



Home Office

Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and
Violence Against Women and Girls

2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
www.gov.uk/home-office

Councillor Dr David Willingham
Chair of Licensing Committee
Cheltenham Borough Council
c/o Municipal Offices
Promenade
Cheltenham
GL50 9SA

DECS Reference: MIN/1208527/24
Your Reference: 2024-10-03 LGMPA1982 SEV

25 November 2024

Dear Councillor Willingham,

Thank you for your letter of 3 October to the Home Secretary on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council's Licensing Committee about sexual entertainment venue licensing. I am replying as the Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls.

Thank you for sharing your experiences of the licensing regime in Cheltenham. I am grateful for your detailed description of how it is operating in practice.

As you note in your letter, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009, sets out the licensing requirements for sexual entertainment venues (SEVs), and the legislation excludes certain premises from requiring a license, including where relevant entertainment takes place infrequently and for a relatively short duration. As you recognise, this is intended to provide both local areas and local businesses with some flexibility.

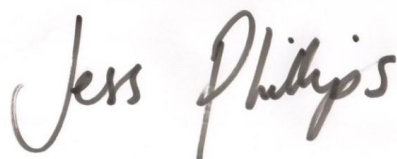
Where a local area has concerns about anti-social behaviour, including in relation to events, as you may be aware, the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 provides the police, local authorities and other local agencies with a range of flexible tools and powers that they can use to respond quickly and effectively. These tools and powers can be deployed depending on the specific circumstances and taking into account what is driving the behaviour in question and the impact that it is having.

More broadly, the Government has committed to halving violence against women and girls in a decade. We will do everything in our power to achieve this, overhauling every aspect of society's response to these devastating crimes and using every tool available to target perpetrators and address the root causes of abuse and violence.

While the Government does not have any current plans for a formal review of the licensing regime, we will keep it under review as part of our wider work to ensure that local people are able to contribute to the development of their community and our Safer Streets Mission.

Thank you again for writing to the Government on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jess Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls