

APPENDIX 2

Written replies to SEV consultation

Ack 23/7/10



20.7.10.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Gentlemens Bars/clubs
Strip/Lap Dancing clubs.

I write to you having read the article in the Leicester Mercury. I strongly think these places should have a Sex license. I have spoken to several males at work who have been inside these places in Leicester. I believe they are totally degrading and disrespectful to women but realise these places won't go away. I have been told how the girls conduct themselves sexually is disgusting and that sex does happen for an extra payment 'in the back'. I was appalled when 'Seductions' opened in Woodgate which I consider my neighbourhood and also appalled at the obvious advertising on the premises. However, it has now changed its name to Diamonds and the obvious paintings of women have now gone. I still think these places should be in the City Centres not near to schools, houses, corner shops etc. Also, it should be obvious outside what these places are

Written replies to SEV consultation

but not have explicit advertising.
I am a Season ticket holder at the Walkers Stadium. Last year I was appalled to see girls dressed in leather catsuits unzipped precariously walking about advertising Lace, the lap dancing club opposite St. Margaret's Bus Station. Leicester City Football promote the family and these girls were advertising on a Saturday afternoon. I reported this to the football club. Also last season on Tuesday evening home matches men were being given advertising leaflets for a lap dancing club as they walked to and away from the stadium. As you can imagine, a lot of these were chucked on the floor, which could be seen by children and young adults. Also as one man said loudly having been given one, if my wife finds this in my jeans pocket my marriage would end. I also think these places should be strictly 21 plus.

It would make me and my female friends extremely pleased if these places went away but realise that won't happen. Sex is big business. But we're fed up of it in our faces all the time and know it's not just nudity but sex that goes on.

Yours faithfully,

Written replies to SEV consultation

Ack 4/8/10



Equity
performing for you

Rachel Hall
Licensing Team Manager
Leicester City Council
New Walk Centre
Welford Place
Leicester
LE1 6ZG



26th July 2010

Re: Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues

I am writing to you on behalf of Equity, the trade union representing 37,000 performers and other creative professionals working in the entertainment industry, in response to the consultation exercise that has been launched on the licensing of sexual entertainment venues.

Equity represents workers throughout the entire spectrum of dance from ballet, to contemporary and cabaret, including burlesque and erotic performers. During the passage of this legislation Equity was very concerned that lap dancing and other such venues would be reclassified as 'sex encounter establishments'. Use of the terms 'sex encounter' and 'sex establishment' gives the wrong impression of the work of the dancers in this predominantly entertainment field and places such workers at risk. Equity's dancers have frequently expressed their concerns about potentially being labelled 'sex workers' and fear that the implementation of this legislation will limit their ability to find work and safely earn a living.

For these reasons Equity argued strongly that the legislation would result in the reclassification of members' work in this field from entertainment to sex industry work making them part of an industry of which they do not feel they belong. We also argued that there is an important distinction between venues which offer entertainment only on a stage in a public area of a venue, rather than in a private room or by a patron's table, and that venues offering entertainment once a week or less should not be reclassified.

In its 2009 report on the Licensing Act the Culture Media and Sport Select Committee acknowledged these concerns and conceded that a 'hybrid' approach should be pursued on this issue. Equity agreed that this was a sensible way forward and although we continue to oppose the other provisions relating to the new licensing regime for clubs, ultimately we agreed that 'sexual entertainment venue' was a more appropriate classification.

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Equity
Independent Trade Union
Incorporating the Variety Artists' Federation
Affiliated to the TUC, STUC and FIA

President Graham Hamilton
Vice Presidents Jean Rogers, Malcolm Sinclair
Honorary Treasurer Bryn Evans
General Secretary Christine Payne

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However, Equity continues to be concerned that the Policing and Crime Act will have the effect of reducing the number of workplaces available to dancers. As well as lap dancing venues, it seems likely that this will possibly affect more traditional and long established striptease and burlesque venues and it is unclear whether other types of establishment, such as pole-dancing schools, would also be included. There is also the possibility that venues hosting occasional events of an adult nature, including 'stag' and 'hen' parties will also be affected by the legislation.

Equity is opposed to the implementation of this legislation in principle. The union actively campaigns against censorship and the restriction of artistic freedom and we believe that this legislation could be used to restrict creativity. For example, burlesque, which features comedy, song and dance, is not primarily about titillation and the content of burlesque shows is no more "adult in nature" than many plays in theatres across the UK. However, there have been moves by some local authorities to restrict and, in some cases, ban this form of entertainment, without exploring the content of shows. Burlesque dancers have reacted strongly to these restrictions, and have had to extensively engage with and educate local authorities about the nature and content of their work.

While Equity understands the need for proper consultation with local residents about matters that affect their communities, we feel that all entertainment venues, including lap dancing venues are already adequately dealt with under the current Licensing Act 2003. We would strongly discourage your authority from implementing this legislation as it will greatly increase the financial and administrative burden on dance clubs and other establishments. Requiring an additional annual licence for sexual entertainment on top of the current premises licence will force many clubs and venues out of business and will have severe consequences for the employment of dancers.

Equity members have told us that under the current licensing regime venues are largely safe and there are clear expectations of the activities that take place. Their major concern is that the new licensing regime, if implemented by local authorities, will impose greater restrictions on where clubs could open, the number there could be in an area, the grounds on which objections could be made to them operating and the widening of the catchment area in which objections could be lodged, all of which would threaten employment opportunities for dancers.

We therefore recommend that your local authority does not adopt the new provisions. If you would like to discuss this issue further or if you require any clarification or additional information please contact Louise McMullan, Equity's Policy Development Officer at lmcmullan@equity.org.uk or on 02076700260.

Yours sincerely,

A large grey rectangular box redacting the signature of Christine Payne. A small handwritten mark is visible to the left of the box.

Christine Payne
General Secretary

Written replies to SEV consultation

Ack 1/9/10

25/8/10.



DEAR Mrs. HALL,

I AM FORTUNATE TO BE OF AN AGE WHEN MORALS AND VALUES WERE IMPORTANT AND MEANT SOMETHING. SEX IS NOT A COMMODITY FOR SALE BUT I AM AFRAID IT IS. VERY MUCH SO. NEWSPAPERS, TELEVISION, MAGAZINES ALL EXPLOIT SEX TO ITS FULL MONEY MAKING POTENTIAL. THERE IS ENOUGH TROUBLE AND CORRUPTION (PUBS, NIGHTCLUBS ETC.) IN THIS CITY WITHOUT ADVOCATING MORE. ASK THE POLICE, MY ANSWER IS A DEFINITE NO TO ANY SUCH CONSIDERATIONS OR PROPOSALS FOR SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

YOURS SINCERELY,



LICENSING SECTION
RECEIVED
27 AUG 2010
LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

Written replies to SEV consultation

Ack 1/9/10



LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

25.08.10

Your REF: LICENSING/RMH

Dear Sirs,

RE: LICENSING OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES!

I am in receipt of your letter of the 16th August regarding the above. In general I see no reason not to grant a licence to such premises so long as they are clearly named and people who may be offended by them do not enter expecting something different.

Yours faithfully



PEOPLES PANEL MEMBER

CATEGORY: MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

