

Cheltenham Borough Council Licensing Sub-Committee -Miscellaneous

| Meeting date: | 5 February 2025 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Meeting time: | 6.00 pm |
| Meeting venue: | Council Chamber - Municipal Offices |

Membership:

Councillor Angie Boyes, Councillor Dr Helen Pemberton, Councillor Julie Sankey, Councillor Simon Wheeler and Councillor Dr David Willingham

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Speaking at Licensing Committee

To find out more about Licensing Committee or to register to speak, please click <u>here</u> or contact Democratic Services.

<u>Please note</u>: the deadline to register to speak is 5.00pm on the day before the meeting.

Contact:democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.ukPhone:01242 264 130

Agenda

1 Apologies

2 Declarations of Interest

3 Application for a Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence (Pages 5 - 74)

4 Application for a transfer of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (Pages 75 - 86)

5 Local Government Act 1972

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining agenda items as it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public are present there will be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and 2, Part (1) Schedule (12A) Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Paragraph 1; Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2; Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

6 Review of Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence (Pages 87 - 100)

7 BRIEFING NOTES

8 Any Other Items the Chairman Determines Urgent and Which Requires a Decision

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Agenda Item 3

Page 5 Cheltenham Borough Council

"Miscellaneous" Licensing Sub-committee – 5 February 2025

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

Application for a Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

European Events Consultants Ltd.

Report of the Licensing and Public Protection Manager

1. Summary and recommendation

- 1.1 Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 ("the Act"), as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, allows applicants to apply for, renew, vary and/or transfer a Sexual Entertainment Venue ("SEV") licence where they wish to offer "relevant entertainment on a frequent basis.
- 1.2 In this case an application for the renewal of a SEV licence was submitted on 2 December 2024 in respect of Under the Prom, 109 113 The Promenade, Cheltenham GL50 1NW.
- 1.3 The renewal application is to authorise the premises to provide relevant entertainment on the following dates and times:
- 1.3.1 Friday of the November Meeting 8pm to 5am the day following.

Saturday of the November Meeting – 8pm to 5am the day following.

- 1.3.2 Monday to Friday of Cheltenham Festival Week each year. Dates to be confirmed in writing 1 month prior to the event to the Council and Police.
 - March Cheltenham Festival Monday 8pm to 5am the day following

Cheltenham Festival Tuesday 6pm to 5am the day following

Cheltenham Festival Wednesday 6pm to 5am the day following

Cheltenham Festival Thursday 6pm to 5am the day following

Cheltenham Festival Friday 6pm to 5am the day following

1.4 In addition, the applicants have also applied to vary two of the standard licensing conditions. These conditions to be varied are:

Standard Condition 6 to be varied to read as follows:

There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the Town any advertisements that indicate or suggest that any form of Relevant Entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the display of any advertisement, word, letter, model, sign, light, placard, board, notice, device, representation, drawing, writing or any matter or thing (where illuminated or not) by means of externally displayed advertisement (such as on billboards or posters) within the council's administrative area.

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- 1. The Applicant is allowed to solicit individuals to attend the premises during the hours the licence is in operation, provided that no solicitation takes place to anyone who appears to be under the age of 25.
- 2. The Applicant is allowed to operate a courtesy vehicle to transport dancers and clientele to and from the venue at all times. Further to be allowed to advertise, including by way of leaflets, the courtesy vehicle at all times during the permitted licence hours. No music will be played that can be heard from outside the vehicle. The use of the name 'Eroticats' is permitted.

Rationale explained in the application: The reason for the variation of this condition is permit a vehicle to transport clientele to and from the venue at all times and for staff to be permitted to give out leaflets for the courtesy bus in the Town.

Standard Condition 25 to be varied to read as follows:

Any movement that indicates sexual activity or simulated sex between entertainers or performers is strictly forbidden.

- 1.5 A copy of the application form is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 1.6 A copy of the location map is attached at **Appendix B**.
- 1.7 A copy of plans of the premises are attached at **Appendix C**.
- 1.8 A copy of the premises existing SEV licence is attached at **Appendix D**.

1.9 Implications

Legal

Any applicant who is refused a licence may, within 21 days of being notified of the refusal, appeal to the local magistrates' court.

However, the right to appeal does not apply where the licence was refused on the grounds that:

- the number of sexual entertainment venues in the area exceeds the number which the authority considers is appropriate
- the grant of the licence would be inappropriate considering the character of the area, the nature of other premises in the area, or the premises themselves

Contact officer: One Legal E-mail: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk Tel no: 01684 272015

2. Background

- 2.1 On 1 October 2014, Council approved the adoption of the amended provision of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to take effect in the borough on 1 December 2010.
- 2.2 Since the adoption, any premises that want to offer "relevant entertainment" on a frequent basis can only do so by obtaining a SEV licence.
- 2.3 Relevant entertainment is defined as any live performance or any live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience (whether by verbal or other means).

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2.4 Under the Act premises can provide relevant entertainment on an infrequent basis without the need for a SEV licence. An infrequent basis is defined under the Act as no relevant entertainment has been provided on more than 11 occasions within a 12-month period and no such occasion has begun within a period of one month beginning with the end of the previous occasion, and no such occasion has lasted longer than 24 hours. Any premises wishing to offer relevant entertainment more frequently are required to apply for a SEV licence.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 An applicant for a Sex Establishment Licence must give notice of their application in accordance with the requirements set out in schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The advertising requirements are:
- 3.1.1 Publishing an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the appropriate authority's area, not to be later than 7 days after the date of the application; and
- 3.1.2 Where the application is in respect of premises, notice of it shall in addition be displayed for 21 days beginning with the date of the application on or near the premises and in a place where the notice can conveniently be read by the public.
- 3.2 Schedule 3, paragraph 10(15) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 states:

"Any person objecting to an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence under this Schedule shall give notice in writing of his objection to the appropriate authority, stating in general terms the grounds of the objection, **not later than 28 days after the date of the application**." [Emphasis Added]

- 3.3 The applicant has advertised the application in accordance with the statutory requirements set out above.
- 3.4 In determining the application, Members must have due regard to any observations made by the Chief Officer of the Police and any other comments made by anybody else.
- 3.5 Members are to note in particular that any objection must relate to both or either of the mandatory or discretionary grounds for refusal set out below.
- 3.6 Objections made on moral grounds or values are not relevant to either the mandatory or discretionary grounds for refusal and should therefore not be considered relevant.

Consultation – Chief Officer of Police

3.7 The Chief Officer of Police did not raise any objections in relation to this application.

Consultation – Other Persons

3.8 In relation to this application the licensing authority received 88 representations. These were made up of 27 objections and 61 representations in support of the application from residents and others during the statutory consultation period. Copies of these are outlined in **Appendix E**.

4. Policy Considerations

4.1 The authority's adopted policy statement in relation to the regulation and control of SEVs was adopted by Full Council on 29 July 2020, and this policy statement sets out the authority's guidance, application procedure and terms and conditions relating to the regulation of SEVs.

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- 4.2 Below (para. 4.4 4.15) are relevant extracts from the policy to highlight relevant issues to Members. However, Members should read these in conjunction with the policy document for completeness and contextual understanding.
- 4.3 As a regulatory matter, the authority does not take any moral stand in adopting this policy. The authority recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate a sex establishment and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries. It is this authority's role as the licensing authority to administer the licensing regime in accordance with the law.

Determination (Section 11)

Mandatory Grounds for Refusal

- 4.4 A licence cannot be granted:
 - a) to any person under the age of 18 years;
 - b) to any person who is for the time being disqualified due to the person having had a previous licence revoked in the area of the appropriate authority within the last 12 months;
 - c) to any person, other than a body corporate, who is not resident in an EEA State or was not so resident throughout the period of six months immediately preceding the date when the application made;
 - d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA State; or
 - e) to any person who has, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused that grant or renewal of a licence for the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made, unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal.

Discretionary Grounds for Refusal

- 4.5 A licence may be refused where:
 - a) the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;
 - b) if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself;
 - c) the number of SEVs in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the Council consider is appropriate for that locality (nil may be an appropriate number for these purposes);
 - d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard:
 - 1) to the character of the relevant locality; and/or
 - 2) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; and/or
 - 3) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

Location of Premises (Section 12)

- 4.6 In deciding the appropriate number of premises to be licensed, the authority must consider the character of the relevant locality and what is the appropriate number of SEVs for the relevant locality. The number can be 'nil'.
- 4.7 Cheltenham is a relatively small urban borough that is predominantly residential in nature. The authority has already resolved that it is inappropriate to licence SEVs in or in the vicinity of, amongst others, residential areas. It is the authority's policy therefore that there is no locality outside of the Designated Permitted Area (shown below) in which it would be appropriate to license a SEV. Accordingly the appropriate number of SEVs for outside of the Designated Permitted Area is nil.
- 4.8 The authority recognises however that the Designated Permitted Area offers a more varied situation in as much as it has a much wider mix on offer, particularly in the night time economy and it may therefore be appropriate to consider applications for SEVs in the area. The authority has therefore resolved that it will not set a limit on the number of permitted SEVs in the Designated Permitted Area providing those premises are not near properties with sensitive uses or in sensitive locations.
- 4.9 It must be noted that this venue is situated just outside of that area but that the authority decided to grant the original application in respect of this venue. It should still consider that issue, but must give weight to the fact it granted the licence previously.

Designated Permitted Area



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Properties with sensitive uses or in serPage 11 ions

- 4.10 In considering if the grant, renewal or variation of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the character of the relevant locality or to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put, the authority shall consider, amongst other things, whether the grant of the application would be appropriate, having regard to:
 - a) The fact that the premises is sited in a residential area;
 - b) Whether the premises is sited near shops used by or directed at families or children, or on frontages frequently passed by the same;
 - c) Whether the premises is sited near properties which are sensitive for religious; and/or
 - d) Whether the premises is sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families.

Objections (Section 14)

- 4.11 When considering an application for the grant, renewal, variation or transfer of a SEV licence the authority will have regard to any observations submitted to it by the Chief Officer of Police and any objections that have been received from anyone else within the statutory consultation period. Any person can object to an application provided that the objection is relevant to the discretionary grounds for refusal of a licence.
- 4.12 Objections should not be made on moral grounds or values and the authority will not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds mentioned above.
- 4.13 Objectors must give notice of their objection in writing, stating the general terms of the objection.
- 4.14 Where the authority receives notice of any objection it will, before considering the application, give notice in writing of the general terms of the objection to the applicant. However, the authority shall not without the consent of the person making the objection reveal their name or address to the applicant.
- 4.15 Objections may only be made within the period of 28 days following the date on which the application was made to the authority.

5. National Guidance (March 2010)

- 5.1 The Government has issued non-statutory guidance to aid local authorities carrying out their functions under Schedule 3, as amended by section 27.
- 5.2 Although it is non-statutory guidance, local authorities are encouraged to have regard to the guidance when exercising their functions (although there is no statutory requirement to do so) in order to promote best practice and consistency across England and Wales.
- 5.3 Below (para. 6.4 6.14) are relevant extracts from the policy to highlight relevant issues to Members. However, Members should read these in conjunction with the guidance document for completeness and contextual understanding.

Meaning of Sexual Entertainment Venue

5.4 Paragraph 2A of Schedule 3 as inserted by section 27 sets out the meaning of a 'sexual entertainment venue' and 'relevant entertainment' for the purposes of these provisions. A sexual entertainment venue is defined as "any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer." (para 2.1)

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5.5 The meaning of 'relevant entertainment' is Page 12: formance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of an audience (whether by verbal or other means)." An audience can consist of just one person (e.g. where the entertainment takes place in private booths). (para 2.2)

Refusal of a Licence

- 5.6 When considering an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence the appropriate authority should have regard to any observations submitted to it by the chief officer of police and any objections that they have received from anyone else within 28 days of the application. Any person can object to an application but the objection should be relevant to the grounds set out in paragraph 12 for refusing a licence. Objections should not be based on moral grounds/values and local authorities should not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds set out in paragraph 12. Objectors must give notice of their objection in writing, stating the general terms of the objection. (para. 3.23)
- 5.7 When determining a licence application, the local authority must have regard to any rights the applicant may have under Article 10 (right to freedom of expression) and Article 1, Protocol 1 (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights. (para. 3.30)
- 5.8 The Provision of Services Regulations 2009 amended Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act to state that, if having considered an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence, the appropriate authority decides to refuse it on one or more of the above grounds, it must provide the applicant with reasons for the decision in writing. (para. 3.31)

Relevant Locality

- 5.9 Paragraph 12(3)(c) and 12(3)(d) of Schedule 3 allow appropriate authorities to refuse applications on grounds related to an assessment of the "relevant locality". A licence can be refused if either, at the time the application is determined, the number of sex establishments, or sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality is equal to or exceeds the number that the authority considers appropriate for that locality; or that a sex establishment would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality, the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put or the layout, character or condition of the premises. Nil may be the appropriate number. (para. 3.32)
- 5.10 Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act does not define "relevant locality" further than to say that:
 - a. in relation to premises, it is the locality where it is situated; and
 - b. in relation to a vehicle, vessel or stall, any locality where it is desired to use it as a sex establishment. (para. 3.33)
- 5.11 Clearly, the decision regarding what constitutes the 'relevant locality' is a matter for the appropriate authority. However, such questions must be decided on the facts of the individual application. (para. 3.34)
- 5.12 Therefore, it is reasonable and potentially useful to future applicants, for a local authority to decide in advance of receiving any applications that certain areas are, or are not, appropriate locations for a sex establishment or a particular number of sex establishments. Nevertheless, all applications must be considered on their individual merits. (para. 3.35)

Licence Conditions

5.13 Once the appropriate authority has decided to grant a licence they are able to impose terms, conditions and restrictions on that licence, either in the form of conditions specific to the individual licence under paragraph 8 of Schedule 3 or standard conditions applicable to all sex establishments, or particular types of sex establishments, prescribed by regulations made by the appropriate authority under paragraph 13 of Schedule 3. (para. 3.39)

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The Services Directive

5.14 Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act constitutes an authorisation scheme under Article 9 of the EU Services Directive 2006/123/EC ("the Directive") which was implemented in the UK by the Provision of Services Regulations 2009 ("2009 Regulations"), which came into force on 28th December 2009. Local authorities must ensure they comply with the Regulations when applying the licensing provisions in Schedule 3. (para. 3.53)

6. Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED)

- 6.1 The PSED places a statutory duty on the council, in the exercise of its functions, to have due regard to the need to:
 - a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6.2 Protected characteristics are:
 - a) age
 - b) disability
 - c) gender reassignment
 - d) pregnancy and maternity
 - e) race
 - f) religion or belief
 - g) sex
 - h) sexual orientation
- 6.3 The licensing and regulation of SEVs does fall within the authority's PSED and therefore the authority must have regard to the matters listed above when, for example, setting policy and issuing licences.
- 6.4 The licensing and regulation of SEVs often creates a tension between the statutory right to operate such a venue and equality issues relating to discrimination and objectification of primarily women.
- 6.5 The starting point for the authority is the fact that it cannot take any moral stand in relation SEVs in recognition that Parliament has made it lawful to operate a sex establishment. This starting point however does not mean that the authority is therefore bound by the primary legislation at the expense of other statutory requirements.
- 6.6 When setting policy or determining individual applications, the authority must have regard to its PSED taking into account the individual merits of each application.
- 6.7 Equality issues may be relevant to (not exhaustive):
 - a) The need to protect performers from harassment and threat;
 - b) The need to ensure that any protected characteristic group is not more, or less, welcome than another;
 - c) The need to properly consider the fear of any protected characteristic group using and accessing public spaces, facilities and infrastructure;

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- d) The need to properly understand the rPage 14lity and the need the need to ensure, taking into account the relevant locality, any protected characteristic group's view is taken into account such as those relevant to religion or belief or race;
- e) The need to consider the views and experiences of people with disabilities as a protected characteristic group.
- 6.8 Some or all of these equality issues may be addressed through appropriate conditions and robust enforcement. Equally, the licensing process may also be an important tool to achieve the same outcome, for example, licence reviews and policy changes.

7. Officer Comments

- 7.1 This application must be determined on its individual merits taking into account the matters outlined in this report, the relevant statutory provisions, the authority's adopted policy, the relevant guidance issued by the Home Office and any objections or comments made by the Chief Officer of Police and other persons.
- 7.2 In particular, the committee must bear in mind that its grounds for refusal of this licence application is restricted to those specified under the statutory mandatory and discretionary grounds. For reference these are outlined at paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 respectively. As such, the relevance of representations made in relation to this application must therefore also relate to either the statutory mandatory and discretionary grounds for refusal.
- 7.3 The committee is also reminded that the authority does not take any moral stand in relation to operation of sex establishments such as sexual entertainment venues because the authority recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate a sex establishment and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries. It is this authority's role as the Licensing Authority to administer the licensing regime in accordance with the statutory provisions.
- 7.4 The committee must also be mindful of its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.
- 7.5 The application is also seeking to vary the standard SEV licensing conditions. The committee must not arbitrarily deviate from its own adopted licensing policy. Where the committee consider there to be exceptional circumstances that may justify a deviation from its licensing policy, this must be thoroughly reasoned and recorded.
- 7.6 As mentioned previously this venue sits outside the council's Designated Permitted Area and was granted a licence. The council's policy is to not grant applications in this location and if the committee does decide to grant this variation it should give clear and cogent reasons for continuing to depart from that policy principle.
- 7.7 In March 2024, a written warning was issued to the licence holder by Gloucestershire Police. A copy is attached at **Appendix F**. No other enforcement action has been taken previously or since that date.
- 7.8 Having considered all the relevant matters, the committee must decide whether to:
 - a) Grant the application as applied for;
 - b) Grant the application subject to any additional terms, conditions and/or restrictions that are either specific to the licence or standard conditions; or
 - c) Refuse the application.

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| Background Papers | SexuPage 15 nent Venues: Guidance for England and Wales (March 2010) |
|-------------------|--|
| | Cheltenham Borough Council Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy Statement adopted Full Council on 29 July 2020 |
| | Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 |
| | R (Bean Leisure Trading A Limited) v Leeds City Council and R (Ruby May (1) Ltd) v Leeds City Council [2014] EWHC 878 (Admin) |
| | Thompson v Oxford City Council [2014] EWCA Civ 94 |
| Appendices | Appendix A – copy of application form Appendix B – location map Appendix C – plans of the premises Appendix D – copy of current licence Appendix E – copies of representations Appendix F – copy of written warning |
| Case Officer | Contact officer: Michelle Bignell E-mail: licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk Tel no: 01242 262626 |

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| Main Offices |
|--------------------|
| CHELTENHAM BOROUGH |
| COUNCIL |
| MUNICIPAL OFFICES |
| PROMENADE |
| CHELTENHAM |
| GL50 1PP |
| |

Tel: 01242 775200 Fax: 01242 264210 email: licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk www.cheltenham.gov.uk

LICENCE APPLICATION

NOTE Please read the explanatory notes attached before completing this application form

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 3 APPLICATION FOR A SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE

PLEASE NOTE

All applicants must complete Section A. Section B to be completed if applicant is a company. All applicants must sign declaration in Section C.

SECTION A

| Application type | (please tick \checkmark) | (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) (1) | application sfer of licence | | Renewal of existing licence ariation of licence |
|---|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| If renewal please state existing licence number | | 23/0 | 1946/SEXR | | |
| Applicant's details: Surname | | | | | |
| Forename(s) | | | | - - | ta na stational de la companya de la La companya de la comp |
| Address: | | | | | and an |
| | | | | N. S. Carlos | |
| | | N E E | | 1,000 | |
| | | Post Co | ode: | | |
| Date of birth [dd/mm/yyyy] | | | | | |
| National Insurance nun | nber | | | | |
| Daytime telephone nun | nber | | e - Line e e Cristi | | |
| Fax number | | | | | |

| Email address | | | |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Agent acting on behalf of applicant (eg solicitor) if applicable: | Poppleston Allen Solicitors | | |
| Name of agent: | Poppleston Allen Solicitors | | |
| Address of agent: | 37 Stoney Street, Nottingham | | |
| | | | |
| | Post code NG1 1LS | $1 = -\frac{1}{N_{\rm eff}} $ | 9.444 million 4 |
| Daytime telephone number of agent | | | |
| Email address of agent | | | |
| Name under which the business is to be known and traded as | Under The Prom | | |
| Address of premises for which this | Under The Prom | | |
| application is made | 109 - 113 The Promen | ade | |
| | Cheltenham | | |
| | | | |
| | Post code GL50 1NW | | |
| For what purpose do you intend to use this premises? eg sex shop, sex entertainment venue | Sexual Entertainment | Venue | |
| Do you have planning consent to use the premises stated above for the purpose intended? (please provide details, and forward appropriate documentation to evidence this) | | | |
| If this application relates to a vehicle, vessel or stall please give description (including site to be situated on) | | | |
| Proposed days and hours of operation | □Sunday - from | until | hours |
| (please tick \checkmark and specify times for each day using the 24 hour clock) | Monday - from | until | hours |
| eg: 23:00 that day or 02:00 on the day following | Tuesday - from | until | hours |
| | ☐Wednesday -from | until | hours |
| See attached. | Thursday - from | until | hours |
| | ☐Friday - from | until | hours |

.....

| | □Saturday - from | until hours |
|---|--|--|
| Have you ever been convicted by a Court for any offence which is not now spent under the terms of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974? | Yes No (please tick ✓ as appropriate) | |
| If Yes , please give details All unspent convictions must be disclosed (if renewal application, since you last applied for a licence) | | (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary) |
| Date of Conviction | Name of Convicting Court | Nature of Offence |
| | | |
| - 4456553 (c)- | | |
| Are there any criminal proceedings against you pending? | ☐ Yes X No (please tick ✓ as appropriate) | |
| If Yes , please give full details including date of hearing and name of Court | | |
| Have you been a director or company secretary of a company involved in the ownership or operation of a sexual entertainment venue licence previously? | X Yes No (please tick ✓ as appropriate) | |
| If yes , please give details | na sector de composition de com Mala de composition de composition de composition de composition de composition de composition de com composition de composition de composition de composition de compos | andra an ann analgad airsean an an Ann Eiltean Ang Alina Ang Alina Ang Alina |
| Were there any convictions recorded against that company? | ☐ Yes ☑ No (please tick ✓ as appropriate) | |
| If yes , please give details | | |

| SECTION B - no change | To be completed if the applicant is a company |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Company name | European Events Consultants Ltd |
| Company address | Unit 3, Ambrose House |
| | Meteor Court, Barnett Way |
| | Barnwood, Gloucester |
| | Post code GL4 3GG |
| Company telephone number | |
| Company fax number | |
| Company email address | |
| Full names and private addresses of a | Il directors or other persons responsible for management of |

the company: 1 2 3 Name Name: Name: Address: Address: Address:

| Post Code: | Post Code: | Post Code: |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Date of birth: | Date of birth: | Date of birth: |
| National Insurance no. | National Insurance no. | National Insurance no. |

Any convictions recorded against that person or those persons

| Name of convicting Court | Nature of offence | | Sentence (if imposed) |
|--------------------------------|--|---|---|
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| | convicting Court | convicting Court offence State State State State | convicting Court offence Image Image |

If **Yes**, please give full details including date of hearing and name of Court

SECTION C

Declaration

All new and variation applications for sexual entertainment venue licences are considered by the Licensing Committee. Opposed applications for renewal and/or transfer will also be considered by the Licensing Committee. The applicant and/or their representative are required to attend the meeting of the Licensing Committee at which their application is due to be considered to speak in support of their application. They should be prepared to answer any questions which the Licensing Committee may wish to ask.

PLEASE NOTE

This application must be signed by the applicant personally or, in the case of a company, by a director or other duly authorised agent of the company.

I/We confirm that the contents of this application are true and correct.

I/We agree that if a licence is granted by Cheltenham Borough Council for a sexual entertainment venue licence, that I/we will comply with all Acts, Byelaws, Regulations and Conditions relating thereto and for the time being in force.

I/We understand that non-compliance with any relevant Acts, Bylaws, Regulations and Conditions will prejudice the continuance of any licence granted.

I/We understand that the council may utilise the information contained herein for internal purposes and may disclose the information to persons or organisations in accordance with the council's registration under the Data Protection Act 1998.

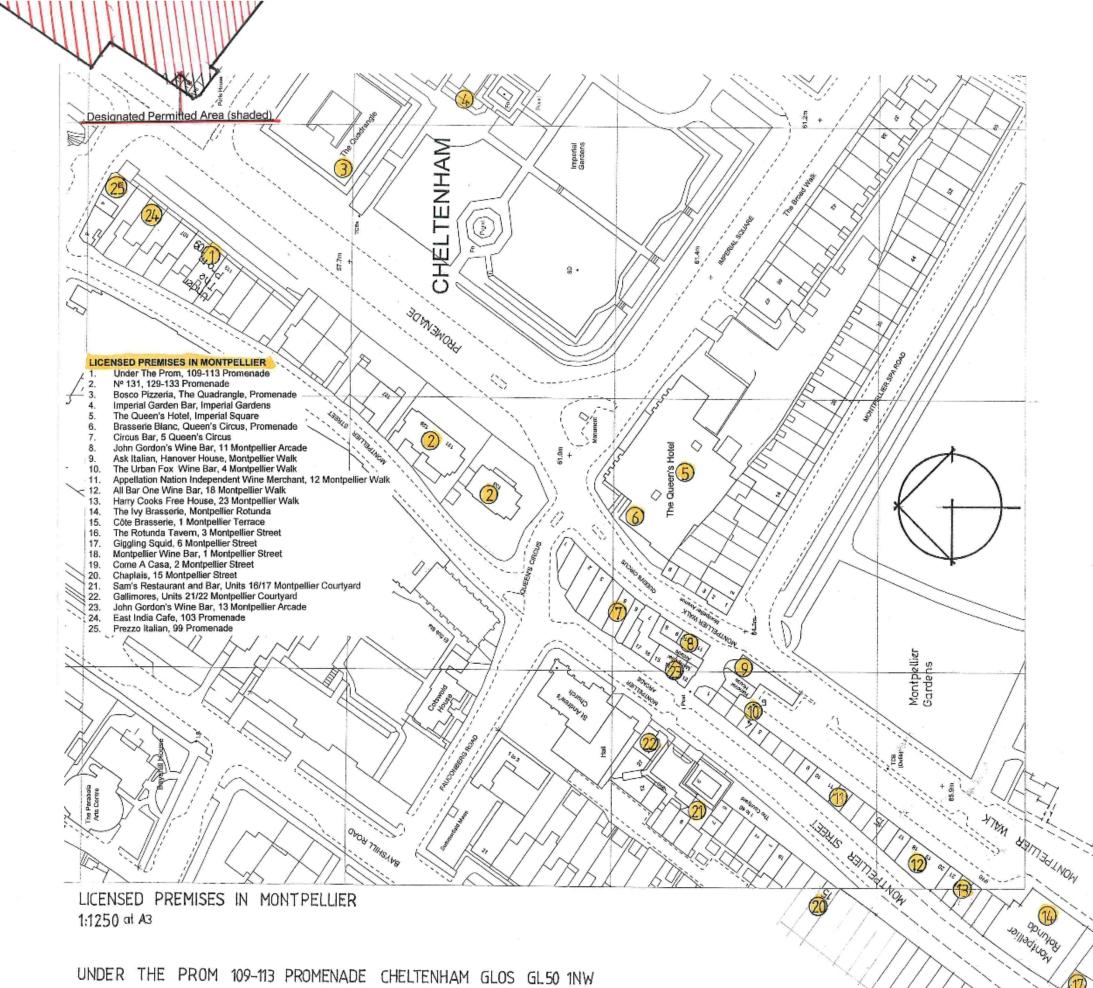
I/We, the undersigned, hereby apply for registration as a sexual entertainment venue licence within the Borough of Cheltenham and I/we declare that to the best of my/our knowledge and belief the foregoing statements are true and correct.

I/We understand that this licence will expire 1 year after it has first been granted or after a period of time decreed by the Licensing Committee, and a newly completed application form will need to be submitted to the local authority **two months before the expire of the existing licence, together with the licence fee current at that time.**

I/We further understand that once the completed application form has been submitted it will be submitted to environmental health, planning, building control and community safety officers of Cheltenham Borough Council together with the local police, fire service, parish councils, ward members or any other interested party for comment.

I/We understand that I/we must submit a copy of this application form to the chief officer of police for the area in which the premises are located and all other Responsible Authorities.

| Signature of applicant (s) | ~ |
|--|-----|
| Name (s) in BLOCK CAPITALS | -4 |
| Capacity in which application is signed | |
| Date29/11/24 | |
| How to apply for a sexual entertainment venue licence | |
| This application and the appropriate supporting documentation should be forwarded to the Licensing | |
| Team at the address on the front of this form. | I |
| Please read the guidance notes that accompany this application form. Failure to comply with th application procedure could result in a licence not being granted. | e |
| The following are required in order to proceed with the application:- please tick the boxes below \checkmark to confirm you have sent t | hem |
| - Application form (all sections completed) | |
| Copies of plans delineating the specific rooms or premises to which this application relates, with escape routes (in case of emergency) indicated. | |
| Copies of a location plan showing the vicinity of the proposed premises with the premises themselves clearly marked. | |
| Planning consent documentation as confirmation that you have permission to use the premises for the purpose for which you are making this application. | |
| - Any additional information in support of the application. | |
| - What you need to show to establish your identity | |
| This will be required from the applicant named in Section A | |
| Driving Licence original(s) for inspection (paper and photo card counterpart) which will be photocopied by an officer from Licensing Team. If you do not have a valid photo card driving licence then a valid passport must be shown to the Licensing Officer. | |
| - If none of the above are available then please supply one of the following original | |
| documents- Original birth certificate (or similar official document if born outside UK) | |
| P45 / P60 Statement Marriage certificate, passport | |
| If you have any queries or require assistance in completing the application form, please contact our Licensing Team at the address on the front of this form, or telephone 01242 775200. | |
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JOHN T. LADLEY ARCHITECT C M: 07702 190 852 2022/10/05 23NOV22 Ordnance Copyright Number AR 10000 9812 Ordnance Survey

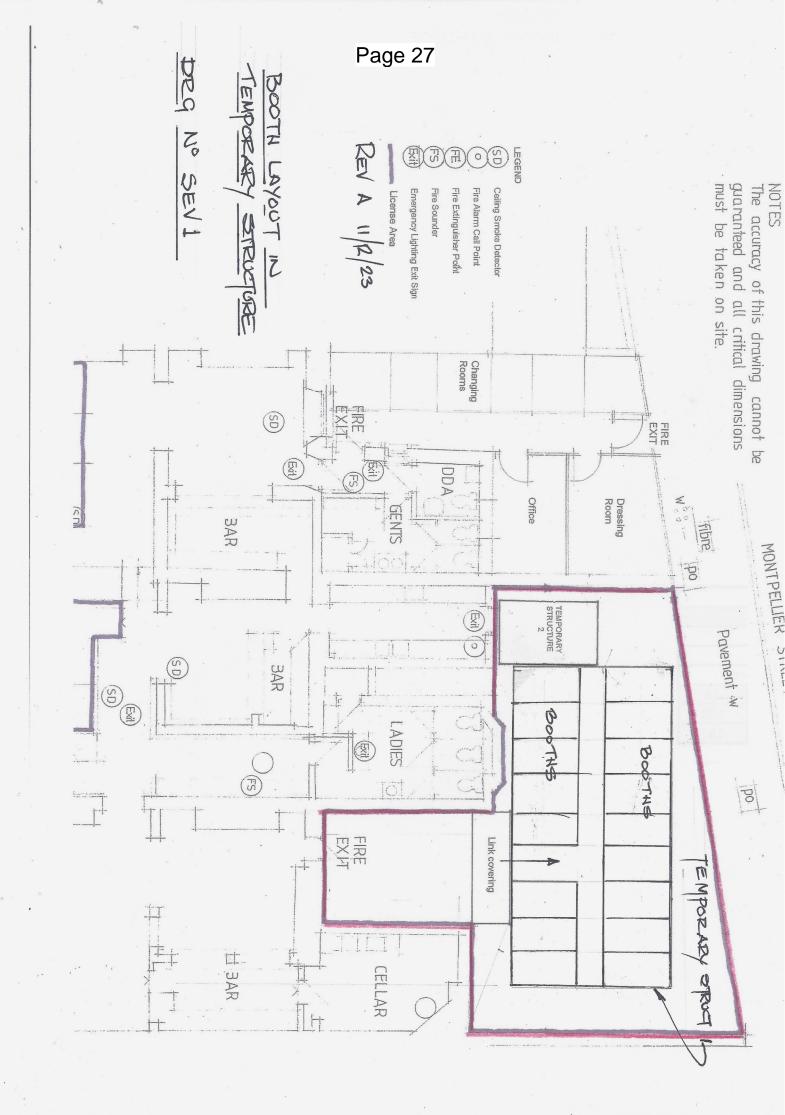


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Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – S.2. And Schedule 3

SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

Licence Ref No: 23/01946/SEXR

Cheltenham Borough Council using its powers under the above legislation

HEREBY GRANT LICENCE to European Events Consultants Limited

to use the premises known as: and situate at:

Eroticats Under the Prom 109 Promenade Cheltenham GL50 1NW

This licence shall be in force from 7th February 2024 until 6th February 2025

A fee of £1614.00 has been paid for the grant of this licence.

Date of issue: 3rd March 2024

Hours which premises may be open for entertainment:

Cheltenham Festival in March 2024 dates - 11th,12th,13th, 14th and 15th March 2024 – with hours to as below

| Monday: | Monday 8pm until 5am the day following | Thursday: | Thursday 6pm to 5am the day following |
|------------|--|-----------|---|
| Tuesday: | Tuesday 6pm to 5am the day following | Friday: | Friday 6pm to 5am the day following |
| Wednesday: | Wednesday 6pm to 5am the day following | | |

In addition:-

Friday, Saturday and early hours of Sunday for the Cheltenham Racecourse November Meeting each year. Dates to be confirmed in writing 1 month prior to each Cheltenham Racecourse November Meeting event to the council and Police.



THIS Licence is granted subject to the Council's Standard Conditions for Sex Establishment licences and any additional Special Condition(s) set out in the Schedule attached.



Louis Krog Head of Public Protection

Second Schedule

STANDARD CONDITIONS REGARDING SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

Variation of Standard Condition 6

The applicant was granted permission to vary standard condition 6 regarding advertisements, solicitations and displays which reads as follows:-

"6. There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere with the Town and advertisements that indicate or suggest that any form of Relevant Entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the display of any advertisement, word, letter, model, sign, light, placard, board, notice, device, representation, drawing, writing or any matter or thing (where illuminated or not) including any of the following ways;

a) by means of personal solicitation in the locality of the licensed premises

b) by means of leafleting in the locality

c) by means of externally displayed advertisement (such as on billboards or posters) in any parts of the Council's administrative area

d) by means of cruising vehicles or use of any other form of solicitation to invite people into the premises."

The varied condition 6 now reads as follows:-

There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the Town any advertisements that indicate or suggest that any form of Relevant Entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the display of any advertisement, word, letter, model, sign, light, placard, board, notice, device, representation, drawing, writing or any matter or thing (where illuminated or not) by means of externally displayed advertisement (such as on billboards or posters) within the councils administrative area.

- 1. The Applicant is allowed to solicit individuals to attend the premises during the hours the licence is in operation, provided that no solicitation takes place to anyone who appears to be under the age of 25.
- 2. The Applicant is allowed to operate a courtesy vehicle to transport dancers and clientele to and from the venue at all times. Further to be allowed to advertise, including by way of leaflets, the courtesy vehicle at all times during the permitted licence hours. No music will be played that can be heard from outside the vehicle. The use of the name 'Eroticats' is permitted.

The reason for the disapplication of this condition is permit a vehicle to transport clientele to and from the venue at all times and for staff to be permitted to give out leaflets for the courtesy bus in the Town.

Second Schedule

STANDARD CONDITIONS REGARDING SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

In these conditions:

'Relevant Entertainment' means any live performance or any live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience (whether by verbal or other means).

'Authority' means Cheltenham Borough Council.

'Town' means Cheltenham and refers to it in its entirety.

'Premises' means any vessel, vehicle, stall, building, forecourt yard, place of storage or

any part of any of these where Relevant Entertainment takes place and is the subject of a licence.

In the event of a conflict between the prescribed conditions and special conditions contained in a SEV licence the special conditions shall prevail.

General Conditions:

1. The premises shall only permit adult entertainment between the hours detailed in this licence as determined by the licensing committee.

2. Only activities which have previously been agreed in writing by the Authority shall take place.

3. The agreed activities shall take place only in designated areas approved by the Authority.

4. There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the Town any advertisements, photographs or images that indicate or suggest that striptease-type dancing takes place on the premises.

5. Rules shall be produced by the licensee for customers indicating conduct that is deemed acceptable. These rules shall be prominently displayed at all tables and at other appropriate locations within the club.

Advertisements, solicitation and displays See above

Premises

7. Alterations or additions, either internal or external and whether permanent or temporary, to the structures, lighting or layout of the premises as shown on the plan, including any change in the permitted signs on display shall not be made except with the prior approval of the Council.

8. A clear Notice shall be displayed inside the entrance to the premises in the following terms:

9. "Striptease-style entertainment takes place on these premises. No persons under 18 shall be permitted in the premises."

10. The performance must not be visible from the street, and any person who can be observed from the outside of the premises must be properly and decently dressed.

Scantily-clad individuals employed in the premises must not exhibit themselves in the entrance or in the vicinity of the premises.

11. When the premises are open for Relevant Entertainment no person under the age of 18 shall be permitted to be on the premises. Anyone appearing to be under the age of 25 years shall be asked to produce valid photographic identification. If this is not produced the individual shall be refused access.

Management and licensee

12. Where the licensee is a body corporate or an unincorporated body any change of director, company secretary or other person responsible for the management of the body is to be notified in writing to the Authority within 14 days of such change.

13. The premises shall maintain a refusals log whereby any occasion a person is refused entry shall be recorded and available upon request by the Police or an authorised officer of the Authority.

Conditions regarding performers

14. Relevant Entertainment may only take place in 'designated areas' that are marked on the plan of the premises.

15. The audience must at all times remain fully-clothed.

16. Performers shall be aged not less than 18 years and the licence holder (or his nominated deputy who is authorised in writing) shall satisfy him/herself that this is the case by requesting valid photographic ID, if necessary, prior to the performance.

17. A 'Signing-in' Register shall be kept at the premises that records the time that the performer starts and finishes at the premises. This shall be made available for immediate inspection by a Police Officer or authorised officers of the Authority.

18. During any performance there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public.

19. No performances shall include any sexual act with other performers.

20. No performances shall include any sexual act with objects.

21. There shall be no nudity by performers in public areas of the premises, unless the Authority has agreed in writing that the area may be used for performances of sexual entertainment.

22. At the completion of the Relevant Entertainment the performers shall dress themselves immediately and leave the designated performance area. Performers not engaged in performing shall not remain in any area in a state of undress.

23. Performers are not to solicit, exchange addresses, telephone numbers or social media contact details with customers, liaise with customers of the premises, or incite customers to purchase alcoholic drinks.

24. An appropriate room shall be set aside to provide a changing and rest area for performers. Access to this room shall be restricted to performers only, whilst the performers are on the premises and shall be marked on the plan of the premises. 25. Any bodily contact between entertainers or performers or any movement that

indicates sexual activity or simulated sex between entertainers or performers is strictly forbidden.

26. Entertainers or performers not performing must not be in a licensed area in a state of undress.

27. There shall be prominently and legibly displayed a comprehensive tariff of all charges and prices in respect of relevant entertainment, including any charge for the company of any person working at the premises, which shall be placed in such a position that it can at all times be easily and conveniently read by persons inside the premises.

28. Literature and contact details of organisations that provide advice and counselling on matters relating to:

- (a) Modern slavery,
- (b) Domestic abuse,
- (c) Coercive control,
- (d) Rape and sexual assault,

shall be made available to performers free of charge in their changing area.

Briefing

29. Prior to performers carrying out any activity on the premises, they shall be briefed (verbally or in writing) by the licence holder or his nominated deputy who is authorised in writing as to the conditions that pertain to these particular premises, including the fact that their activities will be recorded on CCTV. The performer(s) shall sign in the Register that they have been briefed.

Door-Supervisors

30. Subject to a minimum of two, SIA-registered door-supervisors shall be employed at a minimum ratio of 1:50 customers on the premises whilst Relevant Entertainment is taking place.

31. The licence holder, or his nominated deputy who is authorised in writing, or

Door supervisors, shall carry out regular monitoring of all areas of the premises to which the public have access, and shall intervene promptly, if necessary, to ensure compliance with licence conditions by customers and performers.

32. Door-supervisors shall regularly monitor the area immediately outside the premises for a distance of 30 metres in all directions and shall take steps to deal with (by alerting the Police if appropriate) any unsavoury activity that may be attracted to the vicinity due to the nature of the business.

33. A dedicated SIA-registered door supervisor shall remain at all times in any 'private' performance area where performers are performing nude, and shall intervene promptly, if necessary, to ensure compliance with the Licence conditions.

34. When performers leave the premises they are to be escorted to their cars or taxi by a door- supervisor or member of staff.

CCTV System

35. A digital CCTV system shall be installed and be maintained in good working order, shall record at all times the premises are open, and recordings shall be kept for 14 days.

The CCTV system is to be installed in all areas as recommended by the Police Crime Reduction Officer

36. The CCTV recording device, controls and recordings shall be kept under suitable security to prevent unauthorised access/tampering. Access shall be restricted to the licence holder or his nominated deputy who will be authorised in writing and no more than two designated persons.

37. Unaltered CCTV recordings shall be provided on request (as soon as possible and in any event within 24 hours) to the Police or authorised Officers of the Cheltenham Borough Authority (who will carry identification).

38. No CCTV footage is to be copied, given away or sold (except as required by Police/Authority for investigation/enforcement purposes).

39. Except in accordance with the requirements for CCTV as described above, no photographs, films or video recordings shall be taken of the performances. Nor shall

electronic transmissions of performances take place.

40. Notices shall be displayed informing customers of the presence of CCTV.

Special Condition(s)

1. The licence holder will work with Cheltenham Borough Council to promote the safety of women in relation to race week each year. This may be through activities in relation to performers at the venue and /or through the activities of those persons that distribute flyers in the town centre, and through training of management and staff of the venue.

2. The licence holder shall ensure that the venue's courtesy bus shall not drop off customers on Montpellier Street when arriving at the venue.

3. The licence holder shall ensure that there is no customer access to the outdoor temporary structure via Montpellier Street, except in the event of an emergency or for access for disabled persons.

Plan Attached.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 – S.2. And Schedule 3

SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

Licence No: 23/01946/SEXR

This licence is granted by Cheltenham Borough Council to the person named in the First Schedule hereto as the Licensee to use the premises described in the said Schedule for the use as a sex establishment specified therein for the period during the hours specified therein.

The licence is subject to the Council's Standard Conditions for the Sex Establishment Licences together with any Special Conditions set out in the Second Schedule hereto.

The Licence must be available for inspection at all times and must be displayed in a conspicuous position on the premises for the duration of the Licence.

LICENSEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby accept Licence No. 23/01946/SEXR as prescribed herein and agree to abide by and comply with all Conditions attached hereto.

Signature of Licensee.....

Name (in block capitals).....

Dated this......20.....

Please return one copy this form to:

Licensing Section Public Protection Division Cheltenham Borough Council PO Box 12 Municipal Offices Promenade Cheltenham GL51 1PP Page 37



LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 – S.2. And Schedule 3

SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

Licence No: 23/01946/SEXR

This licence is granted by Cheltenham Borough Council to the person named in the First Schedule hereto as the Licensee to use the premises described in the said Schedule for the use as a sex establishment specified therein for the period during the hours specified therein.

The licence is subject to the Council's Standard Conditions for the Public Entertainment Licences together with any Special Conditions set out in the Second Schedule hereto.

The Licence must be available for inspection at all times and must be displayed in a conspicuous position on the premises for the duration of the Licence.

LICENSEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I hereby accept Licence No. 23/01946/SEXRas prescribed herein and agree to abide by and comply with all Conditions attached hereto.

Signature of Licensee.....

Name (in block capitals).....

Dated this......20.....

Please return one copy this form to:

Licensing Section Public Protection Division Cheltenham Borough Council PO Box 12 Municipal Offices Promenade Cheltenham GL51 1PP Page 38

Poppleston Allen Solicitors 37 Stoney Street The Lace Market Nottingham NG1 1LS

ask for: Mr Jason Kirkwood ddi number: 01242 262626 fax number: email: our ref: your ref: date: 29 January 2023

Dear Red Apple Associates Ltd,

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

Eroticats, 30 Cambray Place Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 1JP

Thank you for application received on 12 September 2022.

Please find enclosed with this letter you licence. We would like to draw your attention to the conditions this licence is subject to.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jason Kirkwood Senior Licensing Officer Page 39

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1. I would like to support European Events T/A Eroticats with the application for a sexual entertainment licence.

I have previously worked for Mr Steven Burrows, team of courtesy bus drivers providing the safe transportation for the lap dancers and staff and the transportation form customers upon requested. The bus service has become a much-valued service, that is not just limited to customers of Eroticats who find themselves in distress.

I would hope the council committee would grant this licence on its merits.

2. I was informed that Under the Prom application for the SEL renewal for the coming year 2025 in partnership with Eroticats.

A sexual entertainment license, Under the Prom Cheltenham Gloucestershire.

Would reassure dancers and patrons the knowledge being a properly run lap dance club which is monitored by yourselves and Police.

As a former resident of Cheltenham now living in Yorkshire.

I would like to give you notice to include me in all future SEL applications!

Supporting the SEL application.

3. I have previously work in Cheltenham for over 25 years at various clubs in the town centre. After SIA training as a close protection officer now working in the close protection sector of the security industry. Which has included in recent years for Steven Burrows and the Eroticats dancers contracted during the Cheltenham March/November festivals.

Regulated sexual entertainment provides a greater protection for all concerned working or attending Cheltenham festivals. The police knowing the operator and venue working together creating the reputation for Cheltenham as a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

Unregulated Sexual Entertainment provides no protection and the unknown entity operating during the lucrative March/October /November festivals. Where police resources with the enforcement of the uncontrolled underground could be better utilized.

I would urge the benefits of a regulated Sexual entertainment licence to be considered and the granting of this application.

4. I travel every year to Cheltenham for the November meeting and the March Gold Cup without fail from Ireland. These Cheltenham race meeting being unmissable for myself and mixed group of friends.

As I have previously stated in emails of support my group of friends stay in Cheltenham at the same hotel and use the same bars and finish at the Eroticat club by choice.

A club that provided a safe venue with an escort to our taxi from leaving Eroticats in the early hours November 2024.

My friends and I would like to confirm our support for the owners who supply the much needed alternative entertainment and takes time and care looking after its customers during and on leaving the Eroticats club.

We all support Under The Prom and its application.

5. Again! I would like to express my concern regarding this SEL application and the effect the refusal of the SEL renewal by a company with a good track record. Could result with the unregulated lap dancing during the Cheltenham race festivalsevents. Would Lap dancing go underground? No control has no advantage or benefit for Cheltenham in anyway. With performers, customers and members of staff's safety during this extremely busy week put at risk.

I do not feel anymore unsafe during the Cheltenham festival dates. I would probably say safer with the number of police and the greater number of doorman.

Not supporting this application for the granting of a licence. Would remove everything achieved by Cheltenham Borough Council licencing over the past number of years in the creation of a safer working environment for performers and the customers during Cheltenham festivals.

6. We are residents at (redacted).

We were both born and bred in Cheltenham and have a young Son who works in the night time economy as a cocktail waiter at a hotel in Montpellier.

I am a security officer and my wife is a Psychologist.

This email pertains to the lap dancing clubs during race meetings which, like it or not, have become a mainstay of those events.

We obviously have an interest in our Son and his young friends being safe in Cheltenham during nights out and particularly during busier times at race meetings.

We are concerned that any proposed non renewal for the license would leave a dangerous vacuum for unregulated parties and even organised criminals to drive this market underground - or indeed, to give more clubs and venues an opportunity to exploit that market.

It seems to my wife and I, that it is something of a "no brainer" to support the continuation of a controlled sexual entertainment environment with properly licensed security and oversight during all race meetings.

This issue won't go away anytime soon, but it can be properly contained and regulated. We would be much obliged if this email could be passed on to those who are responsible for considering the licence renewal. 7. I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal to allow a license to European Events Consultants Limited to open a strip club (sexual entertainment venue) in Cheltenham to coincide with horse racing meetings at Cheltenham Racecourse. Such an establishment raises significant concerns for the welfare and safety of women and girls in our community and perpetuates harmful societal issues that should be actively opposed rather than facilitated.

Allowing this venue to open will contribute to the objectification and commodification of women. It reinforces the idea that women's bodies exist for the consumption and entertainment of men, which directly undermines efforts to promote gender equality. This type of objectification fosters a culture that normalises derogatory attitudes and behaviours towards women, as well as the harmful stereotype that women's worth is tied to their physical appearance or sexuality.

Furthermore, the presence of such a venue, especially during events like horse race days, risks exacerbating dangerous behaviour. Race days already have a reputation for heightened levels of alcohol consumption, and combining this with a strip club creates an environment that is likely to encourage harassment, inappropriate conduct, and other forms of gendered violence. Such settings often serve as breeding grounds for harmful behaviors from men that further marginalise and endanger women.

In a time when society is working to combat gender inequality and violence against women, this proposal feels like a step backward. The normalisation of sexual entertainment venues not only sends a damaging message to women and girls about their roles in society but also perpetuates attitudes that can have real-life consequences, including harassment and abuse. It is vital that Cheltenham strives to be a community where all individuals, regardless of gender, feel valued, safe, and respected.

I urge the council to reconsider this proposal and instead focus on initiatives that uplift the community, promote safety, and foster a culture of respect and equality.

8. I would like to voice my **objection**.

I have three daughters, I don't want them growing up in a town where this type of thing is happening. It cheapens the town and normalizes sleaze.

9. I have worked for Steven and the Eroticats for many years, if I had any concerns it being an unsafe environment for myself I would one hundred percent not return for every March/November in Cheltenham.

I found to be a hard work but very enjoyable. Steven applying a for a lap dancing licence shows a commitment to working with Cheltenham licensing and police creating a regulated and organized safe environments for all.

I know the licensing and police visit all venues during the festival dates which does include the clubs operating under the exemption ruling. With a lot more males performing strip events in Cheltenham under the exemption, would be interesting how many inspections have been made to such events.! Female performers should be treated the same as male performer, why are men who attend portrayed as sexual pretors and women who attend not.

Was there an inspection of the Dreamboys , Cheltenham Town Hall November 6th 2024 operating under the exemption?

10. A regulated SEL being a positive, and unregulated a negative during the Cheltenham Festival dates I 2025.

Most Cheltenham residents avoid the town centre in March/November and the anti - social behaviour the Cheltenham festival brings tolerated because Cheltenham residents understand the much - needed revenue that helps to support Cheltenham's hospitality industry, many of which would cease to exist without the Cheltenham Festivals Cheltenham Festivals have done and always will attract anti-social behaviour which the festivals bring to Cheltenham, not lap-dancing entertainment.

Regulated assists the Gloucestershire police in the control of serial entertainment working with guidelines set by CBC licensing team.

The requested application for the SEL should be approved.

11. I would support the application from European Events/UTP 109-113 The Promenade, Cheltenham, application for a renewal of their lap dancing licence. This is a suitable club in a suitable location with experienced operators.

A regulated SEL licensed venue benefits the Cheltenham town far better than any unregulated lap dancing venue for and during the March Cheltenham festival 2025. Why would any individual even consider a no rules lap dancing venue to be the safer option than a license lap dance venue. Using women's safety and that a lap dance venue responsible for all the anti-social behaviour that Cheltenham experiences in March.

Why reinvent the wheel.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email of support.

12. November 16th, 2024, myself and the girls spent the day at the races and during the evening at Under The Prom anight hosted by Eroticats. The girls and I never felt unsafe at any time and with the security escorting to our waiting taxis on leaving, the age of chivalry is not dead ...

My male partner and I both went to the lap dancing in Cheltenham March. Due to the cost of tickets and overpriced drinks watched the races at one of the town centre bars soaking up the atmosphere the festivals bring to town. Cheltenham can be a bit rowdier in March the festival brings to Cheltenham. Lap dancing should not be held responsible for the increased population and the anti-social behaviour the festival brings to town. Rejecting this legal and controlled form of entertainment which I might add the girls, and I all enjoyed in November would lead to unground uncontrolled unregulated lap dancing with no rules.

In support of a licensing lap dancing during the festivals.

13. As a regular customer at Eroticats during race week and the dream boys when they come to Cheltenham. Both offering adult entertainment. Eroticats is attended by a mixed audience male and female with stringent rules!

Dream boys' audience female with no rules and behaviour towards the male performers, would not be acceptable if the performers were female.

I believe both sexes should be treated equally. If female performers dance for the sexual gratification of men, male performers must be dancing for the sexual gratification of women.

Sexual entertainment is a lawful form of entertainment and very popular with males and females, not for everyone. Just because one person does not agree or even findsoffensive, does not mean they are right!

I could not attend the hearing on Wednesday November 6th watching the Dream boys at Cheltenham Town Hall. I would like the same opportunity to watch the Eroticats at Under the Prom in March 2025.

"What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander"

14. SIA licence holder who works in Cheltenham during March and November festivals, which includes a licensed lap dancing club.

I have read many previous objections to lap dancing during the Cheltenham March and November festivals, However in my professional and first-hand personal experience, I have witnessed more incidents of violence anti-social behaviour within normal bars & clubs around Cheltenham in March Gold Cup Week with the police having to attend.

On my experience working within the night-club industry would like to support the granting of this licence renewal.

15. I'm writing in regards to the receiving applied for license from European Events Consultants Ltd, for the use of a venue on the Promenade for a strip club during race meets.

I'd like to object to this license being granted. I strongly feel allowing such events will attract undesirable clientele to a much loved area of town during an already hugely busy period.

As a young woman, I already feel too worried to walk through town in the evenings on my own. It has even stopped me from attending gym classes due to some of the people I have encountered on our streets. I, and many others, only wish to enjoy race meets in our town, without being borderline harassed by aggressive and sexually exploitive men. The same clientele who attend these strip club events, even without the copious amount of alcohol in their systems.

I eagerly await to hear the outcome of this license application.

16. Dragonstar Security Ltd is a female owned and managed Security company based in Worcestershire. Supplying SIA trained security personnel to the Entertainment leisure and sporting industry throughout the UK.

Dragonstar Security has risk assessed the supplying of security personal to venues in Cheltenham with a full Sexual Entertainment Licence and venues operating under the exemption. a premises providing sexual entertainment on an infrequent basis. Therefore, do not need to offer the same level of safeguards to performers and patrons.

Concerns regarding the increase of the safety of women and venues operating with an SEL coinciding with the Cheltenham festivals and their patrons being responsible. This is unjustified and incorrect. Evidence March 2024 would support the benefits that well operated SEL venue contributes to Cheltenham town centre working with the police preventing a potentially serious incident.

European Events Ltd application to renew the SEL demonstrates transparency and open to scrutiny working in partnership with the Cheltenham borough Council and the stringent requirements a more effective approach to controlling and regulating opposed to the exemption option, removes the threat of sexual entertainment going underground in Cheltenham at race festival dates.

In my professional experience the granting of this application provides protection for all performers patrons and would maintain Cheltenham's reputation as a safe, diverse, vibrant well manage night-time economy.

I totally support the application from European Events Consultants renewal.

17. I'm repeating my support for a licenced Sexual entertainment club. Having worked for Mr Steven Burrows over the past 5 years as a receptionist at the lap dancing during the March and November Cheltenham festivals. I would like to give my full support for the new application for a lap dancing club. Having worked at other venues during the Cheltenham festival, I would not work for any other club or bar after working for Steven at his lap dancing club. The support and care he showed me and all the girls and dancers, not tolerating any bad behaviour from any customers towards any of his staff. This does not happen very often in many clubs. I can honestly say I enjoy working even though it can be a long night. Transport to and from the club, which I had never experienced at any club or bar in Cheltenham before. Waiting for an expensive taxi that might not even turn up! May be some of the other owners of managers should be encouraged to follow his lead, with the care he shows his staff as a responsible employer. I would appreciate you considering the granting of his application for a well-run club. The alternative is a not so well-run club, by a not so responsible person. 18. I would like to make my support for the above license known.

I have worked for Eroticats for 13 years as a performer and also as my position not as senior house mother. Granting this licence means we have a regular safe environment to work under strict conditions which I welcome.

I would like the opportunity to speak at the hearing as I have done in the past where I will outline my experience of working with Eroticats and my reasons for supporting this license.

19. I would like to express my support for the renewal of SEL Under The Prom UTP, Cheltenham.

Comments made on social women and girls being unsafe during the Cheltenham festivals, one group supporting this narrative having run a raffle previously with 2 tickets as a prize for the Cheltenham festival on ladies' day.

Cheltenham resident's male and female do avoid Cheltenham not because of a club being granted a sexual entertainment licence. The Cheltenham horse racing festival attracts the large numbers of people to Cheltenham and with it the increased crime and public disorder.

With or without sexual entertainment licence lap dancing can and will take place in Cheltenham. America during the prohibition period, the banning of alcohol led to going underground and uncontrol by gangsters!

I believe controlling sexual entertainment during the Cheltenham festivals promotes a safer environment for women and girls.

20. I email in relation to a Sexual Entertainment License SEL being a lawful activity, this gives accountability and the responsibility from the operators of a sexual entertainment venue also provides a standard expected and working conditions adhered and practiced with the risk of performers and female staff avoided from sexploitation.

Cheltenham can't lose control of this activity when the horse race festivals come to town.

I support to the granting of the license and my details can be found below if needed:

- 21. I would like to confirm my support for the above proposed licence. I am a female resident of Cheltenham and have visited many time with my partner. We find this event to be ran very well and enjoy attending very much! The security are great and the dancers are very professional.
- 22. Despite my request for any notifications with reference to SEL applications in Cheltenham from a creditable source a courtesy shown to objectors! Both supporters and objectors should be treated with the same respect.

Social media has made me aware the Prom club t/a Eroticats application for renewal of their existing licence I would like to express my support with this email and my previous emails of support.

I support licenced sexual entertainment during the race festivals, without any evidence causing domestic violence towards women in Cheltenham. There was more reports of domestic violence during covid in Cheltenham and at the Christmas break.

Being under the control of the council rules provides any gender the safe protection from any criminal deception and the performers the safe working environment and taken advantage by any untrustworthy promoters.

I would urge the granting of a sexual entertainment licence in Cheltenham at the festivals 2025.

- 23. I am writing to give my support for Eroticats sexual entertainment license for Under the Prom. I have worked for this company in March and found it very safe, well executed and enjoyable to be part of. It would be a shame if it was forced to operate under the exemption when clearly the current business model is so efficient.
- 24. I have visited Eroticats on a number of occasions during the festivals and would like to support the licensing of any future event.
- 25. Although I am not a performer or a patron of these events I do have friends in the industry that have worked for Eroticats and the general feedback I have got is that it is a very important part of their work calendar and in an already hard line of work we do need companies like Eroticats that provide a safe environment for dancers and clients. Therefore I give my full support of this licence.
- 26. I am writing to give my support for Eroticats sexual entertainment licence for under the prom. I am a performer there and have been for multiple years. I always enjoy working for this company during race meets in Cheltenham both in November and March. Having a licensed venue means, we the dancers, have a safe and regular place to work which I feel is so important for the women's safety; otherwise it will push us to work in more underground and unsafe conditions thus putting us at risk of danger and extortion.

Sex work is work, and the workers deserve to have safe working conditions just as any other industry.

- 27. I am writing to give my support for Eroticats sexual entertainment licence for under the prom that is up for public consultation at present.
- 28. I am writing to give my support for Eroticats sexual entertainment licence for under the prom. I am a Cheltenham resident and feel it's important to license such events as unlicensed activities could be putting performers and clients at risk of exploitation.
- 29. I am compelled to show my continued support for a sexual entertainment licence.

I have worked in the hospitality industry in Cheltenham most of my adult working life from the largest venue in Cheltenham and in more recent years the smaller niche venues. I was very sceptical and question myself is Cheltenham suitable for lap dancing. After my initial meeting with Steve and members of the Eroticats dancers. My mind was put at ease. The planning and procedures and the detailed attention to the health and safety, was second to none.

Anti-social behaviour increases during the Cheltenham festivals with the resources of the Gloucestershire constabulary greatly put to the test. A regulated SEV gives the Cheltenham council a partner to work with that provides a safe working environment for the dancers, all members of staff and the customers who visit Cheltenham.

A lap dancing club operating during the Cheltenham festivals does not make a difference to the safety of women.

I would urge this application be given the consideration and support I believe it deserves during the Cheltenham racing festivals.

30. I am writing to you to show my support for the application for Eroticats to be operating during the Cheltenham Festivals again.

I attend the venues with my group of friends both female and male each year and I live in Cheltenham. Every time I have attended the Eroticats venues I feel safe and enjoy my evenings/nights.

I feel that the venues controlled by Eroticats during the Cheltenham Festival are safer due to the level of staff and security.

Being in a controlled sexual entertainment environment is an improvement to the pop-ups, this is because I feel that the standards of the customers, workers and dancers safety is outstanding.

I have added my address in to the bottom of this email, however I would not like it to be made public.

Please could you take in my application in to consideration.

31. I am writing to gelp give my support for Eroticats sexual entertainment licence for under the prom. I am a dancer there and feel that it's really important to have licensed events to ensure our safety, Eroticats is a reputable company and I have always felt safe and looked after during my time working for them. The club is full of bouncers and security inside and outside which is always a good thing, they also make sure that the girls are walked to their taxis or cars at the end of every shift.

I think it's important to have a controlled and licensed and safe place for erotic dancers like myself to be able to work and earn money, it is not a sex worker Club, and operates under a no touching policy, so it's a great place for women like me who just want to dance and entertain and host willing customers and feel save and secure.

32. Owner of a nationwide promotional company based in Bristol. A company suppling promotional staff to venues in the Cheltenham area throughout the year including European Events /Eroticats dancers during the Cheltenham festivals.

I have found European Events Consultants an organized and professional operation with their proactive approach regarding health & safety towards customers and staff. Including a training program in partnership with GRASAC prior to the March festival 2023 my staff in attendance.

On numerous occasions, Griffin promotional staff have assisted with lone females calling the Eroticats courtesy bus returning them to their accommodation, March 2024 the police being contacted via Eroticats regarding some serious anti- social behaviour in Cheltenham town centre.

Female team members concerns do not increase during Cheltenham festivals any more so than quieter periods thought the year. However, March 2024 with several non-racing patrons wandering round Cheltenham town centre, information was relayed to the police. Which I have been informed is part of a ongoing police investigation

European Events working with CBC has benefited during the Cheltenham festivals. With professional and proactive attitude towards SEL Management in Cheltenham.

I support the granting of the Under the Prom, Promenade SEL 2025 application.

33. I repeat my email of support for a licensed lap dance venue. The majority of Cheltenham folk know the need for lap dancing in the town at festivals when Cheltenham is overwhelmed with the tweed & trilby hat brigade. Lap dancing being a lawful activity but not to everyone one's taste of entertainment on the grounds morally. With a common-sense approach toward Cheltenham lap dancing during the March and November meetings and possibly some of the smaller race meets If you like or dislike lap dancing it can take place for a 24-hour period at any venue anywhere with no rules, with yourselves and the police unaware and unprepared, with knowledge being power.

The solution is to use the knowledge with the control and grant the licence on the Cheltenham festivals dates. There is no evidence to link lap dancing to the safety of women in Cheltenham during festivals, if there was we would have heard via Gloucestershire live.

34. The licensing of sexual entertainment in Cheltenham when the horse racing festivals come to Cheltenham for many years without any evidence and the unfounded concerns that people who visit the SEL dancing during the festivals make Cheltenham unsafe. With different groups / organizations using this as an argument unfairly as the scape goat.

I have personally witness more unacceptable behaviour after Cheltenham town football club playing at Whaddon Road, with bars closed until the out-of-town football supports have left Cheltenham. Should we ban football with same argument of causing bad behaviour and concerns for the safety of women out shopping during the day. All adults should be held responsible for their own behaviour not the football horse racing or lap dancing.

Lap Dancing clubs are used unfairly as a scape goat for the bad behaviour and domestic violence towards women. More reports of violence and domestic violence toward women during covid.

I continue my support for the granting of an SEL .

35. As a local Cheltenham person, I feel compelled to support a controlled SEL.

Regularly attending the Cheltenham March October and November festivals. My wife and myself spend the evenings in Cheltenham town centre. Always visiting Eroticats club, myself, and my wife both have found Eroticats club to be a friendly and relax club. We have always recommended a visit to our friends. As not just a club full of men who have drunk to much alcohol which seems to be the norm at Cheltenham during festivals with many local Cheltenham people avoiding the town centre. Cheltenham Gloucestershire live every year repeating stories that a club providing lap dancing raises the concerns of the safety of women in Cheltenham.

Why would Cheltenham Council fix something that is not broken for so many years.

I support this application.

36. I've attended many events at Under the Prom and have always been impressed with their attention to safety with particular reference to female attendees. They use the Ask Angela procedure and have processes that have helped my partner when she had been followed by a male that made her feel uncomfortable. My partner and I frequent the event regularly together and think it offers what Cheltenham needs during the races.

I think this attention to detail is crucial for events like this to be run well and as such I support their application.

37. As a personal licence holder and owner of 2 licensed premises in Cheltenham, (COCO and Under the Prom), the chairperson of the Cheltenham night-safe and director of the Cheltenham BID I wanted to convey my support for the SEL application made by Mr Steven Burrows and Red Apple Associates Ltd.

I have first-hand experience, (8 years), of how Steven Burrows and Red Apple Associates operate. Throughout that time I have always been impressed with their professionalism and exemplary attitude towards security, safety and employee and guest well-being at Under the Prom. I look forward to working with them in this capacity for the duration of my tenancy at Under the Prom.

I understand and appreciate that not everyone shares the same perspective regards this type of operation. And as a religious man myself, I was initially sceptical, as it made me question elements of my morality. However, I have noted, (through experience), attendance of lap dancing entertainment has become popular with females and couples during Cheltenham festivals. I have also observed that this facility has had a positive impact on levels of anti-social behaviour during this increasingly popular March festival, which invariably supports the resources of Cheltenham and Gloucestershire's police force.

In my humble opinion there is a definite requirement for lap dancing entertainment during the March festivals, where the population in Cheltenham increases dramatically. The granting of a regulated licence with all restrictions in place gives the police, Cheltenham licensing and it's population the confidence that a responsible person and company would be operating in this capacity in March 2023, which would be a constructive and positive move forward.

I would urge this to be considered for all involved in process of reviewing this licence application.

38. I am writing with regard to the licensing of sexual entertainment in Cheltenham when the horse racing festival comes to Cheltenham. This has been happening for many years without any evidence of bad behaviour from people who visit the lap dancing venue. I have personally witnessed more unacceptable behaviours during the day and early evening when Cheltenham town football club play at Whaddon Road. All adults should be held responsible for their own behaviour which would include football, horse racing fans etc and not just blaming lap dancing customers. A Sexual entertainment license with the police and the people of Cheltenham knowing where they are located for the week would be the better option to the popup clubs which without doubt return to Cheltenham for March.

Lap Dancing clubs are used unfairly as a scape goat for the bad behaviour and domestic violence towards women. More reports of violence and domestic violence toward women during covid were reported.

I support the granting.

39. I am writing in regard to Under the Promenade, t/a Eroticats...

The application for the SEL the regulation of sexual entertainment in Cheltenham that coincides with the festival dates. Ensuring that performers and patrons of sexual entertainment venues—lap-dancing clubs—are properly protected by the local authority Cheltenham borough council, subject to the very stringent requirements that protect patrons and performers.

The absence of a regulated and control SEV licence would consequence Cheltenham venues using the opportunity without the experience and guidance. Criminal gangs seizing control and exploitation of patrons and performers without any safeguards.

The exemption was designed with the best intentions to allow for one-off entertainment events, at licence premises working men's club's stripper-grams stag and hen parties. Taking place throughout the year at different licenced premises in Gloucestershire including many sold out male review performances at the Cheltenham town hall, Imperial Square, GL50 1QA

I am in support of the licensing.

40. Lap dancing has taken place for many years and in more recent years with strict controlled, my friend and I tend to avoid the Cheltenham town centre during the day. I don't think these clubs open during the day. Point being it's the Cheltenham festival that beings the unacceptable behaviour not the lap dance clubs.

No festivals would mean no lap dancing, using lap dancing as the main reason for the concerns of women's safety is unjustified.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the application, can you please register my support.

41. I contacting you with regards to application 23/01946/SEXR (European Events Consultants Limited trading as Eroticats) and the variations they have requested for a strip club at 'Under the Prom' in Cheltenham.

First I would like to point to the fact that the venue falls outside of the council's designated permitted area as stipulated under point 12.2. of Cheltenham Borough Council's SEV Licensing Policy (2020) which sates that "*it is the authority's policy therefore that there is no locality outside the Designated Permitted Area in which it would be appropriate to license a SEV. Accordingly the appropriate number of SEVs for outside of the Designated Permitted Area is nil.*"

In March of this year, during race week, a large number of severe breaches of the licence were witnessed. These breaches include performers touching each other and touching between performers and customers. This is a clear breach of points 18 and 25 of the 'Standard Conditions regarding SEVs' in Cheltenham Borough Council's SEV Licensing Policy.

These breaches of the licence means that the women's safety at the events was jeopardised.

These breaches happened despite visits by councillors, inspections by the licensing team and police, as well as the presence of floor walkers and CCTV cameras. It is clear that despite these precautions European Events Consultants Limited (trading as Eroticats) cannot be trusted to comply to the legal obligations they agree to.

It is also important to note that these concerns were raised by objectors previously, calling for an end to performances in booths which we ask again to be stopped.

We also strongly object to the 'marketing' of these events in the town. Soliciting custom by employing leafletters in the town is completely unnecessary and creates an intimidating and unpleasant environment for women and girls.

We are aware of the impact of the frequency exemption in Cheltenham. Whilst we (men) men continue to be able to buy and access women and their bodies to satisfy ourselves sexually, we will never have equality between the sexes.

Strips clubs perpetuate sexist and misogynistic stereotypes. They are a breeding ground for attitudes that lead men to feel entitled that any woman / girl someone sexually available to them. In the midst of an epidemic of male violence against women and girls it is beyond time that this ends.

I want to end my objection by reminding the licensing committee that Gloucestershire County Council became White Ribbon Accredited in July 2023. The 'Motion Monitoring' document (correct on 8 Nov. 2023) it is written that Gloucestershire County Council resolves that it wants to "ensure [it] is the safest in the country for women and girls" (see <u>https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ly0i44ju/november-motion-report-for-</u> <u>members.pdf</u>). It is unrealistic to think that this is achievable for the County Council if Borough Councils like Cheltenham continue to licence SEVs as they serve to perpetuate sexist and objectifying views of women and encourage behaviours like sexual harassment and sexual assault.

It would be even more detrimental to the County Council's aim to be safe for women and girls if Cheltenham renewed the licence for a SEV that has severely breached a number of licensing conditions, which put their female performers at significant risk of harm from the men in the audience.

If severe licence breaches and a large number of objections from the public do not result in a refusal to renew a licence, then how can women and girls in particular and the public in general be expected to believe that the licensing committee, the police, Cheltenham Council or Gloucester Council are seriously invested in stopping male violence against women and girls and making women and girls feel safe?

42. My reason for this email is to share my support for SEL venue in Cheltenham at Under the Prom during the Cheltenham Festivals again. As my previous emails I have sent my opinions remain the same.

Therefore, a licensed premises offering SE is far more positive than having pop-up SE venues. My thoughts towards this is because holding a license for a venue means comply with all safety regulations and requirements of the law. This includes safety for dancers, staff and customers.

43. Lap dancing in Cheltenham has taken place for many years with the same objectors every SEL application, boring. When the truth is they don't simply agree with lap dancing on moral grounds. Just because they find it offensive does not make them right.

Under The Prom, recognizing the market for lap dancing during race festival dates in Cheltenham and now operating successfully for many years with an SEL. Forming a working relationship with the local authorises providing safe working conditions for all employees and the lap dancers.

The refusal of a licence could see the opening of underground clubs which would be more worrying. Objectors and concerns for the safety of women should welcome CBC efforts to control sexual entertainment. The accreditation of the purple flag award shows something is working.

Keep up the good work and grant the SEL.

44. I am the former premises licence holder for (redacted) and previous SIA door supervisor licence and active former member of the Cheltenham Night-Safe scheme.

Having a working knowledge of sexual entertain aka lap dancing coinciding with the Cheltenham festivals. I would support the granting of the licence which I believe to be beneficial to Cheltenham from a personal experience. I support Mr Burrows application for his commitment towards Cheltenham's nighttime economy and its continued existence, his foresight to adapt in an industry which grows small every year. Also, Steven Burrows an SEV operator working in Cheltenham for many years. He has a working knowledge of applying health and safety to create a safe environment for all which I have witnessed as a licensee.

Alongside their experience and professionalism, their ongoing efforts help to reaffirm Cheltenham's purple flag accreditation as a safe town throughout the year and especially the Cheltenham festivals. Continuing to work closely with Cheltenham borough council which has generated a proven model of sustainability and growth.

I understand not everyone agrees with Sexual entertainment in Cheltenham. However, the health and safety of visitors to Cheltenham and the dancers should supersede objections on the ground of morality, as being only small number of 4 days.

I would like to support the proposed SEV application Under the Prom, GL50 1NW.

45. I (redacted), object to the licensing of this strip club particularly its private booths and flyering. I understand your hands might be tied in having to license this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

Significant sexual contact has apparently already been observed in this club, causing police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is clearly putting women at very considerable risk.

Please also redouble your efforts to call on Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as a matter of urgency.

46. I object to the licensing of Eroticats (at Under the Prom) but understand that while the frequency exemption exists the council may feel it has no choice but to license it. But I call on you to stop allowing it to operate private booths. With such significant sexual contact already observed that the police had to send a written caution and an estimated 500 punters a night, this is clearly putting women at high risk.

The club should also not be allowed to flier (none of your strip clubs should) – this is contrary to standard conditions across the strip industry.

47. I object to the licensing of this strip club particularly its private booths and flyering. I understand your hands might be tied in having to license this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

Significant sexual contact has apparently already been observed in this club, causing police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is clearly putting women at very considerable risk.

Please also redouble your efforts to call on Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as a matter of urgency.

48. I object to the licensing of this strip club particularly its private booths and flyering. I understand your hands might be tied in having to license this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

Significant sexual contact has apparently already been observed in this club, causing police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is clearly putting women at very considerable risk.

Please also redouble your efforts to call on Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as a matter of urgency.

When will you start protecting children from seeing this filth.

49. I am writing to object and to urge the council to prioritise lobbying Parliament to close the frequency exemption loophole, which has allowed establishments like "Eroticats" to operate under insufficient regulation. This outdated provision urgently needs to be addressed to better protect public safety and the community.

In the meantime, I strongly object to the licensing of Eroticats Under the Prom, particularly its use of private booths and the practice of flyering to solicit customers. Reports of significant sexual contact at this venue, leading to a police warning, are deeply concerning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 patrons a night, creates an environment that puts women at considerable risk.

Even within the current legal framework, the council has the authority to restrict activities like private booths and flyering. I urge you to use this power to address the immediate risks associated with this venue.

Thank you for taking these concerns seriously.

50. I object to the licensing of this strip club particularly its private booths and flyering. I understand your hands might be tied in having to license this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

Significant sexual contact has apparently already been observed in this club, causing police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is clearly putting women at very considerable risk.

Please also redouble your efforts to call on Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as a matter of urgency.

51. I would like to support the application from Mr Philip Jordan Co-owner UTP on the request to renew the hosting of lap dancing in conjunction with a professional and experienced SEL company this forth coming year March 2025, UTP Cheltenham GL50 1NW. Cheltenham residents must endure a lot of anti-social behaviour that the customers of the March festival attract to Cheltenham. A club looking to maximise trade cannot be held responsible for all the anti-sociable behaviour and the misogynistic toward women that happens all year round

A clear case of low hanging fruit.

52. I write to object to the European Events Consultants Ltd application to use Under the Prom as a sexual entertainment venue. (see Glos Live "Bid for strip club to renew licence to open at venue club during Cheltenham Festival")

I understand that the frequency exemption means the council will feel it has no choice but to issue this license but I ask them to avoid watering down their own license conditions.

Your <u>2020 community impact statement</u> describes the "inherent risk for performers" working in sexual entertainment venues, and states the council "is aware that females in particular feel disadvantaged by the sexual entertainment and licensing of SEVs. This is manifested in both a general sense of feeling objectified and more specifically through feeling intimidated and unwelcome in the vicinity of licensed SEVs."

License conditions are an attempt to safeguard women and girls against the financial, mental and physical harm associated with strip clubs (<u>Not Buying It FAQs and Myth Buster</u>). Please enforce them.

In particular, please enforce the licence conditions that stop Eroticats touting for business by soliciting, leafleting or using a marked vehicle.

I also ask you to continue to lobby the Home Office to remove the frequency exemption. According to the Not Buying It guidance "<u>Strip Clubs and The Law</u>", this is a relatively easy process which does not require new legislation.

As Cheltenham MP Max Wilkinson says, 'The exemption in the law that allows pop-up sexual entertainment makes a nonsense of licensing regulations and creates added risks for women and girls' (<u>Glos Live</u>)

53. I object to the licensing of this strip club particularly its private booths and flyering. I understand your hands might be tied in having to license this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

Significant sexual contact has apparently already been observed in this club, causing police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is clearly putting women at very considerable risk.

Please also redouble your efforts to call on Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as a matter of urgency.

54. I object to the licensing of Eroticats (at Under the Prom) but understand that while the frequency exemption exists the council may feel it has no choice but to license it. But I call on you to stop allowing it to operate private booths. With such significant sexual contact already observed that the police had to send a written caution and an estimated 500 punters a night, this is clearly putting women at high risk.

The club should also not be allowed to flier (none of your strip clubs should) – this is contrary to standard conditions across the strip industry.

Please also continue to lobby the Home Office to end the frequency exemption, urgently.

55. I am writing to object to the re-licensing of the Eroticats Strip Club in Cheltenham (at Under the Prom). I believe however that the council may feel it has no choice in the matter while the frequency exemption exists. Even so, I do feel strongly that it should not be allowed to operate private booths, in order to protect the women employed there. I understand the police have already had to send a written caution due to the level of sexual contact, demonstrating that the club is not showing sufficient concern for its female workers.

This club (and all the other strip clubs) should also not be allowed to place fliers around the town, as this is contrary to standard conditions across the strip industry. I, and probably many other members of the public, do not wish to be reminded of the way women are exploited in our town.

56. I object to the licensing of Eroticats (at Under the Prom).

I understand that while the frequency exemption exists the council feels it has to license it, but I ask you to stop the operation of private booths.

The level of significant sexual contact already observed means the police had to send a written caution. With an estimated 500 visitors a night, this is clearly putting women at high risk. The club should also not be allowed to flier (none of your strip clubs should) – this is contrary to standard conditions across the strip industry.

- 57. Hi, i'm writing this letter to show my Support for under the prom owned by mr Phil Jordan' application to host a lap dancing club in March 2025 as you are aware a lot of people from many different towns and different cultures and different religions or come Cheltenham for the races, I've been coming to Cheltenham for many years and enjoy coming every year and as a group we always end up going to the dancing club in Cheltham where we have a good time and am looked after I never have any trouble and the manger team are absolutely brilliant as you can understand where from out town shown utter respect by the staff the management. I would like to show my support in this application for license for 2025 March Races.
- 58. I object to the licensing of this strip club particularly its private booths and flyering. I understand your hands might be tied in having to license this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

Significant sexual contact has apparently already been observed in this club, causing police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is clearly putting women at very considerable risk.

Please also redouble your efforts to call on Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as a matter of urgency.

59. Whenever I see the strip club, Eroticats, I think of the <u>Gisèle Pelicot rape trial</u> and I cry.

Gisele Pelicot's husband and at least 50 over men over many years decided they could rape and abuse Gisele and other women because we live in a culture where we encourage men to see women and girls as objects that they can use, as violently as they wish. Strip clubs are part of that culture. I ask you please to do what you can to stop this happening in our beautiful town of Cheltenham so that we can become a town that instead teaches men and boys to respect and care for women and girls.

I object to your licensing of Eroticats and any other such business, both at their club and at any ad hoc events such as Under the Prom, which is making Cheltenham into a tourist attraction for sexual abuse. We don't need any more drunk men in our town who are high on abuse of women. You are putting local women and girls at particular risk of sexual assault and harassment.

I understand there have already been many cases of breach of their licensing conditions and that police have had to caution them. I also understand that the club has been leafletting around town, which is illegal.

Please will you do whatever you can within your licensing and other legal powers to stop or reduce the activities of Eroticats, including events at Under the Prom?

Please also ask our Councillors and lawyers to write to the Government to explain the problems with your limited powers and ask for better powers for local authorities so that you can close loopholes and better protect us.

Many thanks, and I wish you all a safe Christmas holiday.

60. It is a human rights violation against women to license this strip club, particularly its private booths and flyering. I have heard your hands might be tied in licensing this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

There has been sexual contact in this club, leading the police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is putting women at enormous risk.

Please continue to call Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as soon as possible.

61. I object to the licensing of Eroticats (at Under the Prom) and call on you to stop allowing it to operate private booths which has led to the police had to sending a written caution and an estimated 500 punters a night.

The way this club operates is clearly putting women at high risk.

62. I commute to cheltenham often for work. I would like to ask the committee to consider the impact of the premises you are considering licensing.

Lap dance clubs portray women as commodities for male pleasure. This can undermine efforts to achieve gender equity and sends a message to women and girls that their worth is primarily tied to their physical appearance and sexuality, rather than their skills and capabilities. Lap dance clubs can also contribute to a broader culture of sexual harassment. Men who frequent such establishments may be more likely to engage in disrespectful and harassing behaviour towards women outside of these venues, including in public spaces. This poses a direct threat to the safety and well-being of young women and girls.

So I object to the licensing of Eroticats (at Under the Prom). I understand that while the frequency exemption exists the council feels it has to license it, but I ask you to stop the operation of private booths. The level of significant sexual contact already observed means the police had to send a written caution. With an estimated 500 punters a night, this is clearly putting women at high risk.

The club should also not be allowed to flier (none of your strip clubs should) – this is contrary to standard conditions across the strip industry.

Please also continue to lobby the Home Office to end the exemption, urgently.

63. Please stop the pornification of Cheltenham.

I am extremely displeased at the flyers and that there are private booths.

This place should be closed down.

Make Britain decent again and safe for women.

64. My objection is to the licensing of Eroticats (at Under the Prom).

They operate in a way that breaks the terms of the license, which may well be achieved through the frequency exemption.

Significant sexual contact is already reported and so widespread that the police had to send a written caution I call on you to stop allowing it to operate private booths.

Spreading publicity via fliers contravenes regulations and must be stopped.

With an estimated 500 punters a night, this is clearly putting women at high risk.

Please also continue to lobby the Home Office to end the frequency exemption, urgently.

65. I find myself having to express my support for a sexual entertainment licence yet again. Not listening to the smear campaign gossip circulated by some individuals I have taken the time to read the licence application in full.

Being a Cheltenham resident, I would like to again express support regarding the application for a Sexual Entertainment licence renewal. I strongly disagree with sexual

entertainment responsible for the concerns of the safety of women during the Cheltenham festivals.

A business that contributes to the Cheltenham nighttime economy throughout the year and chooses to diversify for the duration of the Cheltenham festivals.

A licence, to me indicates a responsible attitude towards adult entertainment.

66. I wish to object strongly to any continued licensing of this strip club, particularly its private booths and flyering. By allowing private booths with up to 500 punters a night, there is a clear and significant risk to the women involved. Flyering should also be banned in your district, as it is contrary to standards observed within the sex industry.

I understand that there have already been examples of sexual abuse within the club, which have caused the police to issue a written warning. If you will say that your hands are tied in this matter because of a loophole called the "frequency exemption", then may I ask you to join protesters in lobbying Parliament for a change in the law.

67. SIA licence holder in support of SEL application GL50 1NW.

I have worked in the security industry for most of my adult working life. Now working as the area manager for one of UK's leading Security companies. In recent years employed at Prestbury Park and various night clubs in Cheltenham town centre especially at the Cheltenham race events.

A sexual entertainment licence with all conditions and restrictions put in place by yourselves for March and November race events and any other events 2025 a positive action.

I'm a very experienced SIA licence holder convinced having work in licenced and the pop-up style sexual entertainment venues in Cheltenham.

A regulated sexual entertainment licence the correct course of action and highly reduces the risk to customers and the safety of all member's staff

Regulated + Positive Unregulated + Negative Underground + Dangerous

68. We are writing on behalf of our members to object to the application submitted by European Events Consultants Limited, trading as 'Eroticats' ('the Applicant') to renew and vary a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence to allow for stripping at Under the Prom, 109-113 The Promenade, Cheltenham to coincide with race meets at Cheltenham Racecourse in November and during Race Week.

Impact on the lives of women and girls

Strip and lap dancing clubs - where women are sexually objectified and the idea that men are entitled to access women's bodies is reinforced - contribute to harmful sexist and

misogynistic attitudes that underpin the endemic abuse, harassment and violence against women and girls in society. Recent research carried out by the National Police Chief's Council has described the scale of men's violence against women and girls as an 'epidemic' and a 'national emergency'. ¹

There are a number of research studies, as well as research carried out by the United Nations and our own government, that show the link between harmful attitudes, a culture that perpetuates and reinforces these messages and the perpetration of sexual violence. Please see the 'Safe and Equal Bristol Report: Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy Review' 2021 for details of this research.²

Plan International's recent 'The State of Girls' Rights in the UK Report' (July 2024) made for bleak reading.³ 93% of girls and young women do not feel "completely safe" in public spaces. For girls and young women in Cheltenham, violence and harassment is a particular issue.

The most recent Cheltenham Borough Council VAWG Safety Survey highlighted that only 5% of respondents felt "very safe", with around 68% of respondents feeling "not very" safe in Cheltenham during race week.

We know from our own research that women change what they usually do in Cheltenham during race week, with many avoiding the town centre. Women have told us of routine harassment from drunk men, their experiences of fear and powerlessness and feeling 'like an object just for men's amusement'.

Others complained about the Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) stating that, 'Turning the pubs into strip clubs again only reinforces objectifying women' and 'The SEVs make the atmosphere really unpleasant and unsafe for women.'

As part of the Cheltenham Borough Council VAWG Safety Survey, women were asked what they would want prioritised in response to the harassment of women in Cheltenham. Women said that their top priority was a zero tolerance approach. A culture where sexual harassment is unacceptable cannot be created when Cheltenham Borough Council ('CBC') enables the continued sexual objectification and dehumanisation of women and girls by way of SEVs.

Public Sector Equality Duty

We would remind CBC that it must take into account its statutory duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty in its decision making and have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

¹ <u>https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/call-to-action-as-violence-against-women-and-girls-epidemic-de epens-</u> <u>1</u>

² Safe and Equal Bristol Report: Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy Review 2021 -

^{(&}lt;u>https://www.bristolwomensvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SEVReport2021FINAL.pdf</u>) ³ Plan International - The State of Girls' Rights In the UK Report 2024 - <u>https://plan-uk.org/state-of-girls-rights</u>

Whilst deciding previous SEV licence applications, CBC's Licensing Committee have fallen short of considering all of the Public Sector Equality Duty statutory criteria. The continued failure to fully engage with the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation of women and girls and foster good relations between men and women, leaves us with the impression that CBC just do not care about the lives of women and girls in Cheltenham.

Race Week 2024 - Licensing Breaches

We understand that during race week in March 2024, breaches of SEV policy standard conditions 18 and 25 (touching between performers and touching between customers and performers) were identified during inspections at Under the Prom, which resulted in a written warning being issued by the police.

We are concerned that, despite reassurances given by the Applicant that performance areas are constantly monitored by 'booth walkers', breaches of licensing conditions have occurred that may have harmed women performing in the venue and increased risk for other women working there.

At the November Licensing Committee meeting (which considered a SEV application submitted by the Applicant for a different venue), we were left astonished that, despite the March 2024 breaches, CBC's Licensing Committee allowed SEV policy standard condition 25 to be varied to allow for touching between performers.

We note that the Applicant is asking for the same amendment to SEV policy standard condition 25 as part of this SEV application. We remain extremely concerned by the requested relaxation of this standard condition and the potential for this to negatively impact the women working in the club.

If a SEV licence is granted, we would ask that this variation of the standard conditions is not permitted. Additionally, we would ask that performances in booths are not permitted, to ensure that performance areas can be better supervised.

Frequency Exemption

We are told that CBC's hands are tied in respect of the grant of SEV licences, due to the existence of the sexual entertainment frequency exemption as enacted by Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Legislation does allow for these provisions to be repealed and we would hope that CBC will use whatever influence it has to lobby Parliament for such a change. We hope that CBC recognises the barrier that the frequency exemption's continued operation creates in respect of the exercise of local democracy.

If CBC continues to grant SEV licences then they must be licenced on the strictest terms possible. Over the time we have engaged in the SEV licensing process, we have seen a consistent watering down of CBC's SEV policy standard conditions (which were agreed in consultation with local people) in areas such as advertising, soliciting, operating hours and now touching- with scant evidence to justify such changes.

We hope that CBC will listen to the voices of women and girls and show a commitment to their Public Sector Equality Duty in deciding the outcome of this application.

69. I am writing to object to this application for the renewal and variations of a licence to operate a strip club at Under the Prom in Cheltenham. (Number 23/01946/SEXR).

Whilst I acknowledge the existence of the frequency exemption enacted by Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) 1982, there are several areas of concern that require scrutiny and amendment in relation to the conditions applied to this license should it be granted.

It merits mention that outside of race events there is no demand for stripping in Cheltenham. There are no permanent strip clubs operating in the town. It is therefore reasonable to conclude the demand and supply for lap dancing in Cheltenham is controlled by the operators – this is further supported by the removal of licensing conditions that allow the operators to solicit customers.

I note that the location for the venue is outside of the councils designated permitted zone. Whilst there are other licensed premises in the location, none operate as licensed strip clubs.

Licence conditions in relation to touching

All of the licences issued for venues in Cheltenham contain conditions (18 and 25) prohibiting touching between performers and between performers and customers.

During March 2024 race week multiple breaches of these conditions were observed at Under the Prom during a number of inspections resulting in a written warning being issued by the police.

It merits mention that these breaches have occurred despite the assurances of the venue owner whose statement to this committee on 4th October 2023 noted the following:

" He has an impeccable record because he follows the law, he stated that the licence stipulates 4 door staff whereas they always have 8. There will be added security for Eroticats (who also provide their own extra security). Licence stipulates 16 security cameras but they have 48. Eroticats also provide their own whilst they operate on the premises."

The reality is Under the Prom has joined the very long list of strip clubs in the UK where breaches of conditions (viewed as essential for the regulation of stripping) are frequently observed. In spite of all of these measures it is clear that breaches of these conditions cannot be prevented in the current format of performances in private booths.

It is further concerning that the applicant is requesting a variation to standard condition 25. This will be argued as clarification to avoid "technical" breaches in relation to bodily contact between performers.

However, as outlined by Philip Kolvin in "Sex Licensing", the "intention of the performer is not the test" or indeed "whether actually anyone be stimulated", so long as the "inference is that that is its aim". I believe that the variation being requested by the applicant would for allow bodily contact between performers which could sexually stimulate a customer given the raison d'etre for strip clubs is the sexual stimulation of its customers. Whilst it is possible for the committee to deviate from the Council's SEV policy, a good reason is required for any deviation. The key question is whether an exception can be made without harming the point of the policy's purpose.

I do not believe that a case can be made for this variation, particularly in light of the multiple breaches in March 2024. Watering down rules governing no contact fundamentally undermine the purpose of the council's own SEV policy.

It appears to be more a case of "we can't stick to the rules, so let's change the rules".

Men's violence against women and girls

A large body of evidence has been provided numerous times to this committee by residents and organisations actively working in the VAWG sector. The evidence highlights that all women and girls are harmed by the commercial sexual exploitation and objectification of some women for the arousal and sexual gratification of men.

During race weeks it is evident that the vast majority of customers are men, with performers mostly being women.

Special Condition – Joint working with Cheltenham Borough Council in relation to VAWG

It is unclear from the application whether the applicant is seeking to include the special condition which was added in 2023 and reads as follows:

"1. The licence holder will work with Cheltenham Borough Council to promote the safety of women in relation to race week each year. This may be through activities in relation to performers at the venue and /or through the activities of those persons that distribute flyers in the town centre, and through training of management and staff of the venue".

An FOI request to the council to ascertain what joint work was agreed and undertaken in race weeks 2023 and 2024 was responded to as follows:

Q1. The year that this special condition was applied to the licence.

A1. Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee - Miscellaneous, Wednesday, 1st February, 2023.

Q2. For each year that the special condition has been in place please confirm details of the work that the licence holder has undertaken in conjunction with Cheltenham BC.

A2. No relevant records found on case management system. This may be due to the fact that the previous licensing Team Leader, who would have been leading on this work, has since left CBC and their files and mailbox has been removed from the system.

Q3. For each year that the special condition has been in place please provide copies of correspondence where Cheltenham BC and the licence holder have agreed the work to be undertaken and any way that the effectiveness of this work will be measured.

A3. There is only one document in the system that may be relevant to this.

The document referred to was an email exchange involving the previous licensing officer about a meeting where matters were discussed but nothing substantive to show that any VAWG initiative was agreed. A further request to the Council to clarify this matter has not been responded to.

Taking the FOI response on face value, combined with the lack of response from the wider council (which was an opportunity for details of any joint working to be shared), this raises serious questions for both this committee and the council in relation to the inclusion of this condition and the apparent subsequent lack of action or monitoring by the licensing team, this committee and the council members responsible.

I would remind this committee that during Cheltenham 2024 race week the county's SARC (sexual assault referral centre) had a presence on Cheltenham High Street. The results of the council's own safety surveys highlight the impact of race week on women in the town. It is an acknowledged fact that perpetrators of sexual violence are overwhelmingly men, with victim / survivors being female.

I would suggest that, if not already removed, this condition is not granted, given it appears there is nothing substantive behind it. If the condition is maintained I would recommend that the Council's VAWG partnership group is tasked with agreeing and monitoring any actions.

Conclusion

If the committee grants this renewal there is no compelling rationale or argument that supports deviating from the standard licensing conditions within the council's current SEV policy.

I would ask that the variations requested are not permitted and that the committee stops allowing performances in booths, given the multiple breaches in March 2024.

As noted above I would suggest that the special condition is removed given the apparent lack of action or monitoring by Cheltenham Borough Council.

70. I wish to object to the licensing of Eroticats, at Under the Prom, but have received an email from the council to advise that while the frequency exemption exists the council feels it must license it. However, I urge you to stop allowing Eroticats to operate private booths.

With such significant sexual contact already observed that the police had to send a written caution and an estimated 500 customers a night, this is clearly putting women at high risk.

The club should also not be allowed to flyer; this is contrary to standard conditions across the strip industry.

Please also continue to lobby the Home Office to end the frequency exemption, urgently.

71. I am a female who has lived in Cheltenham all of my life. I enjoy the nightlife in Cheltenham and I enjoy the atmosphere in Cheltenham during the festival race meetings.

I have visited Eroticats a numerous amount of times throughout the years they have been operating and this is my favourite venue to attend. The reason for this is that the staff that work at Eroticats are genuinely good at their jobs ensuring that members of the public are safe.

It is a venue that is mixed for both female and males to enjoy and no one is discriminated against.

I throughly enjoy my nights at Eroticats and would be disappointed if they were not granted SEL at Under The Prom, Cheltenham.

72. Me and my friends have attended Eroticats venues on a night out during Cheltenham Festival Race Meetings.

The venue is full of people who are enjoying an evening out on the busiest week for Cheltenham! Eroticats host a fun and safe evening for everyone.

There is a demand for this type of venue and having a venue which has a licence is less of a concern that one that does not!

I am fully supporting another application for this event at Under the Prom!

73. I object to the licensing of this strip club particularly its private booths and flyering. I understand your hands might be tied in having to license this club due to the frequency exemption, but you could end its private booths and flyering to solicit customers.

Significant sexual contact has apparently already been observed in this club, causing police to issue a written warning. Allowing private booths, especially with up to 500 punters a night, is clearly putting women at very considerable risk.

Please also redouble your efforts to call on Parliament to end the frequency exemption loophole as a matter of urgency.

74. My friends and I all keen National hunt racing enthusiasts. March in Cheltenham the pinnacle travelling for the Cheltenham Gold Cup not the lap dancing and enjoying the atmosphere in the evening in the City. However, in the recent years found us ending the evening at the lap dance club as it is not limited to men, popular with women and couples in recent years being under control, SEL. You can read about Cheltenham National hunt festival to keep you informed, but if you read about Cheltenham lap dancing at festival you are miss informed.

A licensed lap dance club protects men, women and couples. Cheltenham City licensing keeping lap dancing in accordance with regulations out of reach of the imported criminal element gaining a control.

75. As a group of avid National Hunt racing enthusiasts, my friends and I eagerly anticipate travelling to Cheltenham each March to experience the pinnacle of the sport—the Cheltenham Gold Cup. While our primary focus is enjoying the racing and the vibrant

atmosphere the city offers during the festival, we have noticed a growing trend in evening entertainment options, including lap dance clubs, which have become increasingly popular among men, women, and couples alike.

In recent years, we have found ourselves ending the evening at one of these establishments. Contrary to outdated stereotypes, licensed lap dance clubs have become well-regulated venues that provide a safe and controlled environment for all patrons, irrespective of gender or relationship status.

I firmly believe that maintaining licensed lap dance clubs in Cheltenham during the festival is essential for several reasons:

1. Safety and Regulation: Licensing ensures that these venues operate within strict guidelines, protecting patrons and performers alike. This prevents unregulated activities from taking root and safeguards the community.

2. Preventing Criminal Influence: By keeping such venues under the oversight of Cheltenham Borough Council, the risk of criminal elements exploiting unlicensed or underground establishments is significantly reduced.

3. Inclusivity: The modern appeal of these clubs extends beyond traditional demographics, attracting diverse groups, including women and couples. These establishments provide a welcoming environment when operated within the law.

It is vital to recognize that the presence of licensed lap dance clubs during the festival contributes to the broader entertainment landscape without detracting from the rich heritage and prestige of the National Hunt Festival itself. Cheltenham's licensing system ensures these venues remain safe, respectful, and free from harmful influences.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views on this matter. I trust that the Licensing Committee will continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of all who visit Cheltenham during this internationally renowned event.

76. A frequency exemption means that any venue in any UK city including Cheltenham can put occasional events. This includes males stripping in Cheltenham at the Cheltenham Town Hall and female members of the audience are invited to participate during the performance. These unlicensed performances simply run unregulated where the council has zero legal powers.

An SEL during the Cheltenham race festivals maintain a stringent code of conduct with no audience participation with the female performers. No licence with the stringent guidelines and code of conduct would lead to lap dancing simply unlicensed where the council has zero legal powers.

Cheltenham venues that make use the frequency exemption during the Cheltenham festival with female performers receive a regular inspection. Venues with male performers make use of the frequency exemption throughout the year in do receive any inspection whatsoever.

If any female by their own choice chooses to be a performer it is their right to do so without criticism from any other person and treated equally with the same respect shown to a male performer

This form of entertainment and should be allowed regulated and licensed.

77. Licencing sexual entertainment provides the accountability for a safer working environment and the protection from exploitation the performers rightly deserve. Patrons' male and female who chose lap dancing as a form of entertainment the reassurance Cheltenham Borough Council and the purple flag accreditation are committed to provide a safe venue with this controversial form of entertainment at Cheltenham festival dates.

Unfounded accusations and claims about lap dancing have created misconceptions about lap dancing in Cheltenham on race days and as the scape goat and the answer to the safety of women in Cheltenham. These accusations damage the good reputation within the racing fraternity who visit Cheltenham as a safe town.

A recent survey by Cheltenham Borough Council that women did not feel safe throughout the year, revealed an increase of 3% on Cheltenham race festival days from the 72% when there is no Cheltenham festival and any SEL in Cheltenham. The Police and Crime Commissioner by his own admission no evidence sexual assaults have been cause by a SEL club.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Chris Nelson

Gloucestershire Live 4th November 2021

"It is hard to find specific evidence outside 2 Pigs, that sexual assaults have been caused by that **sex club**, but I have looked at this quite closely"

A Sex club, the name implies a club where people go to have sex. They're often styled like a typical nightclub, with room for socializing and dancing, but usually include more private areas with beds and other props for sex play. Comments have and are taken seriously as the police conducted a recorded uniformed search of a venue in March 2023. Police officer "we had received creditable information of secret rooms at this venue".

Comments from some individuals for their own ends creating a media storm giving rise to misconceptions regarding lap dancing in Cheltenham.

- SEL causes anti-social behaviour and the safety of women and girls in Cheltenham on festival days.
- Describing a club with a Sexual Entertainment Licence "SEX CLUB", "SEX WORKERS" and "SEX BUS".
- Cheltenham has become a sex destination in March

Supportive the granting of licensing during the Cheltenham festival days.

78. I have worked as a doorman for over 30 years, holding a current SIA license. Now working as head door person Under The Prom in Cheltenham. Having worked in the club making use of the exemption with no guidelines or rules to followed. Now at UTP operating with an SEL on

race meeting in March 2023/24. Women's safety in Cheltenham is concerning it happens all year round which does increase at Christmas and noticeably during COVID 2020 when lap dance clubs closed. My experience working within a club with a SRL and the guidelines and rules offers a save space for women and girls and important for protection and safety for all

I support regulation of an SEL.

79. Myself and group of friends who are a mix of both male and female have attended Eroticats when out in Cheltenham's nightlife during race week and we attend Under the Prom in Cheltenham each year it operates.

Race week is an extremely busy week for Cheltenham and nightlife is at its busiest, something that is rare to see! As many people avoid town centre during this time, I do not. I choose Eroticats to attend, the atmosphere is brilliant.

I have attended a pop up lap dancing venue and it is not the same than attending a venue which holds its licence. Which is why I am in support to this application. It is a venue/entertainment the town wants and there is a demand for!

80. I am giving my support for Eroticats to be operating during the Cheltenham Festivals.

My reason for that is that I have been to the venue numerous amount of times and enjoy my evenings at their venues.

Me and my friends look forward to the Cheltenham Festivals including attending Eroticats each year. Eroticats is my preferred venue during Cheltenham Festival because it is a safe environment, the atmosphere is brilliant and it is mixed for both female and male.

81. The reason for my email this afternoon is to give my letter of support for the SEL in Cheltenham,

I attend nightclubs during the Cheltenham festival, including Under The Prom.

Being a female who attends this nightclub, I'd like to attend while there is a licence in play for this event. To my understanding this means that they are abiding by all rules and regulations needed for this event.

82. I have been a customer at Under the Prom, Eroticats in March and November 2024 after a day of horse racing. From my personal experience Under the Prom/ Eroticats the safest club in town and if open throughout the year would be, group of girls, mixed ages can go avoiding the constant harassment from men which takes place on any given night out in Cheltenham the rest of the year.

If I can go to the Cheltenham town hall to watch The Forbidden Nights & The Dream boys most recently on the 6th November at Cheltenham town hall. Why should I be restricted on watching Eroticats girls. I have never heard any men objecting to male strippers dancing for women or any form of inspection by the Police at any time.

I do hope you will support the granting of this licence on the grounds of gender equality.

83. I am feeling the same regarding a SEL as all my previous emails sent to yourselves. Attending a licensed premises or attending a non licensed premises? I know which I would prefer to.

I have a group of female and male friends who have all visited Eroticats at both venues they operate at, I have nothing negative to say. We all look forward to attending the venue it is on our list of venues to attend each year!

84. As Cheltenham resident I would like to express my full support regarding the application of Sexual Entertainment club to operate during the Cheltenham horse festivals.I support this SEL application as it would be run at a licence and regulated responsible club.

Opposed to the "here today gone tomorrow from the inexperience run one-night clubs which have occurred at previous horse race festivals.

A well-run business that contributes towards the Cheltenham night-time economy throughout the year, should receive help with their business by the granting of this licence.

85. Working in a licensed premises at all times has only a positive attitude, my reasons for this is that there will be rules and regulations that need to be met to ensure the staff and public is safe. This is hugely important for those in this industry of work.

I strongly believe that everyone has the right to be safe at work, this should be in all types of work environments of which career path you take.

Therefore if you choose to be a lap dancer for your choice of work, then working for a company who cooperates with the authorities deserves the rest for conducting themselves in a professional, legal with a responsible attitude.

Allowing performers and all the staff who work in Cheltenham during the festivals the support they deserve.

86. I am continuing to support the application for SEL at Under the Prom.

As a female who attends Cheltenham town centre during the race festivals for most meets, I would feel safer attending a venue which has a licence rather than an unlicensed venue.

Please take my constant support in to consideration along with my email.

87. I have been attending the National Hunt racing events in Cheltenham for many years and thoroughly enjoy the experience. Each year, I travel to Cheltenham with friends and work colleagues, and we always make the most of the day by continuing our evening at local venues.

One of the highlights for us is visiting the lap dancing club after the events. We appreciate the atmosphere and the security, which makes us feel safe as a large group of women. I am

subscribed to the club's mailing list, and I recently noticed information suggesting that the venue may not be open this year.

Could you kindly clarify if this is the case? It would be disappointing if the club were to close, as it has become a key part of our tradition and post-event plans.

Licensed venues such as this play an important role in providing safe and regulated environments for women, couples, and men.

Maintaining such establishments ensures the safety of patrons and helps prevent unlicensed and potentially unsafe alternatives from emerging. It is crucial to uphold these spaces in accordance with regulations, keeping them out of reach of criminal elements seeking to exploit gaps in oversight.

I would appreciate any information you can provide regarding this matter.

Thank you for your time and attention.

88. Sexual Entertainment is popular with both genders and lap dancing during the Cheltenham festival is increasing in popularity with females and couples not just males as portrayed in the social media.

With the male review nights advertised at the Cheltenham town hall, hosting nights with male performers dancing to sold out female audiences, without any objections on morality.

I fail to see why objections on grounds of morality for allowing female performers during Cheltenham 2024. When male performers at the Cheltenham Town Hall dance for a mixed audience. With all licenced codes of practice conditions in place, a local business that is trying to survive.

There has been more male dance shows this year operating under the exemption ruling I doubt if any inspection has been recorded unlike clubs operating with female dancers in March 2024 Are female performers dancing in Cheltenham or the male customers attending being discriminated against?

OFFICIAL

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ATT: PLH - EUROPEAN EVENTS CONSULTANTS LTD. Unit 3 Ambrose House Meteor Court Barnett Wav Gloucester GL4 3EE

Breach of licence conditions UTP

Please ask for: **Direct Dialling**

Date:

Our reference:

3rd May 2024

RE: Breach of conditions - Sex Establishment Licence Ref No: 23/01946/SEXR

Sexual Establishment licence for Eroticats, Under the Prom (UTP), 109 Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 1NW.

I write to inform you that following routine licence inspections at UTP during the March 2024 race week, the following breaches of conditions in regards to Sex Establishment Licence Ref No: 23/01946/SEXR were identified.

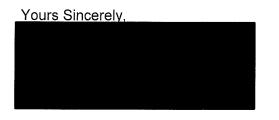
- On Tuesday 12th March at approximately 23:10hrs physical touching took place in the performance area. This is a clear breach of conditions 18 'During any performance there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public'
- On Tuesday 12th March at approximately 23:30hrs, physical contact was made between two performers. This is a clear breach of licence condition 25 'Any bodily contact between entertainers or performers or any movement that indicates sexual activity or simulated sex between entertainers or performers is strictly forbidden'.
- On Wednesday 13th March at approximately 23:55hrs physical touching took place in the performance area. This is a clear breach of conditions 18 'During any performance there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public'

When these licence condition breaches took place, I spoke with and provided an apprise of these breaches. Over the course of the week you did explain and show me procedures you have added to try and negate any further breaches these were:

- Lights inside the performance booths turned up brighter clearer to see inside the booths •
- More security / staff monitoring in the corridors performance booth's area's
- All performers had the condition around no touching of any kind being allowed in performance area reiterated to them and informed to stay behind the marked line inside each booth
- Performers that had breached the conditions had their contracts terminated.

Due to your previous good compliance recorc **Page 74** asion I have agreed with CBC (Cheltenham Borough Council) Licensing Team that this written warning letter will suffice and remain on file for record purposes for a period of 12 months, this may be used as evidence should any future breaches occur.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please don't hesitate to contact myself or CBC Licensing Team at licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk.



Hucclecote Police Station 58 Hucclecote Road Hucclecote |Gloucester GL3 3RT

www.gloucestershire.police.uk | Twitter page | Facebook page

cc: CBC Licensing Team.

OFFICIAL

Agenda Item 4

Page 75 Cheltenham Borough Council

Licensing Sub-Committee Miscellaneous – 3rd April 2024

Application for a transfer of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence

Report of the Senior Licensing Officer

1. Executive Summary and Recommendation

- 1.1 My Taylor is seeking to replace his existing Hackney Carriage wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) licence (HCV12) with a saloon vehicle.
- 1.2 In practical terms there are usually 3 types of vehicle licence application: a new application, a renewal, and a transfer of a vehicle licence.
- 1.3 In 2021, the council introduced a policy for all Hackney Carriages to be Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) by 31st December 2021. This was the final date by which existing saloon vehicle proprietors had to change their vehicle to a WAV or to change to private hire. Mr Taylor changed his existing saloon vehicle to a WAV in August 2021 because of this policy requirement.
- 1.4 On 21 September 2021, the council determined to halt the implementation of this policy and to deliver a mixed fleet of WAV's and non-WAV's in-line with the Department for Transport Best Practice Guidance. The council decided that saloon type vehicles could continue to be licensed, pending the approval of a new and yet to be decided policy. Any new applications would still be required to be a WAV.
- 1.5 In 2023, Licensed Vehicle Emission and Wheelchair Accessibility Policy was produced which runs alongside the current policy and details the current vehicle replacement process. A copy is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 1.6 In 2024, a draft policy was submitted for consultation which proposed that any driver in Mr Taylors situation who had changed from a saloon to a WAV when the 2021 policy was produced would be able to revert to a saloon vehicle. This was on the provider that the WAV remained on the fleet. The proposed policy has not yet been implemented following changes to the licensing team. It is proposed that the policy will be consulted upon at the end of February 2025.
- 1.7 Had Mr Taylor retained his saloon, the proposed vehicle (**see Appendix 2**) would comply with the Euro 6 replacement vehicle standards.
- 1.8 The potential justification for members to approve this application would be to consider that discretion should be given in this case as a saloon vehicle was licensed under vehicle licence HCV124 until Mr Taylor replaced it with his current WAV as initially required by the 2021 policy. This WAV has been licensed since 13th August 2021. A number of vehicle proprietors were allowed to renew saloon vehicles following the September 2021 decision to not implement the WAV requirement for all vehicles. Had Mr Taylor not purchased his WAV he would have been able to renew his saloon vehicle.
- 1.11 The sub-committee is asked to consider the matter and determine whether to:
 - a) Grant the request for a transfer vehicle licence application when it is made in due course by treating it effectively as a renewal with a change of vehicle or
 - b) Refuse the request to transfer the vehicle licence as it does not adhere to current policy requirements.

1.12 Legal Implications There is a right of appeal against a refusal to grant a licence which, in the first instance, is to the Magistrates' Court.

Contact officer: One Legal E-mail: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

2. Background

- 2.1 Permission is sought to make a transfer application for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle licence to replace a currently licenced WAV vehicle with a saloon.
- 2.2 The council had previously adopted a policy that non-WAVs would no longer be licensed as Hackney carriages from 1st January 2022. This meant that non–WAVs could have been replaced with non–WAVs or simply renewed, but the new licence would not expire beyond 31st December 2021. After that date all Hackney vehicles were required to be WAVs.
- 2.3 On 21 September 2021 the council decided not to complete that process. The council decided that existing saloon type (non-WAV) vehicles could continue to be licensed, pending the approval of a new and yet to be decided policy.

3. Policy Considerations

- 3.1 Decision making in relation to licensing is an onerous duty, dealing with both the livelihood of the licensee/applicant and the risks to the safety and comfort of the public.
- 3.2 Each case will be decided on its own merits. The authority will always consider the full facts of the case and any mitigating or other circumstances before reaching a decision.
- 3.3 Any vehicle application must meet the usual requirements of an application, in any event, such as meeting the council's age policy, provision of a valid MOT and council fitness test. It is felt there is no risk to public safety in connection with this matter.
- 3.4 The council has adopted a local policy to reflect the manner in which it will carry out its licensing responsibilities under the Hackney carriage and private hire legislation. The committee must have regard to this policy in making its decision, but it may depart from it where it is considered appropriate to do so. If the committee do depart from it they should provide clear and cogent reasons for doing so.
- 3.7 Whilst the council consider reviewing its vehicle policy, where reasonable reasons are given to the council, a non–WAV is currently permitted to be replaced like for like provided it is Euro 6 or better in terms of emissions and a renewal of such a vehicle is currently permitted, until a new policy is implemented.

4. Licensing Comments

4.3 Whilst Mr Taylor has a licensed WAV, this vehicle is currently suffering from faults which prevent it from being used. Mr Taylor has attempted to replace this vehicle with another WAV, however finding an affordable vehicle that meets all policy requirements is proving difficult.

-

| Report Author | Contact officer: Jake Johnstone – Senior Licensing Officer |
|---------------|---|
| | E-mail: licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk Tel no: 01242 264135 |

Background Documents

Service Records

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act

<u>1976</u>

Statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards

Taxi and private hire vehicle licensing best practice

guidance for licensing authorities in England

Cheltenham Borough Council's taxi and private hire policy

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cheltenham Borough Council's Licensing vehicle emission and wheelchair accessibility policy 2023

Appendix 2 – Proposed vehicle information

Appendix 3 – Email chain detailing HCV124 request

Appendix 2 – Proposed vehicle information

Fuel type: Diesel Body type: SUV Engine: 2.0L Gearbox: Manual Doors: 5 Seats: 5 Emission class: Euro 6

https://www.autotrader.co.uk/car-details/202411286804087



From: Licensing (CBC)
Sent: 27 January 2025 18:13
To: tony taylor
Cc: Councillor Cathal Lynch
Subject: Re: New vehicle query HCV124

Good morning, Mr Taylor,

Thank you for your email.

I have checked with our democratic services team, and they are able to add an additional report onto next week's Committee meeting to determine this application. This will be held on 5th February at 6pm.

Jake will be in touch with further information and provide a copy of your papers.

Kind regards

Michelle

Michelle Bignell

Licensing and Public Protection Manager Public Protection Cheltenham Borough Council Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA External: 01242 264135 Email: <u>licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u> Website: <u>https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/</u>

From: tony taylor Sent: 27 January 2025 18:13 To: Licensing (CBC) Cc: Louis Krog Subject: Re: New vehicle query HCV124

Dear Craig,

Following on from our phone conversations and mine with Jake this evening. I would like to layout where I stand for you to pass on to Jake Johnson, first thing tomorrow morning please.

I cannot stress enough how urgent this is. I have been out of work since Christmas as my current car is behind repair and bills are mounting up.

I have also cc'd in Louis, because I believe he has helped out other drivers and I am really struggling here and losing earnings each day.

I have had numerous discussions with the team on different cars now and commercially the WAV does not make sense as there is limited silver cars on the market, within a reasonable price bracket that meet all your requirements.

I have sent numerous vehicles to you for approval, as evidenced in our email conversations.

I am one of the twelve drivers who at the last meeting I know were discussed and it was agreed that we would be able to change back to a car.

Two drivers out of the twelve who were present at this meeting, Martin white and Malcom Roger's have already been allowed to change back.

Two other drivers who gave up their plates durning the previous change over, have also recently been given these back with no stipulations. One was Simon Bailey.

I am just looking for consistency in the decision making for exactly the same request. Can you please look into these other cases for me for cross reference to my case?

The below car is available in Cheltenham for me to collect for a limited time, and this will allow me to not lose anymore income or my school run.

New and Used Cars For Sale autotrader.co.uk



Today Jake told me I need to wait and hopefully within five weeks this will go to consultation and I will get a resolution. I cannot afford to be out of work another 5 weeks or more, can someone please help me.

Kind Regards

Tony Taylor Plate number HC124

Sent from my iPhone

On 27 Jan 2025, at 10:58, Licensing (CBC) <<u>Licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u>> wrote:

Good morning Mr Taylor

Thank you for your email. The Ford Kuga would be fine. It is on our approved vehicle list.

In terms of the process of dropping to a saloon from a WAV, I have checked with my senior officer and we will be directly contacting all the drivers that are able to change back to confirm the process as soon as possible.

Many thanks

Craig Daly Licensing Officer Public Protection Cheltenham Borough Council Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA Email: <u>licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u>

Website: https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/

From: tony taylor Sent: 27 January 2025 10:14 To: Licensing (CBC) Subject: Re: New vehicle query HCV124

New and Used Cars For Sale autotrader.co.uk

Many thanks Tony Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Jan 2025, at 17:27, tony taylor wrote:

Thanks for your efforts that's great news kind regards Many thanks Tony Taylor

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Jan 2025, at 16:36, Licensing (CBC) <<u>Licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u>> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr Taylor

I can confirm we **would** be able to licence the vehicle you have shared. This would be a deviation from policy but on reviewing your circumstances would be acceptable on this occasion,

Many thanks

Craig Daly Licensing Officer Public Protection Cheltenham Borough Council Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA Email: <u>licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u> Website: <u>https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/</u>

From: tony taylor Sent: 20 January 2025 16:03 To: Licensing (CBC) <<u>Licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u>> Subject: Re: New vehicle query HCV124

https://www.motors.co.uk/car-72764971 Would the council accept a like for like vehicle like this one Regards Tony Taylor Sent from my iPhone

On 16 Jan 2025, at 15:00, Licensing (CBC) <<u>Licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u>> wrote:

Good afternoon Mr Taylor

I have discussed your query with a senior officer this afternoon.

Whilst we are sympathetic to your proposal, unfortunately we would not be able to present the proposed vehicle to our committee members regarding the vehicle colour which current policy does require to be silver on the wheelchair accessible vehicle's V5.

We would require all vehicle applications to meet all of our policy requirements, however if you can identify any other suitable vehicles which are silver but only a few months older than the 5 year age requirement, we would be able to present the application for committee members to decide.

Many thanks

Craig Daly Licensing Officer Public Protection Cheltenham Borough Council Municipal Offices, Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 9SA Email: <u>licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u> Website: <u>https://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/</u>

From: tony taylor
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2025 11:47 AM
To: Licensing (CBC) <<u>Licensing@cheltenham.gov.uk</u>>
Subject: Re: Automatic reply: Used Peugeot Rifter 5 SEATS 1.5 Hdi WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
DISABLED MOBILITY ADAPTED VEHICE WAV 5 Doors MPV for sale in Blackpool, Lancashire - Pickering
Motor Company

Dear sir

I am the owner of a licensed Hackney carriage that is a WAV plate H/C124 I have been a taxi driver for 40 years in Cheltenham, I find myself in a very awkward and frustrating position at the moment, my car has currently broken down and looks like possibly beyond repair. I contacted CBC licensing to explain that I am unable to find a vehicle that is silver and 5 years old , when you look for WAVs that fit the criteria there are only grey or different shades of grey but some look silver in appearance, I have found an example that I am sending to you but it is 6 months out of date being a 19 plate vehicle and grey,I am one of the older drivers who was forced to change from saloon to WAV I have the option to go back now but I have built up a lot of wheelchair business , I have tried to see if there is any wiggle room in the policy decision but I can't talk to anyone who has the authority to make a decision on this , silver is not a popular colour since 2019 although they look silver they are grey on the log book I would appreciate it if you could have a conversation with me about this, I am currently not working and have wheelchair work building up and cannot find a vehicle that fits the criteria I am sending you information on a vehicle that I have found that would be fine but it's grey and 6 months

older than the council's criteria, there are a lot of of different coloured vehicles out there that would be ideal with low mileage and different colours, I am looking to replace my WAV but I'm at a loss if possible could you please look into this or at least talk some sense to licensing many thanks Tony Taylor

https://search.app/SiCAaXPPgxzhNNfm7

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