



Home Office

Victoria Atkins MP  
Minister for Safeguarding

2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Dr David Willingham  
Cheltenham Borough Council  
[Clr.David.Willingham@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:Clr.David.Willingham@cheltenham.gov.uk)

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Dear Dr Willingham,

Thank you for your letter of 30 July to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government about Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licensing. Your letter was transferred to the Home Office and I am replying as the Minister for Safeguarding. I am sorry for the delay in responding to your letter.

The licensing requirements for SEVs are set out in the Policing and Crime Act 2009. As you refer to, premises providing sexual entertainment on an infrequent basis (on no more than 11 occasions in a 12 month period and on such occasion has lasted longer than 24 hours) do not require a license under the current legislation. The intent of the legislation is to strike a balance between nuisance to the community and the reduction of onerous regulation being placed on small businesses.

I very much appreciate the concerns you have raised on this issue. We aim to routinely review local licensing regulations to ensure that local people are able to contribute to the development of their community, and we continue to work with the police to make sure that they are protecting the vulnerable and tackling sexual crime, as well as public nuisance.

However, whilst we have no immediate plans to amend the legislation surrounding the licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues, you may be aware that policy in this area is part of the Government's wider Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. We are aiming to update the strategy shortly and therefore welcome the views you have shared, which we will take into account alongside other evidence for the new strategy.

Thank you for writing on this issue and the insights you have provided.

Yours sincerely,

**Victoria Atkins MP**