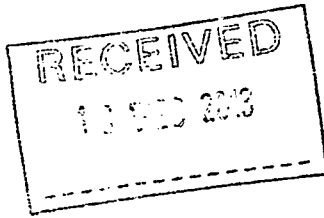


C/O York Feminist Network

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19 December 2013

Dear Entertainment Licensing,

We write with regards to the application for renewal of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence submitted by York City Centre lap dancing club 'Upstairs' (part of The Mansion) on Micklegate.

We are opposed to the presence of Sexual Entertainment Venues in York, and our objection is centred on four key arguments:

- That lap dancing club 'Upstairs' is located in proximity to premises of 'sensitive use'.
- That Sexual Entertainment Venues create 'no go' areas for women and local residents.
- That Sexual Entertainment Venues impact negatively on the character and family-friendly reputation of York.
- That Sexual Entertainment Venues promote gender inequality and serve to normalise the sexual objectification of women.

This objection is brought by members of our York Feminist Network, drawing on the work of human rights organisation Object and its supporters, including The Fawcett Society, Eaves, Million Women Rise, National Alliance of Women's Organisations, UK Feminista, White Ribbon Campaign and Women's Aid Federation of England. We have also obtained 246 signatures on our petition calling on York Council to reject the application for renewal of SEV licence from lap dancing club 'Upstairs'.

I enclose a report outlining in further detail the reasons for our objection.

Regards,

Objection to renewal of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for lap dancing club 'Upstairs', Micklegate, York

This document outlines the reasons for our objection to the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence for York lap dancing club 'Upstairs'. It focuses on four key points of objection. All four points are made in accordance with York City Council's *'Policy for the Determination of Applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues'* and The Gender Equality Duty (2007) to which City of York Council has a responsibility to adhere.

The evidence presented in this document is based on consultation with the local York community; on research conducted by human rights and women's rights organisations such as Object and the End Violence Against Women Coalition; and as a result of extensive consultation with women's groups and concerned individuals across the UK. Collectively, we object to the renewal of the SEV licence for lap dancing club 'Upstairs' on the following grounds:

1. Proximity to premises of 'sensitive use'

We would argue that lap dancing club 'Upstairs' is situated in a locality which is highly inappropriate for an SEV given the uses to which nearby premises are put. We base our objections below on York City Council's *'Policy for the Determination of Applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues'* in which 'the grounds for granting or refusing the application' state that:

'A licence may be refused where any of the following matters mentioned in paragraph 12(2) and (3) of the Act applies:

- (d) That the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the:
 - (ii) use to which any premises in the vicinity are put'

(ii) Use to which any premises in the vicinity are put

As stated in York City Council's 'Grounds for Granting or Refusing the Application':

"Sensitive uses will include places of worship, schools, youth clubs, community centres, women's refuges, parks and leisure facilities. A concentration of residential property particularly included sheltered accommodation for vulnerable groups may also cause concern."¹

¹ York City Council *'Policy for the Determination of Applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues'*, accessed December 2013

Lap dancing club 'Upstairs' is located in a particularly unsuitable area, in close proximity to the majority of the above mentioned premises:

a) Places of worship - all with regular services

- a. The Priory Church (54m)
- b. York Baptist Church (52m)
- c. The Rock of York (84m)
- d. Bar Convent (180m)
- e. St Mary's Church (230m)
- f. St Columbas with New Lendal (200m)

b) Schools/Nurseries

- a. Priory Street Nursery (120m)
- b. All Saints Roman Catholic school (240m)

c) Community Centres

- a. The Priory Centre (160m) – facilitating a range of local charities including York IDAS, Survive and York Women's Counselling Service.
- b. York CVS (110m) - York CVS supports local charities, community groups and social enterprises, improving and enriching the lives of local people.
- c. Family Matters (180m) – the charity is working with 'with some of the most fragile families across the city'.²

d) Women's refuges/vulnerable groups services (within the vicinity of Priory Street Centre)

- a. IDAS (160m) - IDAS is a charity that provides comprehensive support services to all those experiencing or affected by domestic abuse. IDAS provides support to women, men, and sometimes children and young people who are living in the community.
- b. Survive (160m) - Survive offers a safe place for survivors of rape and sexual abuse to come to where their experiences will be listened to and understood.
- c. York Women's Counselling Service (160m) - York Women's Counselling Service provides a counselling service for women in York and surrounding areas who are experiencing difficulties as a result of current or past emotional stress and trauma. Their aim is to provide an atmosphere of trust, safety and support.
- d. Jessie's Fund (160m) - Jessie's Fund was established as a registered charity in April 1995 with the aim of helping seriously ill and disabled children in all areas of the UK through the therapeutic use of music.
- e. Mainstay (mental health service) (160m) – Mainstay works with people who have mental health issues to motivate and encourage them to reach their goals.

² <http://fmy.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do>

- f. BASPCAN (British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) (160m) – BASPCAN is a registered charity which aims to prevent physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect of children by promoting the physical, emotional, and social well-being of children.
- g. Skills For Care (160m) – Skills for Care works with adult social care employers and other partners to develop the skills, knowledge and values of workers in this sector.
- h. Inclusion Housing (160m) – Inclusion Housing is a not for profit, voluntary housing organisation that work with and on behalf of vulnerable people.
- i. Reflect (160m) - Reflect is a free support service based in York that is specifically for women and men facing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy.
- j. Priory Street Nursery (160m)
- k. Bon Social Club (160m) – Brunswick Nursery social club supporting adults with learning difficulties.

e). Residential property

There are residential properties on both Micklegate and Priory Street, and the Bishophill area of York is located directly behind both.

Local councils across the country such as Leeds, Oxford and Haringey have taken very seriously the issue of lap dancing clubs being located in close proximity to premises of sensitive use. So too have individual councillors, as well as local residents/visitors to whom we have spoken. Regarding the closure of a lap dancing club in Oxford, The Oxford Mail reported that:

*'The [lap dancing] club had to move from Pennyfarthing Place in the city centre in 2011, when it was Thirst Lodge, over council concerns it was too close to St Ebbes Church and tourist spots.'*³

Individual councillors have also raised their voices with regards the location of lap dancing clubs in sensitive areas. Haringey Councillor Nilgun Canver said of the SEV legislation:

*"This new legislation allows us to stop lap dancing and pole dancing clubs from setting up in sensitive areas where they will cause concern. We consider this would apply to every ward and want this to be central to our policy. We are asking for comments from residents, to see if they support this stance."*⁴

'Upstairs' is located in close proximity to support workers and volunteers endeavouring to support a huge range of vulnerable groups – particularly women. This is of particular concern in light of evidence highlighting that, in a two year period (comparing 2008/09 and 2010/11), sexual and violent crime in Bristol increased by 82% within a 50m radius of Sexual Entertainment Venues

³http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/10517521.Lap_dance_club_facing_closure_after_losing_High_Court_appeal/?ref=mr

⁴http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/news_and_events/latest_news/lap_dancing_ban.htm

compared to 45% in the rest of the city centre area⁵. A senior Police Officer in Cornwall observed a similar link, expressing his concern that *“having been subject to highly sexualised performances, (those individuals leaving a Sexual Entertainment Venue) may be at greater risk of committing sexual offences.”*⁶ Our consultation with local residents in York has revealed incidents of indecent exposure which have taken place on Micklegate. Here is what [redacted] had to say:

“I volunteer for one of the organisations at Priory Street Centre that supports vulnerable individuals. One day after an intense day of training about sexual violence, I was walking home past Micklegate and in the middle of the street a drunk man flashing himself. I felt uncomfortable and could not stop thinking how one of the women I support as a volunteer would have felt if she walked back from a session at our organisation. Micklegate has become a horrible place to walk, especially if you are a woman and it is night time.”

[redacted], volunteer at local charity

And York resident, Rachel:

“The last time I walked down Micklegate on an evening, a man exposed his genitals to me. I was 18 years old and I felt incredibly intimidated.”

In the absence of similar analysis conducted in York to which we can point, we refer you to the consultation undertaken by Leeds City Council with the Citizen’s Panel in January 2013. The survey – issued to residents of Leeds – received 1499 online responses and 353 postal responses, with results demonstrating that a majority of residents regarded Sexual Entertainment Venues to be inappropriate in proximity to premises of ‘sensitive use’, including women’s refuge facilities, residential areas, retail shopping areas, historic buildings and places of worship – all of which can be found within the Micklegate and Priory Street area. Leeds City Council agreed that these uses are sensitive, and that SEVs are generally inappropriate in proximity to them⁷.

2. Creating ‘no go’ areas for women and local residents

The location of important amenities in the vicinity of lap dancing club ‘Upstairs’ directly exposes residents, tourists and commuters to the harms and disturbance associated with the sex industry (particularly verbal, physical and sexual assaults). This can and does create ‘no go’ areas, particularly for women.

Below is a list of transport hubs in proximity to lap dancing club ‘Upstairs’:

⁵ <http://coventrywomensvoices.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/police-rpt-vaw-control-areas-nov111.doc>

⁶ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-18199223>

⁷ Leeds City Council ‘Licensing of Sex Establishments: Statement of Licensing Policy’ Section 7 ‘General Principles’, ‘Appropriate numbers and localities’ Point 7.11 and 7.12.

- a. York Railway station (600m) – *Opened 1877, York is one of the most important railway junction stations on the British railway network and a tourist attraction in itself, with the Railway Museum located nearby.*
- b. Nunnery Lane Car Park (500m) – *car park used by locals and visitors to access to City Centre (via Micklegate)*
- c. Bus stops on Rougier Street, Blossom Street and at the bottom of Micklegate.

It is clear that a lap dancing club in close proximity to such amenities is not appropriate for a number of reasons; most especially, the impact it can have on perceptions of safety. Use of and access to amenities is, for many, dependent on the use of Micklegate (located just over 1km from the main shopping streets of York). Many visitors arriving in York by car make use of the Nunnery Lane car park to make their way into York City centre, thereby passing 'Upstairs'. Similarly, commuters on their way to and from York railway station may too need to walk in proximity to 'Upstairs' late at night or in the early morning hours. This is considered by respondents to the York Feminist Network's consultation to impinge on their ability to make use of such amenities in the evening and at night. Tony, who lives in close proximity to 'Upstairs', said:

"I have to go and collect my wife from York railway station when she gets in late from Leeds where she works as she finds it too intimidating to walk alone through the groups of lecherous young men roaming the area around Micklegate - it is sadly unsurprising on any given evening to hear them wolf whistling, leering and even see them masturbating in the streets."

Skeldergate local

Female commuters arriving back into York at a late hour and needing to access either the city centre or the residences on or around Micklegate are faced with having to walk past 'Upstairs' and its 'patrons' during operational hours. As noted by the Royal Town Planning Institute:

*'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable.'*⁸

We therefore urge the Committee to consider 'That there are places in the locality where women are likely to be vulnerable to the higher levels of harassment associated with sexual entertainment venues' (taken from Dr James Harrison's legal advice⁹ on SEV Licensing).

It is unacceptable that people (particularly women, minors and the vulnerable) have to, on a regular basis, walk in proximity to 'Upstairs' where groups of intoxicated and sexually excited

⁸ Royal Town Planning Institute (2007), Gender and Spatial Planning, Good Practice Note 7, 10 December 2007

⁹ Dr. James Harrison, Co-Director, Centre for Human Rights in Practice, School of Law, University of Warwick. *Sexual Entertainment Venues – A rational decision that no venues should be granted licenses in a particular area will not breach human rights law.*

males gather. Indeed, in the case of Vimax Leisure and Durham City Council, the factor of local transport hubs was cited as a legitimate reason for the refusal of a premises license with attached adult entertainment provisions, due to the high numbers of minors congregating in the region of a local bus and railway station¹⁰.

Visitors to York who have signed our petition (opposing the renewal of SEV licence for 'Upstairs') had strong objections with regards the safety and treatment of women:

"I regularly visit my friend in York and knowing that there is a lap dancing club in the centre makes me feel unsafe plus I think lap dancing clubs send out the message that it's perfectly acceptable for women to be dehumanised and objectified. This is 2013. Surely it's time to start valuing women and girls for more than their sexual desirability and availability to men. Show some respect to the females that live, work and play in your city. Let them feel comfortable and valued."

*[Redacted Name], United Kingdom
(Petition respondent)*

The volume of responses that we received stating that women would avoid having to make use of amenities in proximity to a lap dancing venue demonstrates that the location of 'Upstairs' is, in effect, curtailing the ability of women to access the city centre and Micklegate area in the evening and at night. It is creating a second-class citizen status for women and runs directly counter to York City Council's responsibility (under The Gender Equality Duty) to assess the gendered impact that lap dancing clubs have on society as a whole.

[Redacted Name] from the North-East Feminist Network urges City of York Council to take into consideration the 'no go' area that Micklegate is becoming:

"Sexual violence is increasing, why make more areas of our cities a no go area for WOMEN"

[Redacted Name], United Kingdom

3. Character of the relevant locality / Impacting York's family-friendly reputation

With regards the 'Policy for the Determination of Applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues', York City Council's 'grounds for granting or refusing the application'¹¹ state that:

'A licence may be refused where any of the following matters mentioned in paragraph 12(2) and (3) of the Act applies:

¹⁰ Object.co.uk

¹¹ York City Council, Policy for the Determination of Applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues, accessed December 2013

(d) That the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the:

(i) character of the relevant locality;

(i) Character of the relevant locality:

Lap dancing club 'Upstairs' is located in close proximity to a wide range of tourist attractions and key services to the community and visitors. Below is a list of key historical, tourist and transport hubs of York that 'Upstairs' is located in close proximity to:

- a. Micklegate Bar (approx. 100m) - *Micklegate Bar was the most important of York's four main medieval gateways and the focus for grand events*
- b. The Bar Convent (approx. 180m) - *England's oldest convent, founded in 1686 and still active with a resident religious community. Currently, the Bar Convent also hosts regular meetings and workshops for women who have suffered sexual abuse and rape.*
- c. York Railway station (600m) – *Opened 1877, York is one of the most important railway junction stations on the British railway network and a tourist attraction in itself, with the Railway Museum located nearby.*
- d. Nunnery Lane Car Park (500m) – *car park used by locals and visitors to access to City Centre (via Micklegate)*

Impacting York's family-friendly reputation:

I love York! Let's keep it the wonderful place it is, not a tacky sexist place!
[Redacted], United Kingdom (Petition respondent)

York is a city which prides itself on its reputation as one of England's most historic and beautiful cities, with Visit York's Vision for Tourism proudly declaring its hope to 'Build on York's distinctiveness'¹². A uniqueness that many feel is simply not in accordance with the presence of a Sexual Entertainment Venue in the city. When lap dancing club Bohemia opened in York, Councillor Andrew Waller 'expressed concerns that the presence of Bohemia, which stands by the ancient entrance to the city, may deter tourists as it is "not the sort of York they've come to see"¹³.

Indeed, York's Official Visitor Information Service outlines what visitors can hope to expect from a trip to York:

¹² <http://www.visit-york.org/members/about/mission.aspx>

¹³ <http://www.nouse.co.uk/2007/01/23/new-strip-club-in-york/>

“With its rich ancient history, romantic ambience and fun activities, York is the perfect holiday destination for couples, families and groups. Renowned for its exquisite architecture, tangle of quaint cobbled streets, iconic York Minster and wealth of visitor attractions, York is a flourishing city.”¹⁴

It is certainly not an isolated view to suggest that Sexual Entertainment Venues impact negatively on a city’s character and reputation, as noted in the Leeds Council policy for SEVs:

‘The council believes that...SEVs are not in accordance with a culturally rich and diverse city. In particular SEVs tend not to be inclusive facilities, appeal only to a narrow sector of the community and are unlikely to enhance the cultural and child friendly reputation of the city.’¹⁵

Going one step further, Leeds City Council has established as a priority the family-friendly appeal of their city. They believe that it is important that ‘Children and young people find the city centre welcoming and safe, with friendly places to go, have fun and play’ and that ‘There are places and spaces to play and things to do, in all areas and open to all’¹⁶. Swansea City Council, likewise, rejected the licence for Swansea’s sole lap dancing club because ‘The city centre aims to be a place which is welcoming to families at all times of the day and evening.’¹⁷

Lap dancing club ‘Upstairs’ is not a destination for families, catering predominantly for groups of men. You need look no further than their Facebook page to see this confirmed:

‘Off to a great start already! Big stag party banging our doors down!! #lads and they ain’t leaving! Come join the party! See you soon fellas!!’¹⁸

A ‘target audience’ for the lap dancing club (self-defined ‘York’s Premiere Gentlemen’s Club’) which was again confirmed when a former employee of ‘Upstairs’ informed us that:

“The people going to Upstairs were mainly groups of lads from Newcastle. They were in York drinking and I would only target them with the leaflets basically.”

Woman, 30+, previously working for Upstairs

Local residents argue that efforts to upgrade the area into a safe, welcoming and respectable part of York that attracts a broader segment of the population is being severely inhibited by the presence of lap dancing club ‘Upstairs’.

¹⁴ <http://www.visitork.org/>

¹⁵ Leeds City Council ‘Licensing of Sex Establishments: Statement of Licensing Policy’ Section 7 ‘General Principles’ ‘Appropriate numbers and localities’ Point 7.9

¹⁶ Leeds City Council ‘Licensing of Sex Establishments: Statement of Licensing Policy’ Section 5 ‘Integrating other guidance, policies, objectives and strategies’, ‘Child Friendly’ Point 5.5.

¹⁷ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-23463209>

¹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/Upstairs.York>

As a labour controlled council you should be promoting positive messages about the place of women in society /.../ Research show that violent assaults against women increase where there are lap dancing clubs. Please make York a safe place for women and girls

*, United Kingdom
(Petition respondent)*

4. Promoting gender inequality and normalising the sexual objectification of women.

The Gender Equality Duty 2007 legally requires local authorities to promote equality between women and men in all that they do. The Gender Equality Duty is particularly relevant in relation to the licensing of sex establishments because of the gendered nature of sex establishments like lap dancing clubs, and because of the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on efforts to promote equality between women and men.

"Lap-dancing clubs should not normalise the objectification of women. Please do not renew this licence."

*, United Kingdom
(Petition respondent)*

"Lap dancing clubs have no place in the 21st Century. Women are people, they are not objects to be sold for sexual objectification."

Anonymous petition respondent

The Equality Act (2010) too places every public authority under a duty to "in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to ... eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010."

Lap dancing, it must be remembered, is an industry in which:

'men exercise their social, sexual and economic authority over women who are dependent on them and are organised according to gender inequality, which is perpetuated in gendered spaces and consequently sexualised. The typical strip club scenario displays young, nude or partially nude women for fully clothed male customers. When organizations are produced in the context of the structural relations of domination, control and violence, they reproduce those relations.'
(Holsopple 1999).

This is a gender imbalance which is starkly reflected in a study researching male motivations for visiting strip clubs. The results demonstrated not only that men frequented strip clubs in search of women who were willing to act in more 'traditional' ways, but that in fact they sought an outlet

for their frustration at the ways in which they had been forced to monitor their behaviour towards women in the workplace because of equal opportunities and sexual harassment legislation¹⁹.

Leeds City Council has acknowledged that 'the licensing of these establishments must not encourage discrimination against women, especially with regard to women who work at the premises, women who may wish to visit the premises, or women who are using the area for other purposes but who may feel intimidated by the presence of such premises.'²⁰

The reality however is that sexual entertainment venues do discriminate against women, with research indicating that as lap dancing clubs and strip clubs appear, women's quality of life deteriorates as a result with increased reports of rape²¹.

In response to research it commissioned into the impact of lap dancing clubs on the city, Glasgow City Council stated that:

"Images of women and entertainment which demean and degrade women portraying them as sexual objects play a part in normalising sexual violence and contribute to male abuse of women being acceptable, tolerated, condoned and excused. Such entertainment runs counter to explicit commitments by a range of private, public and voluntary agencies to promoting women's equality."²²

This view is supported by the human rights organisation Object who argue that the mainstreaming of the sex and pornography industries has led to the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls. There is growing evidence that 'sex object' culture – fed by the rapid growth in the number of lap dancing clubs - is conducive to violence against women. The Chair of Rape Crisis, Dr Nicole Westmarland, agrees that lap dancing clubs "both support and are a consequence of sexual violence in society." This position is reiterated by the Director of the White Ribbon Campaign, an organisation which works with men to end violence against women, who states: "Any expansion of lap dancing clubs feeds an increase in the lack of respect for women"²³.

Personal testimonies from women, in addition to hundreds of responses to council consultations nationally on the issue, further reinforce the link between the proliferation of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment for women:

¹⁹ Frank, K. (2005) 'Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations', *Sexual Behaviour*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504

²⁰ Leeds City Council 'Licensing of Sex Establishments: Statement of Licensing Policy' Section 7 'General Principles', 'Equality Act 2010' Point 7.27

²¹ Eden, I. (2003) *The Lilith Report on Lapdancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*. London: Eaves

²² <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0D19236F-808A-4467-96F7-6A9508C1F312/0/legtablic2.pdf>

²³ Both quotes are from an OBJECT leaflet, 2008

'On separate occasions, I have had men say to me "How much for a dance love? I'll give you £20 to get yours out," ... they seem to always think that because they can pay to degrade and abuse women inside the club that I am no different'²⁴.

The presence of lap dancing clubs in city centres completely normalises and makes acceptable the idea that women are sex objects, there for the sexual gratification of men. The perpetuation of this kind of misogynistic culture affects all of us, not just the people who choose to work at/visit the clubs.

*United Kingdom
(Petition respondent)*

So-called 'sexual entertainment' venues are not sources of 'harmless entertainment' but lead to physical and psychological violence and abuse of women and we do not we do not want York to inadvertently add to a culture that restricts life choices and then attribute the choice made to lap-dance for a living as "a lifestyle choice".

*United Kingdom
(Petition respondent)*

*YES, we know that some women individually choose to do this. NO, this does not change the fact that normalising the sexual objectification of women is wrong and should be opposed. THANK YOU.
Anonymous petition respondent*

Having met with women who have "survived" and gotten off the 'natural path' to prostitution that so many lap-dancing clubs encourage, we know these clubs are more than just a place where women are forced to titillate men for money. Forget the 'glamorous' face of lap-dancing: it doesn't exist. Time to put a stop to the ongoing normalisation of this type of public objectification and demeaning of women

United Kingdom

I believe that lap dancing clubs demean both the women who work there and the men who frequent them as they are yet another way of objectifying both parties.

*United Kingdom
(Petition respondent)*

As a fellow feminist, I'm glad to see some action taken to help prevent the underlying exploitation in the 21st century modern era

*United Kingdom
(Petition respondent)*

²⁴ See www.object.org.uk for testimonies

Concluding Remarks

The name of Micklegate comes from 'Micklelith', meaning 'great street'. Judging from the responses that we have received in the course of our consultation, both from tourists and local residents, Micklegate is today a poor resemblance of what it might once have been.

Members of the York Feminist Network, drawing on the work of human rights organisation Object and its supporters, argue that rejecting the application for renewal of SEV licence from lap dancing club 'Upstairs' is not only a reasonable and appropriate measure, but one that sets a standard demonstrating that City of York Council prioritises the well-being of the local community, and in particular women. Indeed, as noted by the Women's National Commission:

*'The End Violence Against Women (EVAW) Coalition produced additional guidance on the Gender Duty's implications in terms of violence against women...Lobby groups can and should use the Duty as a tool to force public bodies to consider the way their policies affect women. When this is done effectively, public bodies may be forced to change their policies. For example, a significant victory was won for the women's sector in December 2007 when Rape Crisis UK used the Gender Equality Duty to persuade a local authority to close a local lap-dancing club.'*²⁵

In rejecting the application for renewal of SEV licence, York City Council would join the ranks of Councils across the UK that have already refused to grant a licence / rejected renewal of a licence and/or set a nil cap on SEVs in their locality, thereby setting an example to the rest of the country. Certainly, a city of York's standing should consider its priorities and obligations, and pledge to help make Micklegate a 'great street' once more.

Yours Sincerely,

²⁵ <http://wnc.equalities.gov.uk/work-of-the-wnc/wnc-work-gender-equality/about-the-gender-equality-duty.html>