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01



### 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:** Iqbal, Cllr Mohammed  
**Sent:** 20 March 2012 22:00  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Councillors All  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Application for Sex Establishment (Sexual Entertainment) Licence

I would like to object to this licence.

We have enough of these establishments in our city already. These businesses are an insult to our woman and children who pass by these premises with rude signage and literature on the doors, walls and windows.

It's about time our council made policy to stop issuing further licences to new clubs.

Further more the existing clubs signage needs to be monitored that they are not offending our communities.

Cllr Mohammed Iqbal  
City & Hunslet Ward

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Charlwood, Cllr Rebecca

**Sent:** 20 March 2012 19:50

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Licence application

Dear [REDACTED]

I object to this application in the strongest terms.

1. The Headrow is a main thoroughfare and the purpose of venue will be clear to children and families. These venues send the wrong message entirely to people about Leeds. If we are to become a child friendly city we should never grant a license on a main shopping street again and we should tackle existing establishments.

2. There is a high number of sex establishments in Leeds already and we should use the powers of local government to tackle this market because:

> They are demeaning to women and their continued growth sadly demonstrates society's tolerance of inequality.

> They seek to glamourise sex work and target our young women in the city.

> The associated promotional work (cars touting for trade) are a menace and bring down the tone of the whole city to that of a red light zone. I have seen cars at 9pm on Park Row effectively kerb crawling and parked up outside fundraisers at Elland Road.

If we are to be proud of our city after dark we need to take a strong line on the growth of this industry, it really is a blight on Leeds and should be more heavily regulated and controlled.

Rebecca Charlwood  
Cllr Moortown and Meanwood ward  
Labour Group

[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

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Illingworth, Cllr John  
**Sent:** 20 March 2012 21:44  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** RE: Licence application

I write to object to the application for a Sex Establishment at Red Leopard, 163/167 The Headrow, Leeds LS1 2QS. This "entertainment" is degrading to both men and women, and it will reduce the overall attractiveness of the Headrow and neighbouring city centre locations.

John Illingworth

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Maqsood, Cllr Kamila  
**Sent:** 20 March 2012 20:43  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Notice of Application for Sex Establishment (Sexual Entertainment) Licence

Dear I wish to object to this application in the strongest terms possible.

Regards

Kamila

Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 March 2012 20:15  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Licence application

Dear [REDACTED]

I too would like to add my objection to this application.

I think Cllr Charlwood has rather eloquently spelled out what are my reasons as well. This is not the type of business the city needs on the Headrow (or anywhere at all) and sends the wrong message as to the sort of city Leeds is and aspires to be.

I too would also wish to see stronger regulation and control on this industry as I think it is already too prevalent in Leeds as it is.

Best wishes

Neil

**Councillor Neil Walshaw**  
Labour  
Headingley Ward  
Leeds City Council

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Gruen, Cllr Peter  
**Sent:** 21 March 2012 11:27  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Licence application

Dear Philomena

Thank you for consulting us on this very controversial issue. I trust that our opinions will be reported and taken into account.

I have the same objections as particularly expressed by Cllrs Charlwood and Iqbal. I would be very surprised if this did not represent the overwhelming views of Councillors.

Could you please let us know the decision making process and timetable.

Regards

PJG

Councillor Peter Gruen  
Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council  
Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Regeneration  
Civic Hall  
Leeds LS1 1UR  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Lowe, Cllr Alison  
**Sent:** 21 March 2012 14:02  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Licence application

Philomena, I too object to this application. There is already a proliferation of such establishments in Leeds and that is enough. Leeds is not just a centre for night life, it is also home to many family orientated ventures and women and children will be adversely impacted on by the growing number of such business operating in the centre of Leeds. I ask that this application be rejected.  
Cllr Alison Lowe

[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:** 15 April 2012 15:15

**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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 [<!--\[if !supportFootnotes\]-->\[i\]<!--\[endif\]-->](#) 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 Red Leopard 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 (Wildcats) 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 [supportFootnotes](#) 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 Red Leopard:**

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

<!--[if !supportEndnotes]-->

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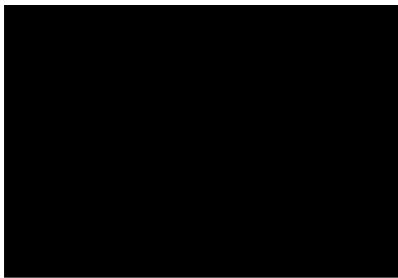
<!--[if !supportFootnotes]-->[\[i\]<!--\[endif\]-->](#) RTPI (2007) **Gender and Spatial Planning – RTPI**

**Good Practice Note 7** London: RTPI

<!--[if !supportFootnotes]-->[\[ii\]<!--\[endif\]-->](#) 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.

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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



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 21:35  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**I/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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

**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 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. 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. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

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extended in lap dancing clubs.

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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.

Regards,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 16:52  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** objection to SEV application ref SX/SEV/00010/12/01

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

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There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre, the closest is only 210ft away (Wildcats) and the furthest is only 0.7 miles 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.

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 though Leeds promoting the clubs, the area of influence of the club extends ill 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 Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. 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 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 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.

Regards

██████████

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2012 17:25  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

**If the application is granted I/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 was 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. 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.

Regards,

**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 redaction box covering the signature area.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 17:34  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Proposed licence for Red Leopard club - ref SX/SEV/00010/12/01

Please could you confirm that this e-mail is received and that it is within the consultation period.

I am writing to to object to the proposed allocation of an entertainment licence for the Red Leopard lap dancing and night club. I believe that the area is already saturated with such establishments within a few hundred metres of the location of this establishment. However, this one on the Headrow is opposite the Art Gallery, Town Hall, and close to the cultural highlights of Leeds including the City Museum and the Carriageworks Theatre and Millennium Square which are part of the Leeds Cultural offer which has received substantial investment during the past decade to improve the image of the city. In fact in nearby Victoria Gardens school children were involved in the regeneration. They should be allowed to have their hard work as a proud achievement to look back on in years to come. It does not give out the right image to visitors to these cultural highspots and detracts from the whole impression that Leeds is promoting. As such siting a club such as this in this location could be against section 6 of the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy 2011.

Women visitors as well as children will feel unsafe around such establishments and the signage and advertising including cruising vehicles and fly leaflets that are associated with lap dancing clubs will give the wrong degrading image of women as a norm and acceptable fact which detracts from the moral and spiritual welfare of the happiness and wellbeing of women and children in Leeds. Places such as this are (without sounding too conservative or inflammatory I hope) exploitative in their nature and are the thin end of the wedge for the fight against crime and might promote the criminal and abusive pornography trade.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 April 2012 22:08  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Opposition to Red Leopard re-licensing

Hi,

I would like to object to the re-licensing of the Red Leopard club on the Headrow on the grounds that it is on a main street that people can't avoid and also opposite the town hall and should not be in a civic quarter.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 11 April 2012 18:13

**To:** Entertainment Licensing

**Subject:** Red Leopard club re-application for licence

I would like to object to this licence for the Red Leopard club. Since this club opened I feel that the area has deteriorated. For example I no longer feel comfortable walking from the No49 bus stop to Mr Foley's pub on an evening. This used to be a favourite haunt of my friends and I. I generally avoid that end of the city centre all together as a result of the plethora of lap dancing clubs and this also makes for some interesting lengthy walks round the centre to get taxi's home later in the evening . I would not be willing to arrange to meet any friends nearby as I would have concerns for their safety. I find that the general attitude towards women in Leeds on an evening has been deteriorating since the opening of clubs such as this one. Whilst some may have active unions, and pay reasonable wages to the women who work in them, I remain unconvinced that a venue where staff can be seen smoking outside the front wearing dressingowns is one that has the best record for workers rights. As the nature of the club is such the majority of workers are women I feel supporting establishments such as this reflects very poorly on the representation of Leeds City Council as an equality aware authority.

I hope you will consider the application carefully and reject it in the interests of public safety and respect for all citizens

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[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:** 15 April 2012 23:20  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** objection to SEV application  
to: [entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk](mailto: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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

**If the application is granted I 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 was 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. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

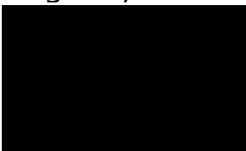
The littering of promotional material on the streets of Leeds also extends the sphere of influence. Leaflets with explicit images frequently remain in the morning on Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. We would request that discarded flyers must be collected by the clubs before 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.

Regards,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2012 16:19  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

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 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. 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. 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 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.

Yours sincerely,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 23:03  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to SEV application

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

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

**Objection to SEV application reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 Red Leopard lap dancing club**

**I am writing, within the consultation period, 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 worked in Leeds for the last 20 years and lived in Leeds for the last 12 years. I have done voluntary work staffing a suicide prevention helpline, through which I have supported many women who experience violence from men they know, and women and girls who have experienced sexual violence.

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.

The Headrow is a particularly unsuitable location for a sexual entertainment venue, for a number of reasons:

1. It is a road used by many women and girls walking from shops, restaurants, bars and nightclubs in the city centre to the bus-stops on The Headrow, and also by women students walking to and from the city centre from the campuses of Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds. Women and girls walking in this area will not feel safe or be safe from harassment if they have to walk past a sexual entertainment venue.
2. Important public buildings on The Headrow include the City Art Gallery and the Henry Moore Sculpture Gallery, which are visited by many women and children. Many women work in businesses in the surrounding streets. To get to and from work they will have to walk past these premises, and they will be at risk of harassment and intimidation.
3. The Headrow is one of the most prominent and well-known roads in Leeds City Centre, and because of the landmark buildings on it – including the Town Hall, Art Gallery – is often used when giving directions to visitors to Leeds and in photographic and artistic images which promote Leeds as a city. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue on this

road will give a dreadful impression to visitors and locals of Leeds as a city, and of the values it wishes to promote in its city centre.

4. As noted above, Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.
5. Red Leopard 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.
6. 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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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.
7. There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre. The closest is only 210ft away (Wildcats) 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.

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 Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. 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 redaction box covering the signature area.

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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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 economic climate, 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. This cultural offer should be open to all members of the community, as embodied in the Equality Act 2010.

The Royal Town Planning Institute 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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by. For the many women who wish to avoid walking past this club, this would involve such a significant detour as to be prohibitive or unfeasible 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 (Wildcats) 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.

**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 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 Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. 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.

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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 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 faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 April 2012 13:22  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

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

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Further considerations I/we would like to make about granting a licence to Red Leopard:

Will the license grant yet another intrusive, loud and very visually dominant curb crawling truck? As the competition between these free rides to the strip clubs create a very awkward walk to and from anywhere on a Saturday night. Especially as the drivers often approach mixed groups (often couples) and try to entice customers; entirely disregarding the feelings of the women present. More competition in that way makes the prominence of the strip scene very apparent and the justification for additions to such a saturated scene usually present the argument that they are behind closed doors and one can choose not to engage; this is not the case when you have blaring music and beastly trucks approaching you asking you if you and your partner want a free ride....

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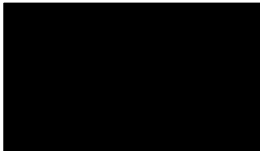
of women walking around areas where a number of sex establishments are in operation.

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*



[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 April 2012 19:15  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**I/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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

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**If the application is granted I/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 was 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. 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.

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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.

### **Further considerations I/we would like to make about granting a licence to Red Leopard:**

I have experienced harrasment and threats of sexual violence from men leaving these clubs in the light time hours. I daren't enter town at night now, its too dangerous. The lsat time was on a Saturday morning around 6am. I was walking to the train station and the club was kicking out. A man tried to grab at me, he called me offensive words and tried to follow me down the street. I have had so many negetive experiences around the streets of venues such as this one that Leeds city centre is a no-go zone for me, even at 6am. By licensing this club, you are bullying me as a decent law abiding citizen off the streets. I feel as though i am to be punished for simply being a woman wanting to get a train at 6.30am. This club also hands out flyers with pornographic material on them. The streets of Leeds are strewn with tem each morning, it is offensive, why must i be made to see such misogynistic rubbish? You cannot claim with any integrity that the people who frequent these venues have any respect for women and by the council validating their exploitation you tell them that women are for sale and are objects. They then take it out on women like me who want nothing to do with them. How many more rapes have to happen in Leeds city centre before you realise the cause and effect of dehumanising women for profit?

Regards,

A long, solid black horizontal bar redacting the signature line.A solid black square redacting the name of the sender.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 April 2012 21:42  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

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**If the application is granted I 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 was 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. The vehicles should also be prohibited from driving at walking pace.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 16:53  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to SEV application

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

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

### **Objection to SEV application**

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for **Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01** 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.

The Headrow is a particularly unsuitable location for a sexual entertainment venue, for a number of reasons:

1 It is a road used by many women and girls walking from shops, restaurants, bars and nightclubs in the city centre to the bus-stops on The Headrow, and also by women students walking to and from the city centre from the campuses of Leeds Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds. Women and girls walking in this area will not feel safe or be safe from harassment if they have to walk past a sexual entertainment venue.

2 Important public buildings on The Headrow include the City Art Gallery and the Henry Moore Sculpture Gallery, which are visited by many women and children. Many women work in businesses in the surrounding streets. To get to and from work they will have to walk past these premises, and they will be at risk of harassment and intimidation.

3 The Headrow is one of the most prominent and well-known roads in Leeds City Centre, and because of the landmark buildings on it – including the Town Hall, Art Gallery – is often used when giving directions to visitors to Leeds and in photographic and artistic images which promote Leeds as a city. Licensing a sexual entertainment venue on this road will give a dreadful impression to visitors and locals of Leeds as a city, and of the values it wishes to promote in its city centre.

4 As noted above, Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

5 Red Leopard 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.

6 The Royal Town Planning Institute advise their members that the views of women  
should

'Evidence be considered when considering locations in the city, stating specifically that

feel shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women

with threatened or uncomfortable'. The location of Red Leopard is on a busy main street

involve bus stops close by, for many women who wish to avoid walking past this club will

stop such a significant detour as to not be an option and if needing to catch a bus (bus

Y15 is directly outside) they are forced into a position of vulnerability.

7 There are currently 7 active lap dancing clubs in Leeds, all in the city centre. The

closest

is only 210ft away (Wildcats) 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.

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 Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. 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.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 13:49  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** Objection to application for Sex Establishment Licence (Red Leopard)

I am writing to object to the granting of an application for a Sex Establishment Licence for the premises at Red Leopard, 163/167, The Head row, Leeds LS1 2QS to operate as a Sexual Entertainment Venue.

Firstly, I understand that the Council is able to limit the numbers of these clubs, and would strongly urge the Committee to do this as a general principle.

Secondly, I also understand that the Council is able to ensure that those which do exist are sited appropriately. In this case, the club is directly opposite one of Leeds' most iconic buildings - the Town Hall - as well as being close to the Central Library, the Art Gallery, and the Courts. It has a direct effect on the character of an area of significant civic amenity in a part of the city well used by people of all ages and communities, both during the day and in the evenings.

In addition, the Headrow is one of the main thoroughfares through the city, with passing traffic at all times. I do not believe that it is appropriate that such a venue should be located in such a high-profile area which is so much a part of the city's historic, cultural and social identity, and I would therefore ask that you refuse this application.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 19:02  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

If the application is granted I/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 was 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. 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.

Thank you,

██████████

[REDACTED]

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**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]

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[Redacted signature]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 April 2012 12:13  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

**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. 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. 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.

Regards,

[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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

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

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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. 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.

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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:** 11 April 2012 20:55  
**To:** Entertainment Licensing  
**Subject:** My objection to SEV application

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

Please can you acknowledge receipt of this objection to the Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

**If the application is granted I 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 was 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. 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.

#### **Further considerations I would like to make about granting a licence to Red Leopard:**

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,

██████████

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2012 13:00  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

Red Leopard 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.

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 Red Leopard is on a busy main street with bus stops close by, 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 (Wildcats) 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.

**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 Park Row, Victoria Gardens, The Headrow and Cookridge Street. 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.

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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.

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.

Regards,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 15 April 2012 21:42  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 and please can you confirm that it has been received within the consultation period.

**I/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:**

Red Leopard is located opposite Leeds Art Gallery and Town Hall. 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 Red Leopard in this locality impedes this.

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

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Yours sincerely

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

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 12 April 2012 23:02  
**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 Red Leopard lap dancing club, reference SX/SEV/00010/12/01 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:**

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I personally cannot see how a venue which openly participates in the exploitation and objectification of women has any place in a modern, 21st century city, let alone in this particular area. I fail to see how the presence of a 'Sexual Entertainment Venue' in an area which includes several tourist attractions and areas of cultural interest could be said to paint a positive image of the city. I can see no reason at all that such an establishment should be considered acceptable in this day and age.

As a lifelong resident of Leeds and mother of two young daughters, I would like to register my strong objection to the continued existence of the Red Leopard.

Yours,  
[REDACTED]