

Sex Establishments Consultation

Legislation currently states that persons applying for a Sex Establishment licence must have the application considered by their local authority. A Sex Establishment licence is required if a person wishes to operate a sex shop, sex cinema or a sex entertainment centre. These are defined in legislation as follows:

Sex Shop – premises used for a business consisting to a significant degree selling, hiring, exchanging, lending, displaying, or demonstrating sex articles. A sex article being anything made for use in connection with, or for the purpose of stimulating or encouraging sexual activity. This includes certain reading or recorded material.

Sex Cinema – premises used to a significant degree for the exhibition of moving pictures, by whatever means produced, which are concerned primarily with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, or are intended to stimulate or encourage sexual activity.

Sexual Entertainment Venue – premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for financial gain of an organiser. Relevant entertainment being any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that it can be reasonably assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience (e.g. a lap dancing club).

The City of London has a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy in order to assist the local authority in deciding whether a Sexual Entertainment Venue would be suitable within its area. The Policy currently suggests that there is nowhere suited within the City of London for such a premises. However, this does not remove the responsibility of the City of London to consider any applications it may receive.

The existing policy only considers sexual entertainment venues and not sex shops and sex cinemas. This policy is now ten years old and is in the process of being revised and updated. The updated policy will make reference to all types of sex establishments.

In order to assist the local authority in the production of a sex establishment policy, we would seek your views on the following points.

1. In general, are there any localities within the City of London that you consider to be appropriate for Sex Establishments? (the term "localities" refers to local areas or neighbourhoods, which you might think of as areas such as Bishopsgate, Barbican etc.)

a) Sex Shops

Yes

No

Don't Know

If so, why? Answer below.

b) Sex Cinemas

Yes

No

Don't Know

If so, why? Answer below.

c) Sex Entertainment Venues

Yes

No

Don't Know

If so, why? Answer below.

If you have answered one or more of the above categories as YES then please continue with question 2.

If you have answered all the above categories as either NO or DON'T KNOW then please go to question 3.

2. Which localities within the City of London, if any, do you consider appropriate for Sex Establishments? Please be as specific as possible and give a reason for your answer.

Sex Shops

Sex Cinemas

Sex Entertainment Venues

3. Which localities within the City of London, if any, do you consider to be inappropriate for Sex Establishments? Please be as specific as possible and give a reason for your answer.

Sex Shops

Sex Cinemas

Sex Entertainment Venues

4. The City Corporation has the power to set a maximum number (NB: This number could be zero) of Sex Establishments for individual localities within the City of London.

a) Do you think that the City Corporation should set a figure for the maximum number of sex shops within any particular locality.

- (i) Yes there should be a limit
- (ii) No, there should be no limits set

b) Do you think that the City Corporation should set a figure for the maximum number of sex cinemas within any particular locality.

- (i) Yes, there should be a limit.
- (ii) No, there should be no limits set.

c) Do you think that the City Corporation should set a figure for the maximum number of sex entertainment venues within any particular locality.

- (i) Yes, there should be a limit.
- (ii) No, there should be no limits set.

5. If you have answered yes to any of the above then please can you indicate which locality or localities and how many and the reasons for your answer. Please be as specific as possible. (You may use the whole of the City of London as one locality if you wish)

6. We would appreciate your views on whether Sex Establishments should be allowed to open near to particular areas and types of building. Using the options:

- **highly compatible**
- **quite compatible**
- **neither**
- **quite incompatible, or**
- **highly incompatible**

Please state how compatible a Sex Establishment would be near to the following sensitive types of area or building:

Mainly residential Historic Buildings

Schools

Family leisure facilities / children's play areas

Mainly retail

Areas with lots of night-time entertainment

Cultural facilities such as galleries and museums

Youth facilities e.g. youth hostels

Places of Worship

Livery Companies

7. The City Corporation is in the process of producing an updated Sex Establishment Policy. The policy will address such areas as:

- the suitability of the applicant to own and manage a Sex Establishment
- Detailed operating rules for the management of a Sex Entertainment Venue if a licence was to be granted
- The interior layout of the premises and facilities
- The character of the locality and their compatibility with a Sex Establishment
- The compatibility of a Sex Establishment with particular neighbourhood uses.

Are there any other areas that you think we should pay attention to?

8. Please state whether you are a:

Local Business

Educational Institution

Resident

Religious Group

Alderman/Common Councilman

Other

