

## Objections received

Five objections to the application were received within the period permitted. The general terms of the objections are as follows –

- A significant number of officers who are deployed on the weekend policing operation Custodian are located in the Dantzic Street/Withy Grove area due to the issues that the area attracts and in the early hours a significant number of the calls made to the police relate to the premises in this area and the locality in general.
- All but one of the other alcohol licensed venues in this vicinity finish trading by 4am on a weekend and by allowing these premises to remain open for another 2 ½ hours will almost certainly attract this unruly element to the premises and cause issues. This will probably lead to issues on the door, with new customers coming from the other venues in the locality and trying to gain entry. This will then see an increase in calls to service that GMP are already overstretched to deal with.
- Concerns are raised that the granting of this application is likely to lead to issues of public nuisance and the undermining of the Council's Licensing and Sex Establishment Policies
- The proposed hours will greatly impact on residents in the vicinity of the premise from noise by people leaving at the terminal hour and those permitted to temporarily leave to smoke. In addition to the residents we have also taken into account the effect on the day time economy when the public will be arriving or passing through, on a daily commute or visiting the City.
- The hours also raise concerns over the ability of the Council to clean and maintain the street scene ahead of the arrival of the day time economy due to the change over time of the Councils Street Cleansing Teams.
- A risk factor to be taken into consideration for events where there is a drinking culture associated, such as football, is the fact that there is a high probability that patrons arriving at the premises will have already been drinking for an extended period of time.
- A further concern is that the premises will become a 'go to' location for football fans wanting to continue their stay in the City.
- The exemption to the standard hours for UEFA Champions League matches means that the hours are extended during weekdays and these events will have a greater impact on residents and the daytime economy. Given that patrons will have been consuming alcohol until 6:00 hours they are therefore more likely to cause a public nuisance on dispersal.
- Concerns are raised over the potential imagery or content on any proposed publicity material and how, when and to whom the distribution of such material will be conducted or how this will be managed in relation to the protection of children and/or vulnerable people.
- Concerns are raised that the current license is not being approached in a responsible way - for example, free entry and free drinks for stag parties, a cash machine on the premises to encourage punters to spend more etc lead to a picture

of an establishment that is not responsibly retailing either alcohol or sexual entertainment.

- Sexual objectification of women and girls has a direct impact on sexual offenses and violence against them. It has also been reported that the 3 miles radius of a strip club is more dangerous for women and girls. To suggest that match days, which are usually day long drinking sessions and groups of men who cause such disruption that police presence is always necessary and adds to the likelihood of sexual harassment to an almost certainly, needs sexual objectification added into the mix is not only a failure of judgement but of community safeguarding. Many women already avoid the city centre on match days. Sports are not an excuse for sexism. An example of this the super bowl which is well known as the biggest sex trafficking event. Unless the guaranteed safety of women can be reasonably guaranteed - and given the 1.8% rape convictions rate despite almost ten women an hour reporting rape in England. We are people, not products, not disposable, not without citizenship.
- The proposed extension to hours would further the harm that is already done to Manchester city centre through the existence of sexual entertainment venues. We believe that the extension of opening hours would result in a higher rate of anti-social behaviour and danger to women.
- The representation also objects to the proposal to amend Condition 8 of Victorias' licensing conditions regarding the use of flyers and promotional materials, and ask that such promotional materials continues to be prohibited.
- Two photographs taken from the venue's Facebook page are attached. The representation comments that Manchester's SEV policy states 'The performer may not simulate any sexual act during a performance' and yet the Facebook posts clearly depict/suggest sexual acts being performed.
- MCC cannot abide by its Public Sector Equality Duty (to Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; Advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and Foster good relations between the sexes) and at the same time legitimately extend licensing hours for sexual entertainment venues. The Council must consider its Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED).
- Victoria's website boasts that it offers 'full nude lap dancing provided by Manchester's prettiest girls'. You can see examples of its Facebook posts attached. Offering up 'girls' as objects for sale and by calling itself a 'gentlemen's club' leads to the deduction that the dynamic of the business is that men consume and women are the objects of consumption.
- Like all SEVs, Victoria's reinforces the 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 gains of the organiser or the entertainer. This has an impact on how females and males perceive themselves and each other: the ever-increasing sexual objectification of women runs counter to efforts to achieve equality between women and men in Manchester.
- The representation urges the Council to acknowledge and consider the PSED when making a decision as to whether to vary this licence.