

23/01596/SEXA Support Comments

1.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the license for Jessop house to operate on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As a female resident of Cheltenham I often find nights out during race meets somewhat stressful. With the influx of men in the town and the sheer number of people in the area can be overwhelming but i visited an Eroticats event in march this year and I was impressed by the measures they put in place to stop overcrowding and general sense of security being present was refreshing.

Whilst I understand the moral debate surrounding this kind of entertainment I can also say the women I spoke to there were so professional and welcoming, they made me feel more comfortable than if I was in one of the other establishments in the area.

2.

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my support for the proposed SEV license for Jessop House on the dates stated in the notice displayed outside the venue.

As someone who has been and would like to continue to be a customer of sexual entertainment venues/events, I wholeheartedly believe that the granting of this license will allow myself and other attendees to enjoy a safe and enjoyable experience that is regulated and monitored.

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7.

Cheltenham licensing Dept

I would like to offer mine and my partners support. With our experience in March 2023 during the Cheltenham race festival

I have witnessed lap dancing in Cheltenham during the March & November festivals, which includes the most recent lap dance night hosted March 2023 at the Cheltenham race festival. Meeting up

with my partner towards the end of the night, we both enjoyed the night and without doubt the busiest club in the town that night.

Applying for permission for this activity gives the council knowledge the applicant and club are both responsible with the health and safety toward its patrons. Which helps maintain Cheltenham as a safe town to visit during the Cheltenham festivals uncontrolled lap dance activities could led to the exploitation of women and visitors to Cheltenham taken advantage of.

I whole heartly support this activity with all conditions in place

8.

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to you regarding the SEV to be operational during the race events in Cheltenham.

Many of my friends and I are for the sexual entertainment licence to go through for Red Apple Associates Limited, so that they are able to operate during the race events in Cheltenham.

The reasons we are all for this application is either we are dancers, we are operational staff or we have visited the venue.

We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

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12.

Committee members

Red Apple Associates, SEL application

I have worked in the hospitality industry in Cheltenham most of my adult working life from the largest venue in Cheltenham and the smaller niche venues in recent years.

More than 14 years ago, [REDACTED], Luminar Leisure, the owner of one club I managed in Cheltenham requested I contact Steven Burrows a former area manager for Luminar Leisure with the possibility of organising a Lap Dancing event with his company during the Cheltenham March festival.

I was very skeptical and questioned 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 health and safety, were second to none.

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

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

13.

To whom this may concern,

I travel every year to Cheltenham in March for the Gold Cup and November for the November meeting without fail from Ireland. These Cheltenham race meeting being unmissable for my wife and friends.

We have stayed in Cheltenham at the same hotel and use the same bars and finish at the Erotocats club by choice, a club which is not just full of drunken young men !

My wife and friends and I would all confirm our support with the much needed alternative entertainment which we all enjoy when in Cheltenham especially after a day on the racecourse.

Many thanks

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We believe there is no reason for this application to be objected by the council.

18.

Good Afternoon,

An EROTICAT

I have received a message from a fellow lap dancer asking me to support Red Apple Associates on their request for a regulated licence in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

All lap dancers have the right to be safe at work. Working for a company who cooperates with all authorities deserves the respect for conducting themselves in a professional, legal and with a responsible attitude.

I request you grant Red Apple Associates application. Allowing all performers and all staff who work in Cheltenham during the Cheltenham festivals, Including patrons of lap dance clubs the support we all deserve.

I'm making other performers/ dancers and all patrons of lap dancing clubs aware, that we have the right to voice our opinion regarding applications for a SEV each and every year.

The committee hearing not just being for objections.!

19.

Licensing Section Cheltenham

I would like to support UTP application for sexual entertainment for Jessop House 30 Cambrey place as having worked for Steven Burrows as a courtesy bus driver for a few years providing the safe transportation for the lap dancers and staff.

The courtesy bus service is a much-valued service especially with the lap dancers who travel from all parts of the UK now associated with Cheltenham along with its duty of care shown towards them

20.

To whom my concern I'd like to support the license application of Erotic Cats at the address below. I have always attended when they are in Cheltenham and always welcomed by the staff and the management. This is a fun place and a very diverse place and safe place I would like to support the license on Eroticats, Jessop House, 30 Cambrey Place, Cheltenham,

21.

Cheltenham Licensing Section

I have previously worked in Cheltenham for more than 20 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 Mr Steven Burrows being contracted to work during March and November festivals.

Regulated Sexual Entertainment provides greater protection for all concerned working or attending all festivals in 2024.

The police knowing the operator and venue and 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 festival. 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 the application.

22.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm a local member of the public who attends various social events including Cheltenham racing festivals.

Having visited Eroticats in March 2023, credit should be given to a well-run club.

If organizations and a small number of persons objecting on the safety of women, is it not better for all parties to work with a controlled club operating under the guidelines and the knowledge of "who where when".

I support this licence application.

23.

I would like to express my full support of this licence being granted.

I have worked during race meetings, in Cheltenham in hospitality, for over 40 years.

The volume of customers asking where the lapdancers are, has increased year by year.

I have worked alongside Eroticats and found them to be a very professional company, looking after dancers, staff & customers extremely well, also supporting the police with the security they provide, during these busy race days.

I felt the statement, made by the dancer at the council meeting, reported in the Gloucestershire Echo, was a great insight into how these girls feel, with the negativity shown to them continuously by local groups, that claim to support them, without even speaking to them. They should be supported in their choice of career without prejudice.

24.

Committee members.

I'm a local lady who attends all the Cheltenham racing festivals with my partner. Having visited Eroticats in March 2023 credit should be given to a well-run club.

If organizations and a small number of persons objecting on the safety of women, is it not better for all parties to work with a controlled club operating under the guidelines and the knowledge of WHO WHERE WHEN .

I support this licence application

25.

Dear Licensing committee

I'm in full support the application for a sexual entertainment license during the Cheltenham race meeting.

I have attended male strip shows including shows hosted at Cheltenham town hall.

I would like to ask people the question why is it acceptable for one gender to strip and not another?

Should females not have the same right to strip as males?
Supporting a licenced SEL in Cheltenham

26.

Dear Licensing Section,

I would offer my support on granting of a sexual entertainment licence with all the conditions set by the local licensing section in March. Reduces the possibility of the lap dance going underground, putting the safety of customers and the dancers at risk.

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

27.

The Licensing Section

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28.

To whom it may concern, Having worked for Mr Steven Burrows over several years as a receptionist at his lap dancing events including during the March, October and November in Cheltenham. I would like to give my full support for the renewal application 30 Cambray Place, Cheltenham.

Having worked at other venues during the Cheltenham festivals, I would not work for any other club or bar during March 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.

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.

29.

i wish to show my support for the sexual entertainment licensing to go ahead, this is due to my belief that it stops the sexual entertainment industry from being seedy and going underground.

30.

The Licensing Section

SEL application Cambray Place Cheltenham

As Cheltenham resident I would like to express my full support regarding the application of a Sexual Entertainment Venue to operate during the Cheltenham horse racing festivals 2024.

I support this SEL application as it would be run at a responsible venue in partnership with an experience SEL operator. Opposed to the here today gone tomorrow from the badly run one-night venues which have occurred at previous race festivals.

I fully support this locally run business and consider the granting of this licence beneficial towards the health and safety of all visitors to Cheltenham when the town centre nightlife increases tenfold

31.

Cheltenham borough licensing Section

I run a nationwide promotions company based in Bristol. Every year I supply promotional staff to venues in Cheltenham Spa and during festival times for Mr Steven Burrows @ Red Apple Associates Ltd and his Eroticcat dancers.

I have found Mr Steve Burrows as an organized and very professional operator with his proactive approach regarding health & safety towards customers and members of staff. Which includes a training program in partnership with GRASAC prior to the March festival 2023 with my staff in attendance. On numerous occasions Griffin promotional staff have assisted with lone females calling the Eroticcats courtesy bus returning them to their accommodation, contacting the police and allowing access to the use of their phones assisting with giving directions in and around Cheltenham.

Mr Steven Burrows having worked with yourselves, and the Gloucestershire police appears to be a successful approach to providing a partnership that benefits Cheltenham nighttime during festivals. All parties should receive credit for the professional and proactive attitude towards SEL Management in Cheltenham, with Mr Steven Burrows increasingly popular club with both males and females. I'm supportive of the granting of the Cambray Place SEL 2024 application.

32.

Committee members

Ref; Red Apple Associates Ltd

Sexual Entertainment Licence renewal

A Sexual entertainment licence renewal granted over the Cheltenham during any racing festivals, with all the restrictions & conditions imposed by the committee provides visitors who chose to attend entertainment of this nature and all performers the protection from exploitation and the safe working environment they rightly deserve.

I would urge the health and safety of all performers and members of the public attending a sexual entertainment venue be considered with the granting of this licence renewal application

33.

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to confirm my support for the "Eroticat application for Jessop House, 30 Cambray House", during the November race meet. These events attract an audience looking for this form of entertainment. The application accommodates this type of entertainment to an area but it also generates new business for the neighbouring business who may not typically have that level of access to the race audience. Eroticats have always ran a professional and well managed approach, working closely with the local authorities and local businesses during their events. I support their application.

34.

I was informed by a friend who is employed by Steven Burrows Red Apple aka Eroticats dancers. For the recent application for the renewal of the lap dancing license Cambray Place, Cheltenham to include the Cheltenham race festivals dates 2024.

Having on occasions worked for Steven Burrows, found him a very responsible person. My husband and I attend many of the race festival held at Cheltenham, along with a mixed group of friends the highlight being the Cheltenham Gold Cup March meeting. Over the years it has become noticeable with the change of the clientele attending Cheltenham festivals especially the Gold Cup festival, with large groups males socialising in Cheltenham after a day at the races.

My group of mixed friends and myself-have witness incidents traveling to and from the racecourse during the day. I don't believe that refusing a licence of a well-run club offering lap dancing would solve any problem during festivals March/ November either during the day or evening and benefit Cheltenham in its effort to combating anti-social behaviour. Using lap a dancing club as the reason for the anti-social behaviour is totally absurd. Individuals and groups searching for evidence to support the claims as the main reason for anti-social behaviour, time and effort would be better invested working together with Steven and other venues the racecourse included.

My friends and I all enjoy the lap dancing club, as a sanctuary a club that is not just full of males greatly under the influence of alcohol.

I urge you to consider this application from my experiences as employee and a customer.

35.

I would like to register my support with the application for Red Apple Ltd, Cambray Place, Cheltenham GL50 1JP to be used as a venue for sexual entertainment during the Cheltenham race festivals.

Having worked for Steven on many occasions as a cashier/receptionist during the Cheltenham March and November race festivals. I have always found Steven and the Eroticats dancers a very professional company.

I do value the employment on the race events and rely on the extra monies and would like to continue working for a rare employer who takes responsibility towards health & safety and procedures which this year organizing training by GRASAC for safety of females in Cheltenham's nighttime busiest period of the year.

Which includes the safe transportation to and from my home address. Taxi's being few and far between and very overpriced March.

36.

Cheltenham council committee

As a local Cheltenham person who always attends the Cheltenham March festival. My wife and myself spend the evenings in Cheltenham town centre. Always visiting Eroticats club, myself, and my wife both have found them to be a friendly and relax club.

We have always recommended a visit to our friends. As not just a bar / club full of men who have drunk to much alcohol which seems to be the normal practice during Cheltenham in March.

A well-run club regulated club in Cheltenham is a vast improvement of the unregulated lap dance clubs of yesteryear.

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

37.

Sexual entertainment license support

Having worked in the security industry for many years which includes Cheltenham through the year and especially during race festivals holding a full SIA license.

A sexual entertainment licence with all the license restrictions & conditions put in place by the licensing section during the March and November 2024 race festivals. Highly reduces the risk to customers and the dancers alike.

Regulated + Positive action

Unregulated + Negative action

38.

March for the Gold Cup 2024 and Lap dancing in Cheltenham.

I visit Cheltenham for the March gold Cup and go into Cheltenham City centre visiting a restaurant and then book the courtesy bus with my party to the Eroticats, avoiding the busy City streets.

A licensed club gives a me the knowledge being a properly run club, any problems the police know the owners and the dancers are vetted.

Supporting the application

39.

Lap dancing in Cheltenham has taken place in Cheltenham for a long time, with the Blue Rooms St Margaret Rd, Fantasy Club, Old Bath Rd. Operating 52 weeks of the year, both failing.

Red Apple recognizing the market for lap dancing only during race festival dates in Cheltenham and now operating successfully for more than 14 years and now with more than 7/8 years with an SEL. Forming a working relationship with the local authorities and the Gloucestershire police providing safe working conditions for all employees and the Eroticats dancers.

With Cheltenham town awarded the purple flag since 2016, something must be working. The refusal of a licence could open the underground clubs and the pop ups clubs, offering no restrictions and run by?

Could result with the purple flag award at risk, which the council has worked hard to achieve and maintain.

Keep up the good work and grant the SEL.

40.

To whom it may concern,

I have worked for Eroticats for many years both as a performer and as my current position which is senior house mother.

I completely support any event or license that Mr Burrows hosts and can say my experiences have been nothing but positive. I've worked all over the country and would say that Eroticats is the most organised, safe and enjoyable company to work with - second to none. Performers are well looked after by myself and all of the team which is why they continue to return year after year.

Allowing this license would mean the dancers can return to a place they know and like. Without licensed venues it removes that added layer of safety and reassurance that everything is above board and regulated.

I would like to say that as dancers we are often judged and portrayed in and by the media, we are being spoken for and not to enough and we feel like our voices don't matter when ultimately - when it comes to welfare, our safety, our choices in how we earn our income - ours should be the only ones that matter.

In the early days of Eroticats I remember moving from venue to venue each night - having to navigate a different space each night is stressful. Granting this license would only be positive for the dancers and staff in my opinion.

41.

To whom it may concern,

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

I have read many objections to lap dancing during the Cheltenham March and November festivals, In my 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.

42.

I have listened to both sides of SEL in Cheltenham 2024 the pros and the cons and sending you this email confirming that I'm in full agreement and support for a license during the March festival 2024, However, I do not believe Cheltenham would be a suitable town for a SEL club 52 weeks of the year. "Horses for courses" is the expression that fits this application.

43.

A regulated SEL being a positive and unregulated a negative during the Cheltenham Festival dates in 2024 Most Cheltenham residents avoid the town centre in March GCW With the behaviour that the festival attendees bring to the town .Any measure that assists the Cheltenham police with control of Cheltenham town centre and safety of all is positive The requested application for the SEL should be approved.

44.

To whom it may concern,

I have previously worked for Eroticats on several occasions as a performer.

I am fully in support of any event requiring a licence that Mr Burrows hosts.

Having worked at many similar events in different places throughout the UK, I can confirm that Eroticats is well run and provides a safe environment for all its workers. The other performers and I have always been taken care of and always have someone on hand should they need.

Allowing events like these a licence, means that performers, like myself, can earn a safe living to provide for our families, along with the money it brings into the Cheltenham economy. Not only do performers want to work somewhere enjoyable with a good reputation, but granting the licence ensures we are all kept safe, and the event is regulated.

As dancers, we often aren't considered in such discussions, as these. Not granting the licence would mean that many women may not be able to provide for their families that month due to daytime childcare costs etc, this is so often overlooked due to stigma around the adult industry. This line of work is so precious & beneficial to so many.

Please take this email in to consideration when making this decision.

45.

To whom it may concern,

I have been working with Eroticats during the march festival. I have worked quite a few places in my 11 years of dancing and will say that the event is very well run and organised. I had a good time, and it was a profitable week for me. I felt safe and well looked after by both management and security staff. Dancing gives me the freedom and financial security that I need in my life in the current climate. I support this license and any other events that they will run in future. To not grant it would take away my, and many other performers ability to earn during the race meets. Many of us travel to work this event because it is so organised, and we know we can work in a safe space.

46.

I am a female resident of Cheltenham I would like to express my full support for the proposed sexual entertainment licence of 30 cambray place.

47.

As a Cheltenham resident I would like to express support regarding the application for a Sexual Entertainment licence renewal.

Not listening to the smear campaign gossip circulated by some individuals I have taken the time to read the licence application dates. Clearly stating Cheltenham Festival dates only, not a strip club open all year round.

A business that contributes to the Cheltenham night-time economy throughout the year. One that chooses to diversify for the duration of the festivals and applies for a licence, to me indicates a responsible attitude towards adult entertainment. Opposed to the here today and gone tomorrow-promoters using the exemption ruling.

48.

There must be a need for lap dancing in the town at festivals when Cheltenham is overwelled with the tweed & trilby hat brigade.

It is far safer to licence a premises for everyone concerned dancers & customers police included. Only if the applicant reaches the criteria and standards set by the committee.

Sexual entertainment can take place without notice given to the police at anytime, anywhere, how can any sane person with the knowledge of this consider this being a solution for the safety and welfare for Cheltenham!

I would support a licensed club, to a no rules club which could set up wherever in the town for a twenty-four hours.

49.

SEL for Cheltenham 2024,

Sexual entertainment is lawful.

Alex Chalk MP for Cheltenham needs to be reminded Sexual entertainment is lawful activity. The article in Cheltenham free post urging the committee members on the banning of all sexual entertainment licences in Cheltenham.

Being a person in a position of power to make changes to legislation, instead of using social media as a point scoring exercise for his own political gain. He should be supporting the Cheltenham borough council committee members in favour of regulated and controlled sexual entertainment opposed to uncontrolled and unregulated.

I would like to add I have visited a licenced sexual entertainment club with my partner in previous years, our choice, if this entertainment is not for you, then don't go!

I trust that you will grant this application.

50.

I am writing to broadly support the application for the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) license detailed in application 23/01596/SEXA. As this is a renewal of a license already granted, with extended dates for the operation of the SEV, I can't see anything that has changed in terms of licensing conditions that would mean that this subsequent application should be refused.

I welcome the applicant's commitment to pursuing a license, and the costs, objections and scrutiny that invites, when the option is there to hold these events under the exemption. As far as I am aware the applicant has kept to any licensing conditions agreed for all previous licenses and has indeed worked voluntarily with local women's groups.

The safety of all women is better served by licensed and inspected venues while this is deemed a lawful activity. A more permanent venue should mean nicer conditions for the women who choose to perform there.

Research on how safe women feel in the area of SEVs focuses on areas with a high concentration of these venues, which this is not. Gender discrimination is also often cited as an objection however this is not a men only venue and feelings of safety or not are not limited to women and girls in areas of high concentrations of sexual entertainment venues, again, which this is not.

The applicant committed to making sure the venue is discreet with none of the activities visible from the outside. In terms of the location, it is in a much more open and better lit space than other venues in the town. As a woman, I know I could walk past some distance from any queue and it feels much less intimidating than passing the dark lanes and alleys of some other venues.

I can imagine that there will be objections under section d) as the venue is close to a church. During the meeting where the previous license was granted a representative of the church mentioned that the church recommended the rear entrance on Fridays so this could be utilised on the other dates when opening of the venue clashes with church activities.

Opening the venue at 8pm on dates other than the 4 days of the Gold Cup festival also avoids disturbance of retail units in the area and may also encourage footfall to other night time economy businesses in the area for those hours between the last race and the opening of this venue.

I am fortunate that I can choose to avoid the area for the 17 dates requested, but I have always been reassured as a woman walking around town during race meetings, and actually feel safer as there are more people in town, more police and more door staff who I could call on if I was threatened.

If this entertainment is going to happen, and it is, I'd much rather see it licensed, inspected and monitored for the protection of everyone involved.