signing it – but it became apparent it was all nonsense." *Sarah*

The final quote for 'Sarah' heightens our concerns that the welfare pack, proposed with the new licensing' will become nothing more than a lip service to Leeds City Council and will not achieve its aim in protecting the women who work within this industry.

Further concern for the women within this industry is highlighted in the following article which appeared in the Yorkshire Post on April 12th 2012:

### **Lapdancers bare brunt of economic downturn**

Lapdancers no longer need dancing skills, because club owners prefer women who are better at "hustling" for private dances rather than performing, a study suggests. Owners have compensated for falling profits in the economic downturn by demanding more money from their performers, according to researchers Dr Teela Sanders and Dr Kate Hardy from the University of Leeds. They told the British Sociological Association's annual conference yesterday that club owners had also increased the fees women pay to have the opportunity to dance, in order to remain buoyant. The researchers said: "It was unnecessary to have any dancing skills whatsoever, let alone the ability to do athletic tricks on the pole. The core skill necessary shifted from performance to hustling for private dances." Dr Sanders and Dr Hardy surveyed 197 dancers, interviewed 35 women and visited 20 strip clubs and pubs in the largest research project of its kind into the strip club industry in the UK. One dancer complained about what she said was a fall in standards. She told the researchers: "You'd see some girl who wasn't very pretty, couldn't dance, had a crap outfit, making a lot more money than you because she was there to make money, not to enjoy herself and be creative, so she would be pushier."

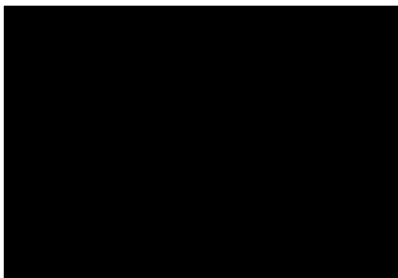
Please note we are happy for organisational anonymity to be waived so that the objection can be recognised as having come from Object Leeds.

Regards,  
Leeds Object

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[i] RTPPI (2007) **Gender and Spatial Planning – RTPPI Good Practice Note 7** London: RTPPI

[ii] LGA (2012) **LGA survey - Strip clubs and bookies are hitting economic growth** London: LGA  
[available online at [http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal\\_content/56/10161/3592279/NEWS-TEMPLATE](http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10161/3592279/NEWS-TEMPLATE)]



Leeds City Council Licensing Committee  
Leeds Civic Hall  
Leeds LS1 1UR  
9<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Sirs,

We object to the licensing of the following establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
Silks, Sovereign Place  
Wild Cats, The Headrow  
Deep Blue, Wellington St  
Purple Door, York Place  
Liberte, York Place  
Black Diamond Club, New Briggate.

We must be clear that we object to all Lap Dance Clubs per se. They promote the sexual harassment of women. In traditional strip clubs women are objectified by having to strip for men for money. But in these lap dance clubs because of their peculiar rules women even have to solicit men to get them to pay for them to strip for them. Like prostitution, or licensed rape. Men shout abuse at women and then obtain gratification by paying women to strip naked for them. It is violence against women. It is sexual harassment of women. Legitimised. Of course this encourages men to treat all women in this way once they come out on the street.

When clubs are licensed for this sex entertainment right in the centre of our city it says clearly that Leeds approves of this. We object particularly to Lap Dance Clubs on the Headrow in the centre of our city, opposite the Town Hall and the Library. Whatever else you do please close Red Leopard and Wild Cats and make the centre of our city safer for women.

Yours faithfully

We wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
 Silks, Sovereign St  
 Wild Cats, The Headrow  
 Deep Blue, Wellington St  
 Purple Pool, York Place  
 Liberte, York Place  
 Black Diamond Club, New Briggate



SARSVL wishes to object to the licensing of all these sex establishments – see below. We particularly object to licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library. That is Red Leopard and Wild Cats. It gives a terrible message about violence against women and women as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city. This should never have been allowed. It is an insult and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. You now have the chance to rectify this and close them. Please do.

“Every woman in our society feels the fear of rape - no woman is allowed to ignore it.....The threat of violence is a total intrusion into women's personal space and transforms a routine and/or potential pleasurable activity (for example, a walk or journey).....into a potentially upsetting, disturbing and often threatening experience.”  
 Rape Crisis England & Wales

SARSVL does not believe that Leeds City Council (LCC) licensing sex establishments is compatible with the Equality Act 2010 and Violence Against Women Strategy, which LCC states that it has taken into account in developing its policy.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that

“A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to .....eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.”

Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape (Eden, 2003). These establishments licence the objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money going on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working around lapdancing clubs.

Such establishments contribute to the sexual objectification of women and raise concern about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the environment around the clubs; how women feel about walking around these areas and what happens to them when they do and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26%

of people believe that an inappropriately dressed woman is 'asking for it' (Amnesty/ICM, 2005). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (Eden, 2003).

In 2003 Lilit published a small-scale report on lapdancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lapdance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50% increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

At SARSVL we deal with the reality of the effect the sexual objectification of women and increased harassment and attack of them around these premises. Women in public areas become unwilling symbols of the illusion of sexual availability and are often the physical recipients of male harassment or rape. In the meantime young boys growing up in the area are taught that this is an acceptable way to treat women, and young women learn that this is the way they will be treated.

Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and leaflet distribution in the area, create an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed. Advertising should not be allowed in public spaces.

If licensing is to take place, the welfare of women working within the clubs should be paramount. Licenses should require strict enforcement of protection of women from physical contact with customers. Private dance areas should be visible from the rest of the club and monitored by CCTV. Staff should know how they can complain about behaviour that is unacceptable and be given information on services that can support them, such as SARSVL.

Leeds city centre currently has a number of sex establishments in prominent locations, including the Headrow which is a main thoroughfare. These premises and any additions to them advertise Leeds as a city (and a council) that sees the sexual objectification of women as totally acceptable. It also makes the city centre an intimidating, unsafe place for women. It undermines the city's stated aim of being "fair, open and welcoming" (Vision for Leeds 2011-2030).

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. For example, much student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

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student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

Leeds is a diverse city with a variety of cultures and faiths, representing around 11% of the city. Women from a range of communities are intimidated by the proximity of these clubs and are less likely or willing to travel around the city at night when confronted by the operation of and advertising for sex establishments.

SARSVL is currently looking for premises in the city centre and has rejected one option because of its close proximity to a lap-dancing club. We cannot expect women to run the gauntlet of the harassment and intimidation created by these clubs in an attempt to access or deliver our services.

*References:*

EDEN, I. 2003 *The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*. London: Eaves

EDEN, I. 2007 *Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult venues and licensing in London*

Support After Rape and Sexual Harassment Leeds (SARSVL)  
c/o Voluntary Action Leeds  
34 Lupton St. Leeds LS10 2QW

## **Objection to SEV application for Wildcats Club**

Please acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**I request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds.**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding and established concert venue, is a centre for the arts and becoming established firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. Many children and young people use the Town Hall and it is visited by people from all over the world. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to



avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association<sup>[ii]</sup> identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted I ask for the following considerations to be made:**

I understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. I request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal (!).

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. I request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

I understand that Condition 18, 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours,' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' I challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare. I believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and I see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' I again request that any

signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. I would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind. Taxis should be licensed black cabs, not private mini-cabs.

I would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

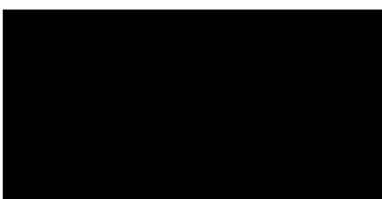
### **Further comments I would like to make about granting a licence to Wildcats:**

I entirely agree with the stand taken by some MPs, councillors and members of religious and voluntary organisations publicised in the Yorkshire Evening Post this week. I believe that lap dancing clubs are degrading and dangerous for the women who work in them. I have talked to women, including students, who have started off as lap-dancers, attracted by apparently high salaries, and found that they are regularly propositioned for full sex and expected to do more than dance. Their self-esteem dwindles and they turn to alcohol and drugs as a way of dealing with the job. As addiction sets in they become unreliable and are eventually sacked, and then turn to street prostitution with all the horrors that brings. The organisation Genesis has confirmed that they are seeing an increasing number of university-educated women working as street prostitutes and this has been also reported in the Yorkshire Evening Post. Lap-dancing clubs are the route. Treating women as bits of meat for some men's pleasure is not acceptable.

Businesswomen report that social events are held at lap-dancing clubs and this makes them feel very uncomfortable. They do not feel taken seriously as professional women and think that the effect on some men is to confirm them in sexist and objectifying behaviour as if this is OK and the norm.

**I am proud to live in the great city of Leeds and do not think it should be a haven for clubs which degrade women and in fact also the men who patronise them. There are better ways to attract visitors to our city centre and better ways for people to enjoy themselves.**

Regards,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 April 2012 20:27  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** licensing objection

**Importance:** High

Dear Leeds licensing department,

I wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
Silks, Sovereign St  
Wild Cats, The Headrow  
Deep Blue, Wellington St  
Purple Pool, York Place  
Liberte, York Place  
Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

I particularly object to licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library. That is Red Leopard and Wild Cats. It gives a terrible message about violence against women and women as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city. This should never have been allowed in the first place, it is an insult and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. You now have the chance to rectify this and close them. Please do so. I used to work as a Library Manager at the Central Library and would often work into the evening. I felt very unsafe coming out of work in proximity to these places.

I also want it on record that several of my male colleagues at the university have reported to me that the cars created to freely transport people to Silks (in particular) but also other sex establishments have stopped for them without their signalling and offered to pick them up to take them to Silks (and other sex establishments). I believe this kind of soliciting is not in the legal agreements under which these cars operate.

I would also like to mention that recently a reclaim the night march took place in the city and one of the women involved was sexually assaulted in the city centre while others watched. This goes to indicate that there is a pervasive attitude in Leeds city centre that makes sexualised violence against women acceptable.

Further more I am disgusted that Leeds as a city that is forward looking would allow licenses to so many sex establishments in such a small area. It sends a very particular message about the type of city we want to be and the type of visitor we want to attract. However, I would argue that the vast majority of people in Leeds find it humiliating that their council seems set on creating a sexualized and exploitative environment. I have written to my local counsellor and my MP on this matter and I would urge you if not to act on my objection here today then to act upon the concerns they have expressed to me in response to my letters.

"Every woman in our society feels the fear of rape - no woman is allowed to ignore it...The threat of violence is a total intrusion into women's personal space and transforms a routine and/or potential pleasurable activity (for example, a walk or journey)... into a potentially upsetting, disturbing and often threatening experience."  
Rape Crisis England & Wales

I do not believe that Leeds City Council (LCC) licensing sex establishments is compatible with the Equality Act 2010 and Violence Against Women Strategy, which LCC states that it has taken into account in developing its policy.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that

"A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act."

Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape (Eden, 2003).

These establishments licence the objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money going on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working around lapdancing clubs.

Such establishments contribute to the sexual objectification of women and raise concern about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the environment around the clubs; how women feel about walking around these areas and what happens to them when they do and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26% of people believe that an inappropriately dressed woman is 'asking for it' (Amnesty/ICM, 2005). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (Eden, 2003).

In 2003 Lilith published a small-scale report on lapdancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lapdance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50% increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) deals with the reality of the effect the sexual objectification of women and increased harassment and attack of them around these premises. Women in public areas become unwilling symbols of the illusion of sexual availability and are often the physical recipients of male harassment or rape. In the meantime young boys growing up in the area are taught that this is an acceptable way to treat women, and young women learn that this is the way they will be treated.

Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and leaflet distribution in the area, create an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed. Their advertising should not be allowed in public spaces.

If licensing is to take place, the welfare of women working within the clubs should be paramount. Licenses should require strict enforcement of protection of women from physical contact with customers. Private dance areas should be visible from the rest of the club and monitored by CCTV. Staff should know how they can complain about behaviour that is unacceptable and be given information on services that can support them, such as SARSVL.

Leeds city centre currently has a number of sex establishments in prominent locations, including the Headrow which is a main thoroughfare. These premises and any additions to them advertise Leeds as a city (and a council) that sees the sexual objectification of women as totally acceptable. It also makes the city centre an intimidating, unsafe place for women. It undermines the city's stated aim of being "fair, open and welcoming" (Vision for Leeds 2011-2030).

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. For example, much student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

Leeds is a diverse city with a variety of cultures and faiths, representing around 11% of the city. Women from a range of communities are intimidated by the proximity of these clubs and are less likely or willing to travel around the city at night when confronted by the operation of and advertising for sex establishments.

SARSVL is currently looking for premises in the city centre and has rejected one option because of its close proximity to a lap-dancing club. We cannot expect women to run the gauntlet of the harassment and intimidation created by these clubs in an attempt to access or deliver SARSVL's services.

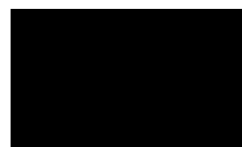
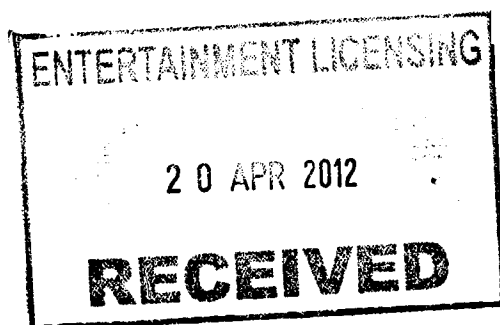
References:

EDEN, I. 2003 The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden. London: Eaves  
EDEN, I. 2007 Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult venues and licensing in London

Yours Sincerely,

██████

████████████████████



Leeds City Council Licensing Committee  
Leeds Civic Hall  
Leeds  
LS1 1UR  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Sirs,

I object to the licensing of the following establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
Silks, Sovereign Place  
Wild Cats, The Headrow  
Deep Blue, Wellington St  
**Purple Door, York Place**  
Liberte, York Place  
Black Diamond Club, New Briggate.

I must be clear that I object to all Lap Dance Clubs per se. They promote the sexual harassment of women. In traditional strip clubs women are objectified by having to strip for men for money. But in these lap dance clubs because of their peculiar rules women even have to solicit men to get them to pay for them to strip for them. Like prostitution, or licensed rape.

Men shout abuse at women and then obtain gratification by paying women to strip naked for them. It is violence against women. It is sexual harassment of women. Legitimised. Of course this encourages men to treat all women in this way once they are out on the street.

When clubs are licensed for this sex entertainment right in the centre of our city it says clearly that Leeds approves of this. I/we object particularly to Lap Dance Clubs on the Headrow in the centre of our city, opposite the Town Hall and the Library. Whatever else you do please close Red Leopard and Wild Cats and make the centre of our city safer for women.

Yours faithfully



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 April 2012 22:29  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to SEV Applications

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licences for the following establishments and please can you confirm that this has been received within the consultation period for each:

- Red Leopard, The Headrow
- Silks, Sovereign St
- Wild Cats, The Headrow
- Deep Blue, Wellington St
- Purple Pool, York Place
- Liberte, York Place
- Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

I write to request the above applications are refused for the reasons outlined below.

Based on my personal experiences on a daily basis I particularly object to the licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library, specifically Red Leopard and Wild Cats. I work in Leeds City Centre and am committed to using public transport for my journeys to and from work rather than my own personal transport that would add to congestion within the City. The bus stop I use for my journey back from work is on the Headrow, opposite the Art Gallery and very close to the two clubs in question. I work long hours and will often finish quite late and will need to get the bus home anywhere between 6pm and 8pm. If I choose to go to the gym after work, I may get the bus home up to 9pm. During the Spring, Autumn and Winter months this journey also tends to be in the dark.

I often find the proximity to these clubs during my evening wait at the bus stop intimidating. There will be groups of customers going to/from the club who are partaking in activities that serve to objectify women, and as a lone woman this can make me feel unsafe. In addition, a lot of these clubs will use their own promotional transport to taxi groups and individuals free of charge to their clubs. These tend to have blacked-out windows, and whilst I'm sure their justification is for the discretion of their customers, I find these vehicles intimidating and unsettling driving around the city and pulling up to the individual clubs.

Particularly, I feel this area of the city centre has been designed as a cultural centre with the Town Hall, Central Library, Art Gallery, Millennium Square and The Light. The inclusion of these clubs degrades this, and I feel prevents the potential of the area being realised. The Art Gallery has late opening hours, which would be an ideal evening activity for individuals, groups and families, but the presence of these clubs is off-putting and prevents the later visits being maximised. If as a city we wish to encourage citizens, and in particular our young people, to participate fully in the cultural life of the city then I see these clubs, and all throughout the city, as a massive barrier. Where they are not a barrier to individuals participating, they give a terrible message about violence against women and women as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city.

These clubs should never have been allowed in the first place, it is an insult and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. I would however, accept that the decisions to originally grant these licences were made in very different times. We are now in a very different economic climate,

and have to work much harder to protect the economy of our city, and the lives of citizens who choose to live here. Economically speaking, Leeds city centre has a lot to offer visitors, shoppers and businesses alike. Continued investment and commitment is now required more than ever to secure the future of the city for our young people. I feel that the presence of these clubs, and so many of them within close proximity to one another, cheapens the city centre both in terms of appearance and as a reflection of the values of the city. We should strive to be progressive and present our city as forward-thinking; as a city who values and protects all women and men who chose to live or visit here.

Kind regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 April 2012 19:48  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** objection to SEV application

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association[ii] identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing

clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted we would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

We understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. We would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' We would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' We would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

**Further considerations we would like to make about granting a licence to Wildcats:**

I cannot comprehend how granting this licence would enhance Leeds for its population, it will certainly put me and many young families like ours off visiting the city centre. I'm extremely saddened at this route society is taking and trust that given the rational objections that ethics will win over greed and degradation.

I am a woman that no longer feels safe to walk in these areas but I have even greater concern for the future and our daughters growing up in a world where woman are objectified to a greater degree than when I was growing up.

Regards,



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 10 April 2012 11:37

**To:** Entertainment Licensing

**Subject:** lap dancing clubs

I would like all applications for lap dancing clubs to be refused as licensing provides public recognition and through that acceptance of the demeaning of women as a legitimate form of entertainment. As well as demeaning entertainment, lap dancing clubs are closely associated with prostitution neither of which I would not like to see encouraged.

I hope my objections can be taken into account in considering these applications.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2012 08:28  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** OBJECT TO THE LICENSING OF LEEDS LAPDANCING CLUBS

I wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
Silks, Sovereign St  
Wild Cats, The Headrow  
Deep Blue, Wellington St  
Purple Pool, York Place  
Liberte, York Place  
Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

I particularly object to licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library. That is Red Leopard and Wild Cats. It gives a terrible message about violence against women and women as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city. This should never have been allowed in the first place, it is an insult and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. You now have the chance to rectify this and close them. Please do so.

Leeds is attempting to become "fair, open and welcoming" (*Vision for Leeds 2011-2030*). it is also attempting to become a child friendly city. What message to young women and girls does this send from the Local Authority to have so many licenced lap dancing clubs in the city?

Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape (*Eden, 2003*).

These establishments licence the objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money going on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working around lapdancing clubs.

Such establishments contribute to the sexual objectification of women and raise concern about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the environment around the clubs; how women feel about walking around these areas and what happens to them when they do and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26% of people believe that an inappropriately dressed woman is 'asking for it' (*Amnesty/ICM, 2005*). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (*Eden, 2003*).

In 2003 Lilith published a small-scale report on lapdancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lapdance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50%

increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

Leeds is a diverse city with a variety of cultures and faiths, representing around 11% of the city. Women from a range of communities are intimidated by the proximity of these clubs and are less likely or willing to travel around the city at night when confronted by the operation of and advertising for sex establishments.

Signed

██████████

*References:*

EDEN, I. 2003 The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden. London: Eaves

EDEN, I. 2007 Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult venues and licensing in London

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2012 08:38  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to SEV Application: Wildcats

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

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clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted we would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

We understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. We would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' We would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' We would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

**Further considerations we would like to make about granting a licence to Wildcats:**

I have two young, innocent granddaughters and I fear for their future. Although this is the 21st century and there is so much legislation to protect the individual's rights in terms of religion, race, colour and sexual orientation, women appear to have no such protection and are being treated with an appalling lack of respect, leading to greater inequality than ever. Therefore children growing up in this atmosphere are obviously at risk of then perpetuating the same. I appeal to you to recognise the dangers of allowing sexual objectification and gender stereotyping to proliferate, and request that you give the firm, clear message that Leeds does not condone and will not tolerate or allow such blatant despoiling of its great city.

Thank you for your time.

██████████



Entertainment Licensing  
Leeds City Council  
[entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk)

25 April 2012

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

**Objection to SEV application  
Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01**

**I am writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, problems that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

I have lived and worked in Leeds since 1987.

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. As you leave the Art Gallery by its main entrance, the Wildcats frontage, complete with its offensive image of a woman on all fours, is directly in front of you, and therefore in full view of the many children who visit the Art Gallery. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an 'essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity'. It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this and gives a shameful image of Leeds to its residents and visitors.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Major events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that 'Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'. The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at



Oxford Place. Young women students from Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds regularly cross the Headrow at or near this point on their way between their campus and the city centre. For the many women who use this part of the city centre for work and, leisure, avoiding walking past this club because they do not feel safe near it will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus outside the venue (bus stop Y15 is directly outside), women and girls will be forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing clubs is damaging the local economy.

I oppose this licence application most strongly on all of the grounds set out above.

**If the application is granted I would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

I understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and was subject to action from local politicians. I would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on the streets of central Leeds. I would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

I understand that Condition 18, 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours', was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones'. I would challenge this on the grounds of concerns for dancers' welfare; I believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily be disseminated on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and I see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With regard to condition 23 – 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm' – I would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as

someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. I would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

Yours sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

We wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
 Silks, Sovereign St  
 Wild Cats, The Headrow  
 Deep Blue, Wellington St  
 Purple Pool, York Place  
 Liberte, York Place  
 Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

I particularly object to licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library. That is Red Leopard and Wild Cats. It gives a terrible message about violence against women and women as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city. This should never have been allowed in the first place, it is an insult and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. You now have the chance to rectify this and close them. Please do so.

“Every woman in our society feels the fear of rape - no woman is allowed to ignore it...The threat of violence is a total intrusion into women's personal space and transforms a routine and/or potential pleasurable activity (for example, a walk or journey)... into a potentially upsetting, disturbing and often threatening experience.”  
*Rape Crisis England & Wales*

I do not believe that Leeds City Council (LCC) licensing sex establishments is compatible with the Equality Act 2010 and Violence Against Women Strategy, which LCC states that it has taken into account in developing its policy.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that

“A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.”

Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape (*Eden, 2003*).

These establishments licence the objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money going on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working around lapdancing clubs.

Such establishments contribute to the sexual objectification of women and raise concern about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the environment around the clubs; how women feel about walking around these areas and what happens to them when they do and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26%

of people believe that an inappropriately dressed woman is 'asking for it' (*Amnesty/ICM, 2005*). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (*Eden, 2003*).

In 2003 Lilith published a small-scale report on lapdancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lapdance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50% increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) deals with the reality of the effect the sexual objectification of women and increased harassment and attack of them around these premises. Women in public areas become unwilling symbols of the illusion of sexual availability and are often the physical recipients of male harassment or rape. In the meantime young boys growing up in the area are taught that this is an acceptable way to treat women, and young women learn that this is the way they will be treated.

Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and leaflet distribution in the area, create an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed. Their advertising should not be allowed in public spaces.

If licensing is to take place, the welfare of women working within the clubs should be paramount. Licenses should require strict enforcement of protection of women from physical contact with customers. Private dance areas should be visible from the rest of the club and monitored by CCTV. Staff should know how they can complain about behaviour that is unacceptable and be given information on services that can support them, such as SARSVL.

Leeds city centre currently has a number of sex establishments in prominent locations, including the Headrow which is a main thoroughfare. These premises and any additions to them advertise Leeds as a city (and a council) that sees the sexual objectification of women as totally acceptable. It also makes the city centre an intimidating, unsafe place for women. It undermines the city's stated aim of being "fair, open and welcoming" (*Vision for Leeds 2011-2030*).

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. For example, much student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2012 13:53  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** OBJECTION TO LICENCING OF SEX ESTABLISHMENTS - personal experience of assault outside of one!

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments:

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
Silks, Sovereign St  
Wild Cats, The Headrow  
Deep Blue, Wellington St  
Purple Pool, York Place  
Liberte, York Place  
Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

A few years ago I was having a few drinks after having been to the theatre and was dressed respectfully and was covered up, I am quite petite and was at this time in my late twenties. I was nipping to a cash point alone before returning to my friends in a pub. As I passed by one of these clubs a man, who was just leaving the club in a big group of men, picked me up and threw me over his shoulder and began to run carrying me away down the street. I was incredibly scared and began screaming and kicking him repeatedly and appealing to his "friends" in the group to help me and to encourage their friend to put me down and leave me alone. Some distance from the club and with the group of men having followed us he eventually put me down and was saying "alright love, I was only joking". I was furious and screamed at the man that he can not just do that to people – the group – all gathered around me, towering over me, I felt incredibly vulnerable all laughed at me and called me "psycho" etc but can you really blame my reaction?! I was being carried away into the night by a pack of drunken, cheering men who I didn't know nor could imagine would behave reasonably! They thought this behaviour to terrify a young, lone, respectably attired woman was acceptable and I can only think that their being in a strip club just prior to this can only have exacerbated their excitement/giddy/drunken-ness leading them to think that this was acceptable.

Please note that my having stressed that I had dressed conservatively does not mean that had I not done, this would have been acceptable. This experience was terribly distressing and my friends were horrified when I returned to the pub to meet them and we all went home immediately where it took several hours to calm me down from my hysterical crying and fear.

Excusing this experience, at a basic level these clubs being in Leeds make me feel embarrassed to bring friends of mine (from outside Leeds) to visit Leeds and makes me feel incredibly awkward when walking past these clubs on nights out and when walking past these clubs with or without children in the daytime. Is this how you want people to feel about walking around our city centre?

Leeds is a great city and these clubs are ruining it! I have had a terrible experience at the hands of the customers of such an establishment and I think it is safe to assume that their visit to the club had made them more open to seeing women as something that can just pick up and run way with in the street! Do you want Leeds to return to cave man times?!

Please do not licence anymore of these establishments in Leeds and please do not renew the licences of those that are already open.

Yours faithfully,

██████████

26<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**I am writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds City Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the Council's provision of its cultural offer, which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in Leeds City Council (LCC) policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds' cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All (Leeds 10k), to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home to the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically, it has been a site for key events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fair trade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advises its members that the views of women should be taken into account when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel



threatened or uncomfortable.” The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Mission at Oxford Place. For the many women who wish to avoid walking past this club, getting to these places of worship and services would involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they will be forced into a position of vulnerability and fear.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks). The others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that objectifies, degrades and dehumanises women and effectively creates a city centre-wide no-go area for female residents, workers and visitors. Recent research from the Local Government Association<sup>[ii]</sup> identifies that 72% of Council officers think that clustering of lap dancing clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted I would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

I understand that all advertisements must be approved by the Council and I would ask for consideration of the following:

Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends far beyond its geographical location. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. I request that these vehicles are prohibited but, if they are to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouettes or disguised as an animal (the Wild Cat logo is currently a silhouette of a woman on all fours with a tail – as if she were a 'wild animal').

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle and other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of the clubs' influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain littering the streets in the morning around Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. I request that discarded flyers be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers also not include images of women or the female form, including silhouettes or disguised as an animal.

I understand that Condition 18, 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' I challenge this out of concern for dancers' welfare. I believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications

without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and I see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended to lap dancing clubs.

With Condition 23, 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm' – I again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form, including in silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they find themselves on the same public transport as someone who has been a customer that evening or on a previous occasion, as she no longer has the protection of the security staff. I would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

I would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24 hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality almost constant.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 April 2012 21:35  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

**RE: Objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01.**

I am writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds.

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is also located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few. It was also the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world.

The Royal Town Planning Institute advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing clubs is damaging the local economy.

I oppose the licence for this club as a Leeds resident, a worker in Leeds City Centre, a young woman, and also as a volunteer who works on a helpline for women and girls who have been affected by sexual violence. I am acutely aware of the devastating consequences sexual violence has on survivors, and believe that sex

encounter establishments such as lap dancing clubs contribute to and encourage a culture in which sexual violence is normalised. As a city and as individuals, we should take responsibility to challenge this culture and create a society where people are valued and respected whatever their gender, and where sexual exploitation and violence are utterly unacceptable.

If the application *is* granted I would ask for the following considerations to be made:

1. That all advertisements must be approved by the council and consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. That these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.
2. The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.
3. The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.
4. I understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' I would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, as allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.
5. With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' I would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.
6. Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. I would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.
7. I would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

Regards,

████████████████████

I wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
 Silks, Sovereign St  
 Wild Cats, The Headrow  
 Deep Blue, Wellington St  
 Purple Pool, York Place  
 Liberte, York Place  
 Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

I wish to object to the licensing of all these sex establishments – see below. I particularly object to licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library. That is Red Leopard and Wild Cats. It gives a terrible message about violence against women and women as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city. This should never have been allowed. It is an insult and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. You now have the chance to rectify this and close them. Please do.

“Every woman in our society feels the fear of rape - no woman is allowed to ignore it.....The threat of violence is a total intrusion into women's personal space and transforms a routine and/or potential pleasurable activity (for example, a walk or journey).....into a potentially upsetting, disturbing and often threatening experience.”  
 Rape Crisis England & Wales

I do not believe that Leeds City Council (LCC) licensing sex establishments is compatible with the Equality Act 2010 and Violence Against Women Strategy, which LCC states that it has taken into account in developing its policy.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that

“A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to .....eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.”

Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape (Eden, 2003). These establishments licence the objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money going on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working around lapdancing clubs.

Such establishments contribute to the sexual objectification of women and raise concern about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the environment around the clubs; how women feel about walking around these areas and what happens to them when they do and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26% of people believe that an inappropriately dressed woman is 'asking for it'

(Amnesty/ICM, 2005). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (Eden, 2003).

In 2003 Lilith published a small-scale report on lapdancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lapdance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50% increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

The council needs to consider the reality of the effect the sexual objectification of women and increased harassment and attack of them around these premises. Women in public areas become unwilling symbols of the illusion of sexual availability and are often the physical recipients of male harassment or rape. In the meantime young boys growing up in the area are taught that this is an acceptable way to treat women, and young women learn that this is the way they will be treated.

Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and leaflet distribution in the area, create an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed. Advertising should not be allowed in public spaces.

If licensing is to take place, the welfare of women working within the clubs should be paramount. Licenses should require strict enforcement of protection of women from physical contact with customers. Private dance areas should be visible from the rest of the club and monitored by CCTV. Staff should know how they can complain about behaviour that is unacceptable and be given information on services that can support them.

Leeds city centre currently has a number of sex establishments in prominent locations, including the Headrow which is a main thoroughfare. These premises and any additions to them advertise Leeds as a city (and a council) that sees the sexual objectification of women as totally acceptable. It also makes the city centre an intimidating, unsafe place for women. It undermines the city's stated aim of being "fair, open and welcoming" (Vision for Leeds 2011-2030).

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. For example, much student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

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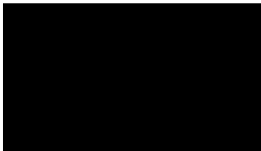
of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

Leeds is a diverse city with a variety of cultures and faiths, representing around 11% of the city. Women from a range of communities are intimidated by the proximity of these clubs and are less likely or willing to travel around the city at night when confronted by the operation of and advertising for sex establishments.

*References:*

EDEN, I. 2003 *The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*. London: Eaves

EDEN, I. 2007 *Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult venues and licensing in London*



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 April 2012 21:39  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** objection to SEV application

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable. " The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing



to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association[ii] identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted we would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

We understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly though Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. We would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 ‘The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.’ was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be ‘virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.’ We would challenge this under concerns for dancers’ welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers’ welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 ‘Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.’ We would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers’ welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is

inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

Regards,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 April 2012 11:39  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to SEV licensing: Wildcats

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association[ii] identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing

clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted we would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

We understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. We would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' We would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' We would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

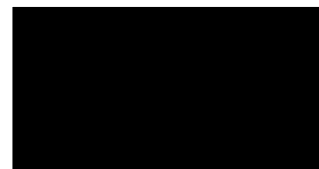
**Further considerations we would like to make about granting a licence to Wildcats:**

**The continued existence of these venues is totally out of step with women's right to equality. If racism and homophobia are not legally acceptable, why should sexism be? The council would presumably not allow a club in which black people put on shows for whites, or gay individuals danced for the amusement and derision of the straight community, so why is it considered acceptable for women to dance half naked for fully clothed men? How funny that sexism persists in the 21st century, when a 'Black and White Minstrel Show' would be deemed at best an anachronistic joke, and at worst offensive and illegal.**

**Whilever these venues exist, Leeds cannot be said to be a city which values and accepts women equally.**

**Regards,**

**[REDACTED]**



Entertainment Licensing  
Leeds City Council  
[entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk)

25 April 2012

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

**Objection to SEV application  
Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01**

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for **Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01** and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period?

**I am writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, problems that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

I am a woman who has worked in Leeds for the last 25 years and lived in Leeds for the last 12 years. I have done extensive voluntary work to support women who experience violence from men they know and women and girls who have experienced sexual violence. I also taught young women in Leeds for over 20 years. Women have the right to be in all parts of the city, and no woman or girl is safe or comfortable in the vicinity of a sexual entertainment venue. There is abundant anecdotal and research evidence of routine harassment of women by men in the streets around these establishments; of young women being approached in the street by employees of the establishments and enticed to work there; and of male customers of the establishments harassing women in the street verbally and physically.

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. As you leave the Art Gallery by its main entrance, the Wildcats frontage, complete with its offensive image of a woman on all fours, is directly in front of you, and therefore in full view of the many children who visit the Art Gallery. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an 'essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity'. It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this and gives a shameful image of Leeds to its residents and visitors.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Major events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah,

Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that 'Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'. The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place. Young women students from Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds regularly cross the Headrow at or near this point on their way between their campus and the city centre. For the many women who use this part of the city centre for work and, leisure, avoiding walking past this club because they do not feel safe near it will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus outside the venue (bus stop Y15 is directly outside), women and girls will be forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing clubs is damaging the local economy.

I oppose this licence application most strongly on all of the grounds set out above.

**If the application is granted I would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

I understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly though Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and was subject to action from local politicians. I would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on the streets of central Leeds. I would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

I understand that Condition 18, 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours', was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones'. I would challenge this on the grounds of concerns for dancers' welfare; I believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could

then easily be disseminated on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and I see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With regard to condition 23 – 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm' – I would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. I would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

Yours sincerely

██████████

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 April 2012 12:17  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to SEV application  
Leeds City Council Licensing Committee

Leeds Civic Hall

Leeds LS1 1UR

Dear Sirs,

I object to the licensing of the following establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow

Silks, Sovereign Place

Wild Cats, The Headrow

Deep Blue, Wellington St

Purple Door, York Place

Liberte, York Place

Black Diamond Club, New Briggate.

I must be clear that I object to all Lap Dance Clubs per se. They promote the sexual harassment of women. In traditional strip clubs women are objectified by having to strip for men for money. But in these lap dance clubs because of their peculiar rules women even have to solicit men to get them to pay for them to strip for them. Like prostitution, or licensed rape.

Men shout abuse at women and then obtain gratification by paying women to strip naked for them. It is violence against women. It is sexual harassment of women. Legitimised. Of course this encourages men to treat all women in this way once they are out on the street.



When clubs are licensed for this sex entertainment right in the centre of our city it says clearly that Leeds approves of this. I/we object particularly to Lap Dance Clubs on the Headrow in the centre of our city, opposite the Town Hall and the Library. Whatever else you do please close Red Leopard and Wild Cats and make the centre of our city safer for women.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

--

[Redacted signature]

to: entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk  
subject: objection to SEV application

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds.**

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The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' We would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' We would again request

that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

Regards,

██████████

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2012 15:32  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to licensing sex establishments in Leeds

Dear Sirs

I wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments:

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
Silks, Sovereign St  
Wild Cats, The Headrow  
Deep Blue, Wellington St  
Purple Pool, York Place  
Liberte, York Place  
Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

I particularly object to licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library. That is Red Leopard and Wild Cats. It gives a terrible message about violence against women and women as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city. This should never have been allowed in the first place, it is an insult and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. You now have the chance to rectify this and close them. Please do so.

“Every woman in our society feels the fear of rape - no woman is allowed to ignore it... The threat of violence is a total intrusion into women's personal space and transforms a routine and/or potential pleasurable activity (for example, a walk or journey)... into a potentially upsetting, disturbing and often threatening experience.” *Rape Crisis England & Wales*

I do not believe that Leeds City Council (LCC) licensing sex establishments is compatible with the Equality Act 2010 and Violence Against Women Strategy, which LCC states that it has taken into account in developing its policy.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that

“A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.”

Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape (*Eden, 2003*).

These establishments licence the objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money going on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working around lapdancing clubs.

Such establishments contribute to the sexual objectification of women and raise concern about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the environment around the clubs; how women feel about walking around these areas and

what happens to them when they do and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26% of people believe that an inappropriately dressed woman is 'asking for it' (*Amnesty/ICM, 2005*). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (*Eden, 2003*).

In 2003 Lilit published a small-scale report on lapdancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lapdance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50% increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) deals with the reality of the effect the sexual objectification of women and increased harassment and attack of them around these premises. Women in public areas become unwilling symbols of the illusion of sexual availability and are often the physical recipients of male harassment or rape. In the meantime young boys growing up in the area are taught that this is an acceptable way to treat women, and young women learn that this is the way they will be treated.

Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and leaflet distribution in the area, create an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed. Their advertising should not be allowed in public spaces.

If licensing is to take place, the welfare of women working within the clubs should be paramount. Licenses should require strict enforcement of protection of women from physical contact with customers. Private dance areas should be visible from the rest of the club and monitored by CCTV. Staff should know how they can complain about behaviour that is unacceptable and be given information on services that can support them, such as SARSVL.

Leeds city centre currently has a number of sex establishments in prominent locations, including the Headrow which is a main thoroughfare. These premises and any additions to them advertise Leeds as a city (and a council) that sees the sexual objectification of women as totally acceptable. It also makes the city centre an intimidating, unsafe place for women. It undermines the city's stated aim of being "fair, open and welcoming" (*Vision for Leeds 2011-2030*).

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. For example, much student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

Leeds is a diverse city with a variety of cultures and faiths, representing around 11% of the city. Women from a range of communities are intimidated by the proximity of these clubs and are less likely or willing to travel around the city at night when confronted by the operation of and advertising for sex establishments.

SARSVL is currently looking for premises in the city centre and has rejected one option because of its close proximity to a lap-dancing club. We cannot expect women to run the gauntlet of the harassment and intimidation created by these clubs in an attempt to access or deliver SARSVL's services.

Yours sincerely



*References:*

EDEN, I. 2003 The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden. London: Eaves

EDEN, I. 2007 Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult venues and licensing in London

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 April 2012 22:05  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** objection to SEV application - Wildcats

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association[ii] identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing



clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted we would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

We understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. We would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' We would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' We would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24 hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

**Further considerations we would like to make about granting a licence to Wildcats:**

I work with vulnerable teenagers, the majority of which are girls. I see the impact of this obvious increase of the sexualisation of women in their city has on their self-esteem, their relationships with men and their sexual behaviour. These girls are feeling less able to say no to sexual advances and are normalising forced sexual encounters. I believe it impacts their assertiveness about using sexual protection as they want to appear more sexual to boys as they see these clubs and their posters/ cars wherever they go in their city.

As a woman, I feel that there are streets I need to avoid on an evening due to the kinds of atmosphere these clubs create. I believe that the sheer number of the clubs normalises them and they are seen as 'just another night out'. This impacts not only women, but our society as a whole. Young children are able to see posters of semi-naked women in provocative poses advertising these clubs at any time of the day in the city centre. Should parents just avoid ever taking their children into the city centre? That these children are growing up in a city which now appears to do nothing to show them that it is unacceptable to treat women this way is

extremely upsetting. As I've mentioned the impact it has on the teenagers I work with, I can only imagine the kind of impact it will have on those who have never known Leeds to be any other way.

Regards

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 25 April 2012 11:10  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to SEV licence: Wildcats

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Wildcats lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00016/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**We are writing to request the above application is refused on the grounds of location, including premises in the vicinity, the character of the club's locality, issues that could arise from the location and the number of clubs already in Leeds:**

Wildcats is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery, Central Library and Town Hall. The Town Hall, as well as being a wedding venue, is becoming a centre for the arts with the aim to establish it firmly as a natural home and focus for arts across the city. It is in close proximity to Millennium Square, the City Museum and the Carriageworks theatre. These are locations identified in Section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011 as part of the council's provision of its cultural offer which is described as an "essential aid to community involvement and an increasing sense of common identity". It is important that the character of this locality, as stated in LCC policy, is protected. The presence of Wildcats in this locality impedes this.

Wildcats is located in close proximity to the newly refurbished Victoria Gardens. This area was recently significantly regenerated in keeping with its status as the home of Leeds cultural offer (as listed in 6.4). The project included significant funding from M&S, partnership working with local environmental organisation Groundwork, and involved significant community consultation and involvement, including the active participation of local school children. In the current financial situation, LCC has a duty to protect this significant investment. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue in such close proximity to this site detracts from this area's role as providing a cultural offer. Clearly this cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010. Events for members of Leeds' diverse population take place or begin in Victoria Gardens, including the lighting of the Giant Menorah, Reclaim the Night Leeds, VE day celebrations, children's fairground attractions, Leeds Pride, lighting of Christmas lights and Jane Tomlinson's Run For All to name a few.

Victoria Gardens is also home the municipal war memorial, where wreaths and poppies are frequently placed, and Remembrance Sunday parades are held. This monument should be respected and the location around it should remain appropriate. Historically it has been a site for key historic events, such as peace and justice demonstrations, including the pre-war suffragette rallies and anti-war demonstrations over conflicts such as Vietnam and Iraq. It was the venue for the official declaration of Leeds as a 'Fairtrade City', seeking fairtrade between the 'developed' and 'developing' world. Such heritage should be respected.

The Royal Town Planning Institute[i] advise their members that the views of women should be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that "Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable." The location of Wildcats is on a busy main street with bus stops, churches and services close by, including The Women's Counselling & Therapy Service in Oxford Chambers, Leeds Cathedral and The Methodist Church at Oxford Place, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will involve such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus stop Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Red Leopard) and the furthest is only 0.7miles away (Silks) the others are between 0.3 to 0.5 miles away. Having such a saturation of these clubs in Leeds city centre promotes a culture that degrades women and effectively creates a city centre wide no-go area for women. Recent research from the Local Government Association[ii] identifies that 72% of council officers think that clustering of lap dancing

clubs is damaging the local economy.

**If the application is granted we would ask for the following considerations to be made:**

We understand that all advertisements must be approved by the council and we would ask for consideration of the following: Due to the use of lap dance club branded vehicles that drive slowly through Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends well beyond the geographical location of the club. The existence of the practice is noted in the consultation report, and has been subject to action from local politicians. We would request that these vehicles are prohibited, but if to be allowed, that they display no images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

The use of these vehicles creates an intimidating and hostile presence in the city centre, due to their practice of cruising round the city at slow speeds trying to attract customers to get into their vehicles. The driver of the vehicle, or other employees of the club should be prohibited from approaching members of the public to encourage them into the vehicle, including calling out from within the vehicle. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before the morning commuters arrive in the city centres and that these flyers would also not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

We understand that Condition 18 'The taking of photographs and visual film footage (other than CCTV) is not to be permitted on the premises during operating hours.' was removed at consultation due to the objection that it would be 'virtually impossible to control, especially with the advent of cameras on mobile phones.' We would challenge this under concerns for dancers' welfare, we believe allowing photography in lap dancing clubs will allow for pornographic images to be taken of women, which could then easily exist on the internet and in pornographic publications without the consent of the woman involved. Many other establishments (designer shops / art galleries / music venues) have photography bans, and we see no reason why, with the dancers' welfare in mind, this rule cannot be extended in lap dancing clubs.

With condition 23 'Signage will only be illuminated between 10pm and 6am, and movable signs placed outside the premises will be removed between 6am and 10pm.' We would again request that any signage used does not include images of women or the female form including silhouette or disguised as an animal.

Employers of staff who work unsocial hours (for example fast food outlets) provide their staff with a free taxi home as public transport has often ceased when the staff have finished their shifts. Women at who work at lap dancing clubs are potentially at risk if they found themselves on the same public transport as someone who had been a customer earlier in their shift, as she would no longer have the protection of the security staff. We would like this to be included in conditions, again with dancers' welfare in mind.

We would like further consideration to be taken regarding the opening times of these clubs. It is inappropriate that they should be able to operate close to 24 hours a day, making the effects of the clubs on the locality an all-day occurrence.

**Further considerations we would like to make about granting a licence to Wildcats:**

As a lifelong resident of Leeds and mother of two young daughters, I am extremely concerned about the potential long-term impact of allowing clubs such as these to flourish. I strongly believe that a culture which normalises the sexual objectification of women is not a positive one to be growing up in. How do I explain what these places are when my daughters ask whilst we are walking around the city centre? What messages does this send her? That a woman's only worth is in her physical appearance? That a woman's main purpose in life is to look sexy for men?

And what about the impact of these messages on young men; are they going to respect women as human beings with rights and feelings after a trip to Wildcats? In a culture which already seems to still believe that women who are raped must be somehow to blame, do clubs such as Wildcats fuel these myths; after all, if she was dancing sexy for me in the club, then she must be 'up for it'.

Which brings us to the impact upon the dancers themselves, who scrape a living working in these clubs. Not only are there many issues around physical safety as mentioned above, but the mental wellbeing of the women who are routinely degraded for a living by men who do not see them as real people, but sex objects who are there purely to please them. I think we are well aware now that the 'no-touching' rule is not always enforced. Many women who end up working in these environments have previous experience of sexual abuse; how cruel that they now simply accept this as a norm in their working lives, in a 'legitimate', approved, licensed premises.

In summary, I firmly believe that venues such as Wildcats do not provide a positive image of the Leeds as a cultural, forward-thinking city. Furthermore, the potential negative impact upon the rest of our society cannot, and should not, be underestimated.

Regards,

██████████

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 24 April 2012 12:56  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Objecting to the re-licensing of 8 lap dancing clubs in Leeds  
To the Licensing Committee

Friends,

**Re: Objecting to the re-licensing of 8 lap dancing clubs in Leeds**

I am very concerned about the collective damage done to society by the continued proliferation of the lap dancing industry. As a Feminist and a Quaker I object to the sexual and financial exploitation of women and men.

Personally, I have seen one marriage heading for divorce because of the man's addiction to the clubs and another man I know who has created 1000's of pounds worth of debt because of his addiction to lap dancing. I have a concern not only for the exploitation of women but of the individuals who are "clients" or "customers" of lap dancing venues.

I note that Leeds City Council have decided to consider each license on a case by case basis when other cities have set a cap on the number of lap dancing clubs or imposed strict restrictions on the character of the locality that they can operate within.

In light of this I ask that the licensing committee use their discretionary powers when considering all eight clubs to:

Refuse all applications and set a nil limit for the future.

**Where they do exist they should not be:**

1. Located on or be visible from main thoroughfares, main shopping streets or community spaces.
2. Located near civic buildings or places of worship.
3. Able to tout, offer lifts to or advertise their clubs using cars or women as promotional tools.

**This is so that:**

1. Leeds can be experienced during the day by residents and visitors without encountering a lap dancing club.
2. Civic celebrations and memorial services can take place without lap dancing clubs in the background.
3. At night the sex industry does not dominate the character of the city.
4. People in Leeds are safeguarded from the effects of the sex industry.
5. People can easily avoid the sex industry if they wish to.
6. The licensed sex industry where it operates does so in a discreet manner.

I welcome the new powers available to Local Authorities and call upon Leeds City Council to use them to make the city of Leeds a healthier place for all residents.

In Friendship,

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 April 2012 19:23  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Licensing objection

I wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow

Silks, Sovereign St

Wild Cats, The Headrow

Deep Blue, Wellington St

Purple Pool, York Place

Liberte, York Place

Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

I particularly object to licensing of sex establishments on the Headrow opposite the Town Hall and Main Library. That is Red Leopard and Wild Cats. It gives a terrible message about violence against women and women's treatment as sex objects being condoned right in the heart of our city. This should never have been allowed in the first place - it is an insult to all residents of Leeds and makes the very centre of our city unsafe. You now have the chance to rectify this and close these establishments. Please do so.

I do not believe that Leeds City Council (LCC) licensing sex establishments is compatible with the Equality Act 2010 and Violence Against Women Strategy, which LCC states that it has taken into account in developing its policy.

The Equalities Act 2010 states that

“A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act.”

Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape.

These establishments rely on the sexual objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money which goes on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working within and near lapdancing clubs.

I also have concerns about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the

environment around the clubs, how women feel about walking around these areas and what happens to them when they do, and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry which the licensing of these establishments contributes to.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26% of people believe that an 'inappropriately' dressed woman is 'asking for it' (*Amnesty/ICM, 2005*). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (*Eden, 2003*).

In 2003 Lilith published a small-scale report on lapdancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lapdance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50% increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

Women in public areas become unwilling symbols of the illusion of sexual availability and are often the physical recipients of male harassment or rape. In the meantime young boys growing up in the area are taught that this is an acceptable way to treat women, and young women learn that this is the way they will be treated.

Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and leaflet distribution in the area, create an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed. Their advertising should not be allowed in public spaces.

If licensing is to take place, the welfare of women working within the clubs should be paramount. Licenses should require strict enforcement of protection of women from physical contact with customers. Private dance areas should be visible from the rest of the club and monitored by CCTV. Staff should know how they can complain about behaviour that is unacceptable and be given information on services that can support them, such as SARSVL (Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds).

Leeds city centre currently has a number of sex establishments in prominent locations, including the Headrow which is a main thoroughfare. These premises and any additions to them advertise Leeds as a city (and a council) that sees the sexual objectification of women as totally acceptable. It also makes the city centre an intimidating, unsafe place for women. It undermines the city's stated aim of being "fair, open and welcoming".

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. For example, much student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

Leeds is a diverse city with a variety of cultures and faiths, representing around 11% of the city. Women from a range of communities are intimidated by the proximity of these clubs and are less likely or willing to travel around the city at night when confronted by the operation of and advertising for sex establishments.

I hope you will consider these objections and ensure that the above mentioned establishments are closed down or severely restricted.



Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the licensing of the following sex establishments

Red Leopard, The Headrow  
Silks, Sovereign St  
Wild Cats, The Headrow  
Deep Blue, Wellington St  
Purple Pool, York Place  
Liberte, York Place  
Black Diamond Club, New Briggate

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“Every woman in our society feels the fear of rape - no woman is allowed to ignore it...The threat of violence is a total intrusion into women's personal space and transforms a routine and/or potential pleasurable activity (for example, a walk or journey)... into a potentially upsetting, disturbing and often threatening experience.”  
*Rape Crisis England & Wales*

I do not believe that Leeds City Council (LCC) licensing sex establishments is compatible with the Equality Act 2010 and Violence Against Women Strategy, which LCC states that it has taken into account in developing its policy.

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Research has shown that wherever lapdance and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result, with increased reports of rape (*Eden, 2003*).

These establishments licence the objectification of women so for LCC to licence such premises goes against the duty they have to implement equalities legislation. Licensing such clubs suggests LCC condones the sexual objectification of women for money going on inside them. This actively damages women and girls living and working around lap dancing clubs.

Such establishments contribute to the sexual objectification of women and raise concern about the welfare of women working in the clubs, the impact on the environment around the clubs; how women feel about walking around these areas and what happens to them when they do and to the general mainstreaming of the commercial sex industry.

While lapdancing and the illusion of sexual availability become mainstreamed, rape conviction rates are falling, street harassment and casual attacks are rising and 26% of people believe that an inappropriately dressed woman is 'asking for it' (*Amnesty/ICM, 2005*). The numbers of reported rapes around lap dancing clubs is three times the national average (*Eden, 2003*).

In 2003 Lilith published a small-scale report on lap dancing in Camden, Westminster and Islington. The report highlighted the extensive impact that lap dance and striptease clubs had upon women in the local area, in terms of immediate dangers such as a 50% increase in reported rape, but also in terms of less measurable effects, such as increased harassment and fear of violence. Harassment from men leaving the club or touts outside also increased significantly after the opening of a club. Venues offering adult entertainment involving nudity tend to increase perceptions of crime and potential risk, potentially seriously restricting the rights of women in the area to move about freely in safety.

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) deals with the reality of the effect the sexual objectification of women and increased harassment and attack of them around these premises. Women in public areas become unwilling symbols of the illusion of sexual availability and are often the physical recipients of male harassment or rape. In the meantime young boys growing up in the area are taught that this is an acceptable way to treat women, and young women learn that this is the way they will be treated.

Advertising for these establishments, including signage and frontages of premises and leaflet distribution in the area, create an intimidating atmosphere and a real threat to the safety of women. No advertising should be allowed for such premises and explicit images displaying what goes on within the clubs should not be allowed. Their advertising should not be allowed in public spaces.

If licensing is to take place, the welfare of women working within the clubs should be paramount. Licenses should require strict enforcement of protection of women from physical contact with customers. Private dance areas should be visible from the rest of the club and monitored by CCTV. Staff should know how they can complain about behaviour that is unacceptable and be given information on services that can support them, such as SARSVL.

Leeds city centre currently has a number of sex establishments in prominent locations, including the Headrow which is a main thoroughfare. These premises and any additions to them advertise Leeds as a city (and a council) that sees the sexual objectification of women as totally acceptable. It also makes the city centre an intimidating, unsafe place for women. It undermines the city's stated aim of being "fair, open and welcoming" (*Vision for Leeds 2011-2030*).

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. For example, much student accommodation is located in the city centre. This increases the vulnerability of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

Leeds is a diverse city with a variety of cultures and faiths, representing around 11% of the city. Women from a range of communities are intimidated by the proximity of these clubs and are less likely or willing to travel around the city at night when confronted by the operation of and advertising for sex establishments.

SARSVL is currently looking for premises in the city centre and has rejected one option because of its close proximity to a lap-dancing club. We cannot expect women to run the gauntlet of the harassment and intimidation created by these clubs in an attempt to access or deliver SARSVL's services.

As a female living in Leeds I feel highly uncomfortable at the thought of so many of these establishments being so explicitly in view for our children, in an already sexualised world where young people aspire to grow up and work in these places. I disagree fully with the idea of women inside parading for the satisfaction of rowdy males, taunting and believing they can have a women do anything for them – complete control. Many women are being pushed into this industry by the onset of the recession, but the truth is they are exploited and this selling of sex as a commodity reinforce that violence against women is acceptable. Act now – listen to the women of Leeds!!!

Kind Regards.

*References:*

EDEN, I. 2003 The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden. London: Eaves

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