

Nelson, Matthew

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2019 16:42
To: Entertainment Licensing
Subject: Representation (Objection) in respect of : SX/SEV00012/19/01

Objection to:
Application No: SX/SEV00012/19/01
Premises; Silks, 2 Sovereign Place, Leeds, LS1 4SP
Received date: February 27th2019

25thMarch 2019

Entertainment Licensing
Civic Hall
Leeds
LS1 1UR

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.

Fear of sexual violence is a reality faced by women and girls in our society and it is the responsibility of all those in positions of authority to ensure that they do all they can to ensure that this fear does not translate into reality.

Sexual violence against women and girls is inseparable from the objectification of women and girls. Sexual violence is the actualisation of women and girls having the right to control their own bodies taken out of their hands.

Lap dancing clubs exemplify this objectification. Their everyday operation depends on it, including their advertising, promotion and commercial practice.

SARSVL asserts that the licensing of lap dancing clubs goes against The Equality Act 2010, the Violence Against Women Strategy and Child Friendly Leeds Policy.

SARSVL asserts that a zero tolerance policy against these establishments, would be the best way to demonstrate that LCC takes such commitments seriously and is committed to the safety, well being and freedom from discrimination, not just of women and girls but for all individuals living and working within the city of Leeds.

SARSVL notes that 7.10 of Leeds City Council's Licensing of Sex Establishments; Statements of Licensing Policy states the following: 'the presence of SEVs in any locality of Leeds will not advance equality of opportunity for women workers or residents.'

SARSVL further notes that 7.25 notes the duty of local authorities under the Equality Act 2010, to 'exercise its functions with due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.'

We at SARSVL do not see how the operation of lap-dancing clubs is commensurate with either of the above. Licensing such clubs implies that LCC considers the sexual objectification of women, taking place in such establishments, as entirely acceptable. This is regardless of the impact such activity has for the women working within these establishments and for women and girls living or going about their everyday business in proximity to them.

SARSVL also notes that 7. 12 of LCCs Licensing Policy states that such clubs are not appropriate within the vicinity of sensitive areas as stated in 7.11. These include shopping areas, cinema and theatres, all of these areas routinely used by families, when within Leeds city centre. The location of Silks, within the centre of the city, thus renders it inappropriate for operation within LCC's own stated criteria.

It is also worth noting that there has been in recent years an increase in residential developments within Leeds City Centre. This includes but is not restricted to Student accommodation with more development in progress.

The existence of lap dancing clubs within Leeds City centre has the ability not just to create but to increase the fear felt by women and girls, within and around areas where they live, especially but not exclusively at night, when clubs such as these are open.

In conclusion, SARSVL contends that LCC should not renew the license for this club for the reasons stated above.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Support after Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL)
SARSVL office no: 0113 2439102

Confidential Freephone helpline:- 08088023344
Text support:- 07860022880
Email Support:- support@sarsvl.org.uk

Registered Charity Number:- 1139555

SARSVL is proud to be a member of Rape Crisis England & Wales