

From: <[webfeedback@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:webfeedback@manchester.gov.uk)>

Date: Fri, 11 Jan 2019 at 13:29

Subject: Make representation to a licensing or gambling application

To: <[premises.licensing@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:premises.licensing@manchester.gov.uk)>

Question	Response
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Application reference number:	224639/RP5
Premises name (if known) and full address this representation relates to:	Long Legs Ltd, Basement, 46A George Street, Manchester, M1 4HF
Which of the licensing objectives are relevant to your comments on this application: :	The prevention of crime and disorder
Which of the licensing objectives are relevant to your comments on this application: :	Public safety
Which of the licensing objectives are relevant to your comments on this application: :	The prevention of public nuisance
Which of the licensing objectives are relevant to your comments on this application: :	The protection of children from harm

## Question

## Response

I am aware that this area experiences nuisance and disorder. In November police reports on George street include Anti-social behaviour (2) Criminal damage and arson (1) Drugs (1) Other theft (3) Public order (1) Robbery (2) Theft from the person (1) Vehicle crime (2) Violence and sexual offences (1) and near nightclub ASB, sexual offence and theft are reported. This is near family friendly venues such as Manchester art gallery. The SEV may cause fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and disturbance to residents....

Such reasons reflect concerns raised by key stakeholders in consultations which led to the subsequent reform of licensing law governing the sex industry vis-à-vis strip clubs/SEVs. Other reasons included the heightened statistical link to physical, verbal and sexual assaults against women who live or work in the vicinity of SEVs. Even if the applicant employs door staff immediately outside the entrance of the SEV these staff cannot provide security for members of the public who traverse on the broader area of the St. past the club on their way to and from work etc.

*Please state your comments on this application :*

SEVs market women as sexual objects for male gratification and describe women as 'girls' on their website, performers are described as 'girls, totty' on their facebook page with a man commenting that the VIP area is 'where the real fun takes place'. They show women as commodities: men purchase the right to have women strip and dance for them. As such, they reinforce the degrading notion that women's function is to serve and satisfy men sexually. This provision of live display of nudity is provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer.

This has an impact on how females are perceived; the ever-increasing sexual objectification of women runs counter to efforts to achieve equality between women and men in Manchester.

SEVs normalise the practice of men paying women for sexual services, which has an impact on demand for other aspects of the sex industry. Research shows that even if clubs enforce a "no touching" rule, and even if there is no sexual contact between dancers and customers, women 'performers' often make no money from this. the presence of strip clubs increases demand for nearby prostitution services.

Women who work in SEVs are routinely subjected to

## Question

## Response

harassment, exploitation and the expectation of sexual services. I guess this is why MASH is in demand from women in the sex industry.

Object, a human rights organisation set up to challenge the sexual objectification of women, and Not Buying It conducted research that indicates that derogatory, dehumanising and abusive treatment towards performers from both punters and managers in SEVs is common. Many women reported frequent verbal or physical attacks during dances. One woman said: "It was the hardest work I have ever done, either physically, emotionally, or mentally."

Working conditions are typically exploitative: most lap dancers have to pay a nightly "house fee" to work in a club, and a percentage of their earnings to the SEV. Many men expect and seek further sexual services, and clubs place implicit or explicit pressure on women to offer them. As one respondent said: "Club regulations stated that it was necessary to remain one foot away from the customers at all times. But it's laughable to suggest that this was abided by ... Since there are no incentives to encourage dancers not to break the rules, and the customers are always prepared to pay more to get more, then licensing terms will always be broken."

### Advertisement

SEVs create a threatening environment for women and girls who live in areas around the clubs

One woman told Object: "I was frightened of the men who came out of that pub, especially the men in groups leering at women walking past."

The presence of strip clubs also sends damaging messages to children and young people in the surrounding area, given how they portray male and female roles and relations. It is naive to think that the clubs affect only the people who enter them, especially since there are no clear government guidelines to regulate billboard advertising, signage and leafleting for lap dancing in the local areas.

Manchester city council currently don't include any reference to Public Sector Equality Duty

Please facilitate community consultation and establish caps on the numbers of clubs within the local authority. If policymakers acknowledge that sexual entertainment requires a specific kind of regulation, then it is inconsistent that they allow venues to hold unlicensed sexual entertainment events, ever.

As a city, we need to engage in discussion around the harms

**Question****Response**

caused by SEVs and the practices and norms they propagate. Our policymakers need to respond to the research that demonstrates that SEVs etc undermine efforts to enshrine genuine equality between men and women.