

Department of Environmental Services

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Dear Sir/Madam

Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended

Background

The City of London Corporation (“the City”) has adopted legislation which gives it greater power to regulate sexual entertainment venues (“SEVs”) in the City. The legislation also allows a wide range of people to participate in the licensing process, wherever they live or work.

One of the key provisions of the legislation is that it enables the City to set a maximum permitted number of SEVs within its area. That number could be “zero”. The City would like your views on whether it should seek to impose a maximum permitted number of SEVs and, if so, what that number should be.

Please take a little time to read this letter, and then complete the attached questionnaire. **Please return it to the City to arrive by Monday 13th December 2010.** The questionnaire may also be completed on line at [Licences and street trading](#)

The New Legislation

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 allows local authorities to regulate sexual entertainment venues. These include striptease, lap-dancing, pole-dancing and other forms of entertainment designed to sexually stimulate the audience. The City adopted this new legislation on 1st September 2010.

Any venue which wants to offer sexual entertainment in the future will need a sex establishment licence from the City. Members of the public may object to licence applications.

Further information regarding this process and the legislation, as well as legal advice the City has received, may be found on the Licensing pages of the City’s website at (http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/LGNL_Services/Business/Licences_and_street_trading/) The Home Office has also issued guidance on SEVs and this may be found at

(<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ContentDetails.aspx?id=23464>). If you would like hard copies of these documents please telephone the Licensing Team on 020 7332 3406 or e-mail licensing@cityoflondon.gov.uk

The legislation sets out mandatory grounds of refusal along with a number of discretionary grounds of refusal. One of the discretionary grounds of refusal is:

“If the licence is granted, the number of establishments in the locality would exceed the number considered appropriate. The appropriate number may be nil”

This ground allows the City to determine how many licences are appropriate in a given locality. The City might decide that nil, or some other number, is an appropriate limit. In considering this, the City can take account of many considerations, including sensitive uses such as schools, places of worship or housing in the area. A map that shows where these types of use are located in the City may be found on the City’s website at..... The City might take account of the business, tourism or regeneration needs of the area, the reputation of the City of London or the need for gender equality and the elimination of discrimination. The City may not, however, be influenced by moral considerations about sexual entertainment.

We want to know whether you think that the City should set a figure for the appropriate number of premises in any localities.

The Consultation Questionnaire

The attached questionnaire asks for your views on this question. Most of the questions simply require you to tick a box. Your answers will be tabulated to get an objective picture of the views of the community.

All relevant views will be taken into account, and will help the City to decide whether to adopt a maximum permitted number of SEVs and, if so, what this number should be.

Consultation Co-ordinator

If you wish to comment on this consultation exercise, please contact xxx at the address set out below. This Co-ordinator works to ensure that best practice in consultation is followed. He does not process consultation responses.

Further information

Once the City has determined its policy in relation to the number of SEVs its area, this will apply to all applications for licences for SEVs, but any application will still need to be considered on its merits. Premises will not need a licence if they provide relevant entertainment on an infrequent basis, i.e. on more than 11 occasions in a 12 month period, and if each occasion is more than a month after the previous one, and has lasted no longer than 24 hours.

Yours faithfully