

Leeds City Council
Entertainment Licensing
Civic Hall
Leeds
LS1 1UR

By email to: entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk

22nd October 2018

Dear Licensing

I am writing on behalf of Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds, an organisation which exists to support women who have been affected by rape, childhood sexual abuse and any other form of sexual violence.

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence by Liberte, 10 York Place Leeds LS1 2D2.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

SARSVL believes that Leeds City Council (LCC) missed an opportunity when it introduced its policy to limit such clubs in the city centre to four. It should have adopted a Zero Tolerance of Sex Establishments policy but in the absence of this SARSVL does not believe that LCC should license these sex establishments as it is incompatible with the Equality Act 2010, Violence Against Women Strategy and Child Friendly Leeds policy.

We believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Leeds City Council's Licensing of Sex Establishments Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Leeds City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. We believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Women have contacted us throughout recent years and have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of sexual entertainment venues in the city.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" [1]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club." [3]

The fear of violence and the impact on women's safety and freedom is frequently dismissed as a "moral argument" and therefore deemed as inadmissible and irrelevant. Since when is the safety and freedom of women a "moral" issue?

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in the Zero Option Sheffield Villa Mercedes hearing representation, a slide quoting former lap dancers is provided below to illustrate this point:



Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

- "I always thought of the customers as vermin and, ironically, that is what they thought of me" (*Ibid.* p.13)
- "It's screwed up my view of men . . . Every time I see a man now, I just see him as a punter. There's only so many bad experiences you can have before you start hating them all . . ." (*Ibid.* p.47)
- "You start to see men as nothing more than their wallets, idiots to be fleeced for as much as you can. You start to despise them for believing you when you flutter your eyelashes and tell them they're the most interesting customer that you've ever talked to." (*Stripping the Illusion: the Lap Dancing Industry Exposed*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhwJWkqgP2c>)

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men, a finding echoed in the testimonies of former performers.

For example, a former lap dancer “Elena” told the Guardian that:

“Lap-dancing reinforced all [her] negative beliefs about herself and about men. “The men just see you as an object, not a person, and whether you are equally engaged in their desire is irrelevant. Increasingly, you learn to despise the men because of the way they perceive you. Lap-dancing is about creating a situation whereby the men feel they are doing you a favour - that's the way the game is set up, so all the power is with the customer.” [5]

Other research showed that male customers see SEVs as a place they can ‘relieve their frustration’ at how they are forced to monitor their behaviour elsewhere:

“With all this sexual harassment stuff going around these days, men need somewhere to go where they can act like they want.” [6]

We are sure that we need not remind the the Council of its duty under the Equality Act’s requirement to pay due regard to foster good relations between men and women.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states that SEVs are generally not appropriate near premises with sensitive uses. The SEV in question is near to several of the types of premises mentioned on the list:

- Residential Areas

Leeds is a city centre characterised by the close proximity of residential to commercial establishments; in fact it prides itself on this feature. There are a large number of flats located in close proximity to the SEV.

Further grounds for refusal

Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A Sexual Entertainment Venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the Council says it stands for, everything that the Council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards. In particular the Child Friendly Leeds Policy and the Violence Against Women Strategy.

SARSVL will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the Council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years they have successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”[7]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

We look forward to hearing from you.

██████████

(For and on behalf of Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds)

References

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

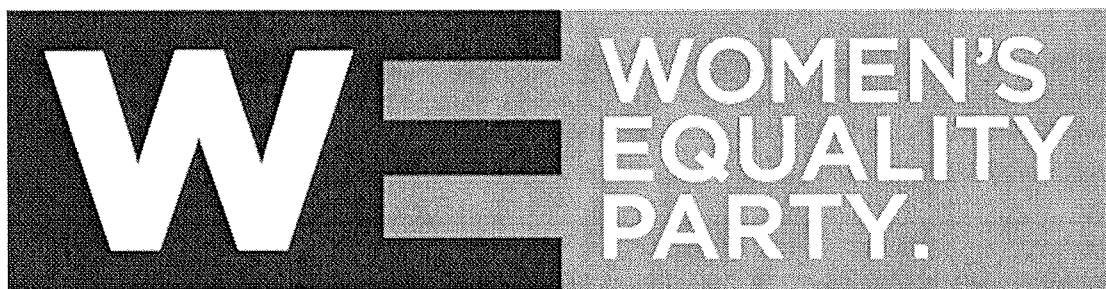
[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] The Guardian 19th March 2008 *I was seen as an object, not a person*
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/mar/19/gender.uk>

[6] Frank, K. ‘Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations’, *Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504

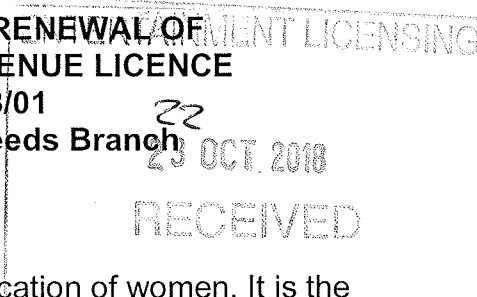
[7] p. 90



**OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR A RENEWAL OF
LIBERTÉ'S SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE**

Reference - SX/SEV/00013/18/01

From The Women's Equality Party, Leeds Branch



Public Sector Equality Duty

Liberté promotes and profits from the sexual objectification of women. It is the essence of the business and at the core of its promotional output, as evidenced by photographs from the company's twitter feed. The imagery and publicity of SEVs, particularly online, promotes misogyny and sexism, and celebrates dysfunctional attitudes to women.

Over the last year, the global misogynistic culture, which has been tolerated for many years, has begun to be dismantled. The staggeringly high number of sexual abuse claims coming from both Hollywood and Westminster, and the resulting 'Me Too' movement, has led many companies and institutions to review their safeguarding policies to ensure women are not objectified and harassed in the workplace.

Leeds City Council licensing committee should likewise review its responsibilities. Indeed, the Council has a statutory of responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty to do so, set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard to the need to:

- a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- b. Advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and
- c. Foster good relations between the sexes.

Previously, the assessment of risk (of women experiencing discrimination, harassment and victimisation from Liberté's activities) has been narrowly applied and the extension of the SEV licence has been justified due to the claim that the club doesn't cause any trouble directly. However, this takes no account of the impact the misogynistic behaviour that these clubs foster has on women and girls locally.

Given the nature of the dancer's employment and their working condition, lap dancing should not be seen as a viable and fulfilling job opportunity. Whatever the apologists for this industry may say, lap dancers have no employment

protection, with many working on what can be best described as 'less-than-zero hour?' contracts. Dancers at Liberté must pay a floor fee for their spot each night. Lap dancing clubs can avoid paying tax, including VAT on the services supplied by the dancers, by not offering contracts of employment with attendant benefits such as holiday and sick pay, pension and NI contributions. All the dancers at Liberté are self-employed and have no job security or protection from termination of their contracts. In fact, one of the grounds for termination is "lewd and lascivious behaviour", which in the environment of an SEV, is clearly a very subjective matter and can be used punitively. By ensuring that this SEV stays open for business, the Council are accepting the unacceptable conditions under which the women in this industry are expected to work.

Locality and use of buildings

Since Liberté's last SEV licence application, there have been significant changes in the character of the relevant locality and the uses to which the premises in the vicinity are put. The opening of the Central Square development on Wellington Street has led to a large influx of visitors to the area, for both business and retail reasons. This new development, with over 78,000 square feet of offices and roughly 20,000 square feet of retail space, has brought a large number of workers to the area², only one street away from this SEV. Many of these workers will be women who deserve the dignity of not having their co-workers consider an SEV to be an appropriate venue for after works meetups.

York Place is used for parking by city centre visitors and has some of the most used pay and display spots in the city. Individuals returning to their car after 10pm face harassment from the customers of Liberté. The presence of The Purple Door, a second SEV, two doors away compounds the impact of these venues on the street. On-street pay and display parking is often felt to be a safer option to return to at night than car parks, but this is not the case when faced with two SEV's, almost next door to each other. The smoking area for patrons of Liberté is at the front of the venue, on York Place. This means that men who are happy to see women as nothing but objects for sexual gratification, are standing on the street smoking while women return to their cars at the end of the night. We have a member, who will object separately, who has directly experienced this. 31% of the crime on York Place and Britannia Street in the last year has been Violent or Sexual Offences, with none of them resulting in a prosecution³.

Child Friendly Leeds

'Child Friendly Leeds' states that Leeds must be a city where children and young people can make safe journeys; children and young people find the city centre welcoming and safe; and that there should be better quality jobs and work experience opportunities. The presence of these venues is in direct contradiction of these policies.

The licensing policy states that in response to this new initiative, the council has taken 'special consideration' of the location of sex establishments and the number suitable for Leeds'. The council already concedes that the presence of SEVs is not compatible with a Child Friendly Leeds. Two SEVs on one street that is used by many visiting families to the area for parking is surely not furthering the goals of Child Friendly Leeds.

Leeds Universities –

There are two universities in Leeds City Centre. Leeds is home to approximately 58,000 students. A 2011 study (Sanders et al) found that one in three strippers were university students. Leeds Council should not be sending the message to young women coming here to study that sexual objectification is just a way for them raise money. By ensuring that this SEV stays open for business, the Council are tacitly approving it as an acceptable place for young women, including students, to work.

As previously mentioned, the employment protection for the women working in these clubs is minimal at best. In fact, it is often the case that the women working in these venues can end up in debt, instead of making money⁵. For students to add to their already mounting debts by working in these environments can be financially devastating.

Conclusion

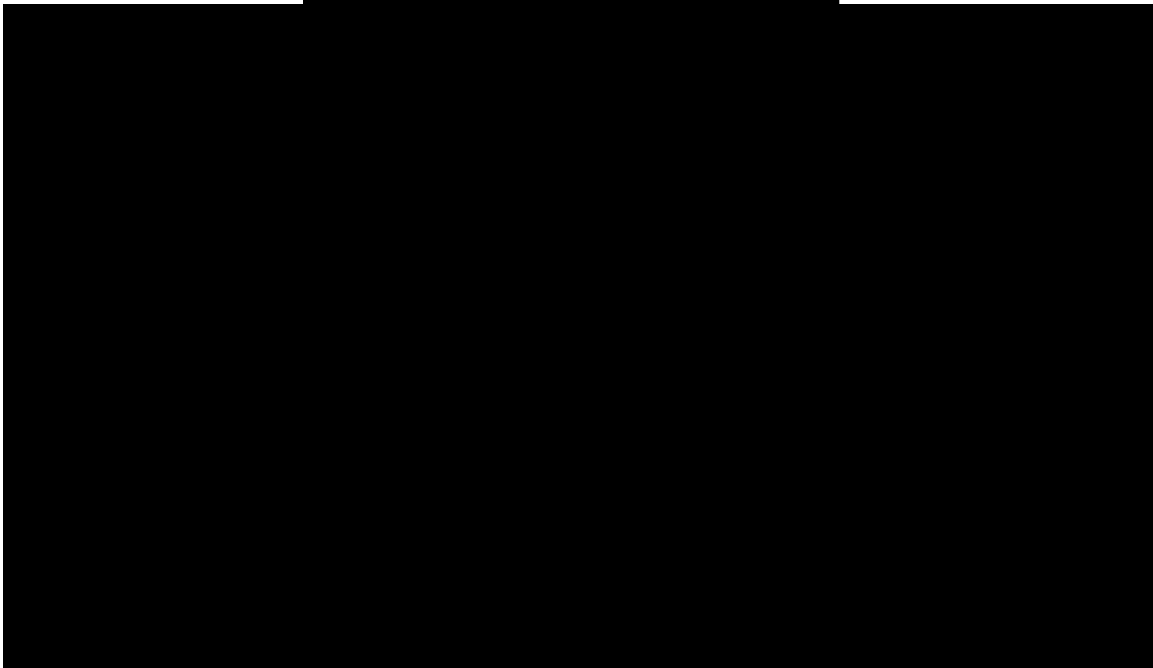
There are compelling reasons why the committee should prevent Liberté continuing to operate from 5 York Place. Every SEV is contradictory to Leeds Council's aspiration of being a child friendly city and Council policy states that 'no strip clubs are appropriate anywhere in the city'. The presence of this club at that location, or at all, runs counter to the forward thinking, inclusive night-time economy that Leeds City council is trying to promote.

The application for renewal should therefore be refused and meaningful exit support should be provided to the performers working at this club.

Women's Equality Party
Leeds Branch
22nd October 2018

References

1



<http://www.liberteleeds.co.uk/> - Accessed on 15th October 2018

² <https://centralsquareleeds.com/the-scheme/offices/>

³ https://www.police.uk/west-yorkshire/LDT_CITY/crime/violent-crime/stats/data/c3e13e41-ac12-41ef-9c58-2b6d61600a58/

⁴ <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Sex%20establishment%20licensing%20policy.pdf>

⁵ Hardy, K., & Sanders, T. (2015). The political economy of "lap dancing":

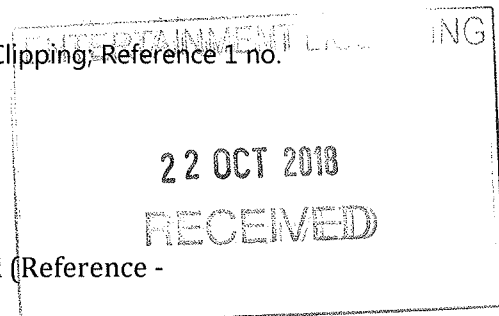
Contested careers and women's work in the stripping industry. *Work, Employment, and Society*, 29, 119–136. doi:10.1177/0950017014554969

SX/SEV/00013/01

MW

Musson, Martyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 October 2018 20:05
To: Entertainment Licensing
Subject: Liberté License Renewal Objection
Attachments: Reference 1.pictClipping; Reference 1 no.2.pictClipping; Reference 1 no.3.pictClipping



Good evening,

I am writing to object to Liberté, a Leeds SEV club, having its license renewed (Reference - SX/SEV/00013/18/01). Please find a letter below.

**OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR A RENEWAL OF
LIBERTÉ'S SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE
Reference - SX/SEV/00013/18/01**

Public Sector Equality Duty

Liberté promotes and profits from the sexual objectification of women. It is the essence of the business and at the core of its promotional output, as evidenced by photographs from the company's twitter feed¹. The imagery and publicity of SEVs, particularly online, promotes misogyny and sexism, and celebrates dysfunctional attitudes to women.

Over the last year, the global misogynistic culture, which has been tolerated for many years, has begun to be dismantled. The staggeringly high number of sexual abuse claims coming from both Hollywood and Westminster, and the resulting 'Me Too' movement, has led many companies and institutions to review their safeguarding policies to ensure women are not objectified and harassed in the workplace.

Leeds City Council licensing committee should likewise review its responsibilities. Indeed, the Council has a statutory of responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty to do so, set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard to the need to:

- a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- b. Advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and
- c. Foster good relations between the sexes.

Previously, the assessment of risk (of women experiencing discrimination, harassment and victimisation from Liberté's activities) has been narrowly applied and the extension of the SEV licence has been justified due to the claim the club doesn't cause any trouble directly. However, this takes no account of the impact the misogynistic behaviour that these clubs foster has on women and girls locally.

Given the nature of the dancer's employment and their working condition, lap dancing should not be seen as a viable and fulfilling job opportunity. Whatever the apologists for this industry may say, lap dancers have no employment protection, with many working on what can be best described as 'less-than-zero' contracts. Dancers at Liberté must pay a floor fee for their spot each night. Lap dancing clubs can avoid paying tax, including VAT on the services supplied by the dancers, by not offering contracts of employment with attendant benefits such as holiday and sick

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Locality and use of buildings

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debt, instead of making money⁵. For students to add to their already mounting debts by working in these environments can be financially devastating.

Conclusion

There are compelling reasons why the committee should prevent Liberté continuing to operate from 5 York Place. Every SEV is contradictory to Leeds Councils aspiration of being a child friendly city and Council policy states that 'no strip clubs are appropriate anywhere in the city'. The presence of this club at that location, or at all, runs counter to the forward thinking, inclusive night-time economy that Leeds City council is trying to promote.

The application for renewal should therefore be refused and meaningful exit support should be provided to the performers working at this club.

I hope you will take these points into consideration and do your part to promote equality.

Kind regards,



References

¹ (See attached)

¹ <http://www.liberteleeds.co.uk/> - Accessed on 15th October 2018

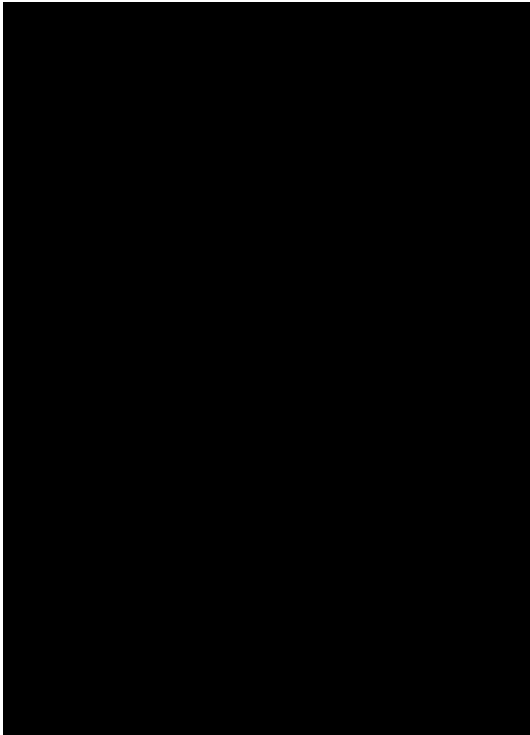
² <https://centralsquareleeds.com/the-scheme/offices/>

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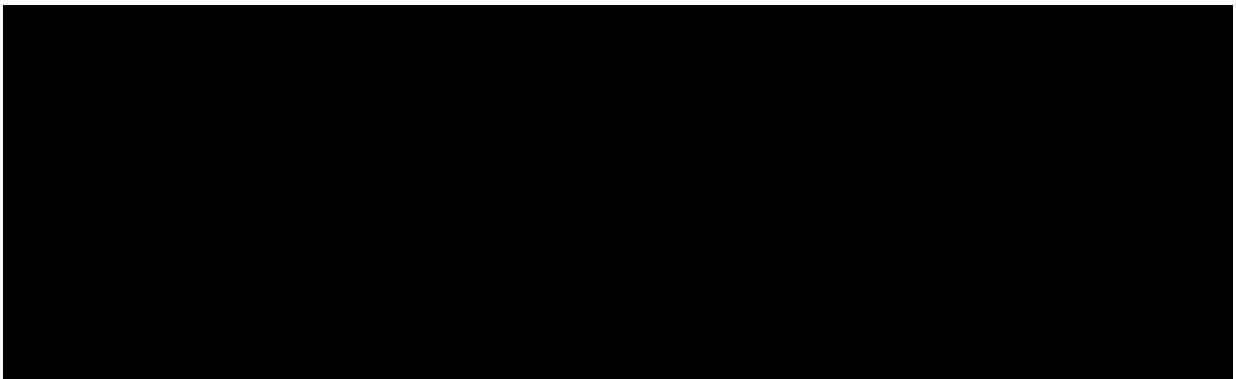
⁴ <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Sex%20establishment%20licensing%20policy.pdf>

⁵ Hardy, K., & Sanders, T. (2015). The political economy of "lap dancing": Contested careers and women's work in the stripping industry. *Work, Employment, and Society*, 29, 119–136.
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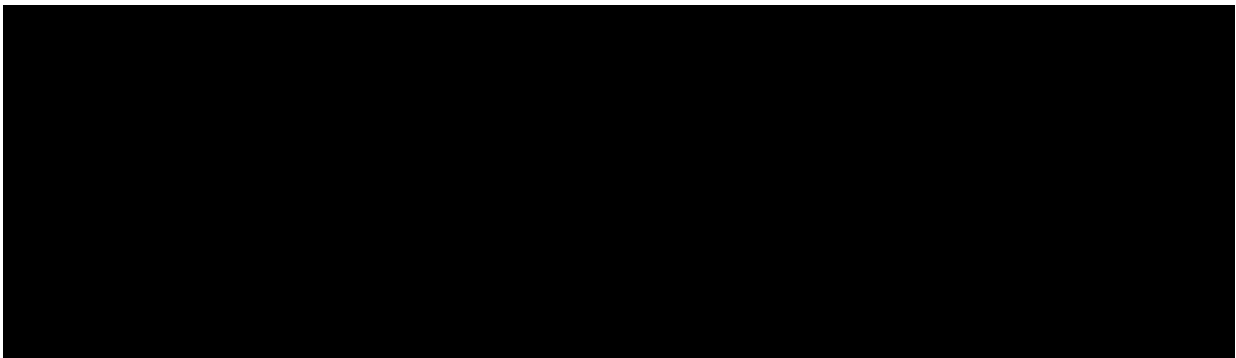
Reference 1a



Reference 1b



Reference 1c



Musson, Martyn

SX/SEV/00017/18/01 MW
SX/SEV/00013/18/01

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 October 2018 13:33
To: Entertainment Licensing; Musson, Martyn
Subject: Reference - SX/SEV/00013/18/01 AND Reference - SX/SEV/00017/18/01

OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR A RENEWAL OF LIBERTÉ'S SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE

AND

OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR A RENEWAL OF THE PURPLE DOOR'S SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE

Reference - SX/SEV/00013/18/01 AND Reference - SX/SEV/00017/18/01

I live one street away from both these venues and would like to object to the renewal of their licences. When I moved into [REDACTED] I had to give up my car as there is no parking attached to my flat. This is fine but it does mean I rent cars quite often when I need to travel with more than can be taken on the train. The nearest parking to me is all on York Place and the main spots to park are outside these two strip clubs. On multiple occasions I have parked there late at night and been made to feel deeply uncomfortable by the men smoking outside these venues – some of whom have shouted various harassing comments at me.

In addition, it does not make me feel safe walking down a street that men frequent to treat women as nothing more than objects. Leeds City Council has responsibilities under its Public Sector Equality Duty to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and foster good relations between the sexes. Every time I park there or collect my car early in the morning (often when men are just leaving the venues) I am reminded that Leeds council has failed to keep its responsibilities under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

I would urge you to not renew the licences of these venues which have no place in Leeds City Centre.

[REDACTED]

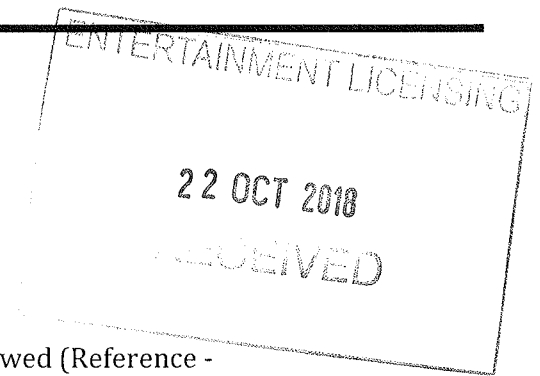
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22 OCT 2018
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SX/SEV/00013/18/01

MW

Musson, Martyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 October 2018 14:05
To: Entertainment Licensing
Subject: Liberté License Renewal Objection



Good afternoon,

I am writing to object to Liberté, a Leeds SEV club, having its license renewed (Reference - SX/SEV/00013/18/01).

Liberté promotes and profits from the sexual objectification of women. It is the essence of the business and at the core of its promotional output. The imagery and publicity of SEVs, particularly online, promotes misogyny and sexism, and celebrates dysfunctional attitudes to women.

There has been a lot of compelling research that SEV clubs have toxic working conditions, with the performers facing heavy fines from the club owners and facing harassment and abuse from the customers.

This exploitative and harmful environment inside the clubs, extends to the public space and transforms cities into hetero-sexist environments.

In fact, Plan International Australia's data indicate that Melbourne women have internalised the link between the strip club precinct, the assumption that any woman in the area is "up for sex", and the normalisation of hyper-masculine violence.

To reduce the risk of harassment and assault, more and more women feel forced to modify their movement throughout the city – especially during the night and early mornings.

This is not only limited to Australia – it's a global issue.

UK organisation Object also reported that the presence of strip clubs creates zones where women's "sense of security and entitlement to public space" are reduced.

In this context, public infrastructure and transportation areas like bus stops become sites of harassment, intimidation and other anti-social behaviour.

This research is in line with academic Meagan Tyler's stance on the objectification of women in strip clubs and its impact on the general population. Tyler says:

'If you allow some women to be bought and sold for men's sexual arousal or entertainment, then you compromise the position of all women in a community.'

It's clear that strip clubs and other sex industry businesses set up a social environment that fosters male privilege and dominance. As a result, some feminists suggest the proliferation of urban sex precincts may serve to remind women of their place and "keep them down".

In 2010, Iceland banned strip clubs based on the argument that their existence compromised the safety of all women, not just those working in the industry.

According to the CEO of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, Heather Nancarrow, we need to examine our cultural links with hyper-masculinity. This includes the ways in which cities normalise the hyper-sexualised commercial and systemic objectification of female bodies.

Researchers, urban planning policymakers and spatial practitioners need to pay attention to this. It's not just "harmless fun" but a system that legitimises the larger infrastructures of sexual exploitation and stereotypes oppressing women.

Today, we see a greater social and political determination to act on the causes and consequences of gender inequality and sexual violence. And the more we understand about the influence of "sexual entertainment" districts on society, the harder it becomes to ignore their negative impacts.

I moved to Leeds three years ago. What attracted me to move here was its reputation as a young, vibrant and modern city. Having strip clubs in the city centre is at odds with the reputation that made me think of Leeds as an attractive city to live in.

Leeds City Council has a statutory of responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty to do so, set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard to the need to:

- a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- b. Advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and
- c. Foster good relations between the sexes.

If the Council renew Liberté's license, it will go completely against your responsibility to the people of Leeds to do the above.

I hope you will take these points into consideration and do your part to promote equality.

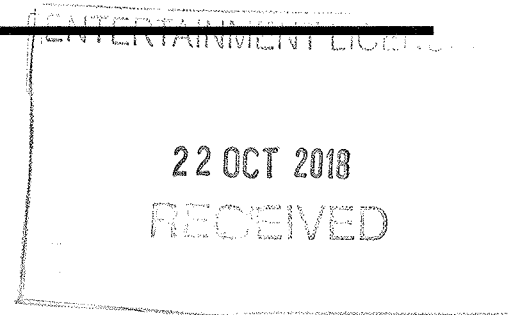
Kind regards,



SX/SEU/00013/18/001 MW

Musson, Martyn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 October 2018 17:03
To: Entertainment Licensing
Subject: Liberté License Renewal Objection



Good afternoon,

I am writing to object to the application for a renewal of Liberté's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence (Reference - SX/SEV/00013/18/01).

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- c. Foster good relations between the sexes.

Previously, the assessment of risk (of women experiencing discrimination, harassment and victimisation from Liberté's activities) has been narrowly applied and the extension of the SEV licence has been justified due to the claim the club doesn't cause any trouble directly. However, this takes no account of the impact the misogynistic behaviour that these clubs foster has on women and girls locally.

Given the nature of the dancer's employment and their working condition, lap dancing should not be seen as a viable and fulfilling job opportunity. Whatever the apologists for this industry may say, lap dancers have no employment protection, with many working on what can be best described as 'less-than-zero' contracts. Dancers at Liberté must pay a floor fee for their spot each night. Lap dancing clubs can avoid paying tax, including VAT on the services supplied by the dancers, by not offering contracts of employment with attendant benefits such as holiday and sick pay, pension and NI contributions. All the dancers at Liberté are self-employed and have no job security or protection from termination of their contracts. In fact, one of the grounds for termination is "lewd and lascivious behaviour", which in the environment of an SEV, is clearly a very subjective matter and can be used punitively. By ensuring that this SEV stays open for business, the Council are accepting the unacceptable conditions under which the women in this industry are expected to work.

Locality and use of buildings

Since Liberté's last SEV licence application, there have been significant changes in the character of the relevant locality and the uses to which the premises in the vicinity are put. The opening of the Central Square development on Wellington Street has led to a large influx of visitors to the area, for both business and retail reasons. This new development, with over 78,000 square feet of offices and roughly 20,000 square feet of retail space, has brought a large number of workers to the area², only one street away from this SEV. Many of these workers will be women who deserve the dignity of not having their co-workers consider an SEV to be an appropriate venue for after works meetups.

York Place is used for parking by city centre visitors and has some of the most used pay and display spots in the city. Individuals returning to their car after 10pm face harassment from the customers of Liberté. The presence of The Purple Door, a second SEV, two doors away compounds the impact of these venues on the street. On street pay and display parking is often felt to be a safer option to return to at night than car parks, but this is not the case when faced with two SEV's, almost next door to each other. The smoking area for patrons of Liberté is at the front of the venue, on York Place. This means that men who are happy to see women as nothing but objects for sexual gratification, are standing on the street smoking while women return to their cars at the end of the night. 31% of the crime on York Place and Britannia Street in the last year has been Violent or Sexual Offences, with none of them resulting in a prosecution³.

Child Friendly Leeds

'Child Friendly Leeds' states that Leeds must be a city where children and young people can make safe journeys; children and young people find the city centre welcoming and safe; and that there should be better quality jobs and work experience opportunities. The presence of these venues is in direct contradiction of these policies.

The licensing policy states that in response to this new initiative, the council has taken 'special consideration' of the location of sex establishments and the number suitable for Leeds⁴. The council already concedes that the presence of SEVs is not compatible with a Child Friendly Leeds. Two SEVs on one street that is used by many visiting families to the area for parking is surely not furthering the goals of Child Friendly Leeds.

Leeds Universities -

There are two universities in Leeds City Centre. Leeds is home to approximately 58,000 students. A 2011 study (Sanders et al) found that one in three strippers were university students. Leeds Council should not be sending the message to young women coming here to study that sexual objectification is just a way for them raise money. By ensuring that this SEV stays open for business, the Council are tacitly approving it as an acceptable place for young women, including students, to work.

As previously mentioned, the employment protection for the women working in these clubs is minimal at best. In fact, it is often the case that the women working in these venues can end up in debt, instead of making money⁵. For students to add to their already mounting debts by working in these environments can be financially devastating.

Conclusion

There are compelling reasons why the committee should prevent Liberté continuing to operate from 5 York Place. Every SEV is contradictory to Leeds Councils aspiration of being a child

friendly city and Council policy states that 'no strip clubs are appropriate anywhere in the city'. The presence of this club at that location, or at all, runs counter to the forward thinking, inclusive night-time economy that Leeds City council is trying to promote.

The application for renewal should therefore be refused and meaningful exit support should be provided to the performers working at this club.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

References

¹<http://www.liberteleeds.co.uk/> - Accessed on 15th October 2018

²<https://centralsquareleeds.com/the-scheme/offices/>

³https://www.police.uk/west-yorkshire/LDT_CITY/crime/violent-crime/stats/data/c3e13e41-ac12-41ef-9c58-2b6d61600a58/

⁴<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Sex%20establishment%20licensing%20policy.pdf>

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