

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

Your attendance is requested at a meeting to be held at the The Jeffrey Room, St. Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE. on Tuesday, 1 March 2011 at 6:00 pm.

**D Kennedy
Chief Executive**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes
3. Deputations / Public Addresses
4. Declarations of Interest
5. Matters of Urgency which by reason of special circumstances the chair is of the opinion should be considered
6. Application for Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence - Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road Northampton
7. Exclusion of Public and Press

The Chair to Move:

“that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure to them of such categories of exempt information as defined by section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 as listed against such items of business by reference to the appropriate paragraph of Schedule 12a to such act.”

Public Participation

Members of the public may address the Committee on any non-procedural matter listed on this agenda. Addresses shall not last longer than three minutes. Committee members may then ask questions of the speaker. No prior notice is required prior to the commencement of the meeting of a request to address the Committee.

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Exempted Under Schedule, 12A of L.Govt Act 1972, Para No: -

8. Review of Private Hire Drivers Licence

<TRAILER_SECTION>

A6467

Public Participation

Members of the public may address the Committee on any non-procedural matter listed on this agenda. Addresses shall not last longer than three minutes. Committee members may then ask questions of the speaker. No prior notice is required prior to the commencement of the meeting of a request to address the Committee.



Name of Committee:	LICENSING
Meeting Date:	1 March 2011
Directorate:	Public Protection
Corporate Manager:	Steve Elsey
Agenda Status:	Public part of Agenda

Report Title	Application for Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence – Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road Northampton.
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1. Recommendations

That the Committee consider and determine the application.

2. Summary

On 25 May 2010 the Council passed a resolution as authorised under Section 2 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, to adopt Schedule 3 (as amended by Section 27 of the Police and Crime Act 2009) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

The said Act came into force on 1 July 2010 and the resolution took effect on that date.

When dealing with an application for a sex establishment licence, the members of the committee are not acting as the licensing committee under the 2003 Act and are instead exercising their functions under Schedule 3.

The Council also amended the existing 'Sex Establishment' Policy, agreed by the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 28 May 1998, to include the words 'Sex Entertainment Venues' and to place a restriction on both location and numbers in the following terms: -

"That the appropriate number of Sex Establishments and Sex Entertainment Venues in the Borough of Northampton be restricted to the following localities:

- a) The area bounded by and including the Wellingborough Road, Kettering Road and Abington Avenue be limited to three.

The area of Regent Square be restricted to a single “Sex Establishment”.

The Policing and Crime Act 2009 was introduced to give local communities a stronger say over the establishment and location of lap dancing clubs and similar establishments in their area, and Local Authorities more power to reject applications for lap dancing clubs or impose conditions on the Licences. It brought the licensing of lap dancing clubs in line with other sex establishments such as sex shops and sex cinemas. This change in legislation is aimed at recognising that local people do have legitimate concerns about where lap dancing clubs are located.

Lap dancing premises were regulated under the Licensing Act 2003 (“the 2003 Act”) and required a Premises Licence under Section 1 of the 2003 Act. There were no special provisions made within the 2003 Act for lap dancing clubs and so applications were submitted in the same way as a pub or restaurant. If an application was submitted to the Licensing Authority for a Premises Licence the only mandatory conditions that applied related to the sale of alcohol. It was only if relevant representations were made by an interested party that the Authority could, following a hearing, impose other conditions or reject the application. Even then it was only be able to do so where such a step was necessary to promote one of the four licensing objectives as set out in the 2003 Act – (prevention crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm).

The powers that were available to Local Authorities to control the establishment of lap dancing premises or impose conditions on their licences were therefore very limited. Following a DCMS consultation with Local Authorities the majority of those that responded felt that the powers at that time to regulate lap-dancing clubs were inadequate and wanted the Government to intervene.

It had also been documented in the media that under the existing law there had been an increase in the number of lap dancing venues and many communities felt powerless to object to the opening of a new lap-dancing club in their area.

From April 2010 Lap dancing venues have been regulated under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (the “1982 Act”). It was up to each Local Authority to decide whether the provisions of the 1982 Act should apply to their area, so it is possible that the new legislation will not necessarily apply all over England and Wales. However, this Local Authority resolved to adopt Schedule 3, as amended, and is able to impose a wider variety of conditions on lap dancing clubs e.g. relating to opening hours, advertisements and the visibility of the interior to passers by.

This Local Authority is also able to refuse to grant or renew a Licence on the grounds that such a club would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the area, the use of other premises in the area (e.g. local schools) and can also have regard to the number of similar premises in the area, if the application is equal to or exceeds the number the Authority considers appropriate. The Council has been able to dictate the appropriate number of Sex Establishment premises within the area it has designated as an appropriate area.

Similarly, local residents are able to make written representations to the Local Authorities on these grounds, rather than being limited to make representations based

on the four licensing objectives found in the Licensing Act 2003.

For the purposes of this duty 'local people' are defined as anyone who lives or works in the local authority area.

Under the new legislation, lap-dancing clubs are classified as "sexual entertainment venues and the legislation allows Local Authorities to decide what, in its opinion, should be included as relevant entertainment.

With the new legislation, there are no "grandfather rights" for existing clubs. If they wish to continue trading they need to apply for a Licence under the new regime. A transitional period of 12 months was given to existing clubs to apply for a new Licence. Premises, which fail to apply for a new Licence within this period, face closure.

Existing clubs or those wishing to operate new lap dancing premises needed to make an application for a new licence to the Local Authority and are required to give public notice of the application in a local newspaper and at the premises. Any persons wishing to object to the application must give written notice within a statutory 28-day consultation period stating the general grounds of their objection. Any contested application will be considered before the Authority's appropriate committee or sub-committee.

Objections (Home Office Guidance).

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 of Schedule 3 for refusing a licence. Objections should not be based on moral grounds or values and local authorities should not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds set out in paragraph 12.

The committee must also be wary of objectors' motives behind the objection and that there is no element of a 'vendetta' against the applicant or venue.

Paragraph 12 of Schedule 3 sets out the grounds for refusing an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence.

A licence must not be granted:

- (a) to a person under the age of 18;
- (b) to a 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 a 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 was made; or

(d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA State; or

(e) to a person who has, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused the 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.

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 sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality; or

(d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard;

(i) to the character of the relevant locality;

(ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

A decision to refuse a licence must be relevant to one or more of the above grounds.

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.

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.

3. Procedures

On 14 December 2010, an application for a Sex Entertainment Venue Licence was received in respect of Urban Tiger Wellingborough Road Northampton. The applicant is Urban Crowd Limited, Barratts Club, Kingsthorpe Road, Northampton.

The premises have a current Premises Licence and have been trading as a similar venue since 2003. During that time the Council has received one complaint with regard

to advertising on the exterior of the building. This was resolved, the advertisement was removed.

The obligatory notice appeared in a local newspaper and notices were displayed on the premises and were in order

Northamptonshire Police has no comment to make with regard to the application nor do they have any objection to the application.

A total of 78 objections have been received and are deemed to be valid, some are residents in Northampton, persons as far afield as San Francisco, Belgium, Northumberland, Preston, Sheffield, Bristol, Hampshire, Somerset, and Coventry. Others have responded by email and have not included their home address with the objection. A petition containing 19 signatures was also received. 24 objections did not contain a contact address.

Due to the generic nature of the majority of objections, most have a common theme, it has been asked that a speaker or speakers be nominated to put those objections to the committee, this to avoid repetition.

The applicant represented by Julia Palmer, Solicitor will be given the opportunity to make the application.

This will be then be followed by any questions, led by the chair, that the committee may wish to ask the applicant.

The Chair may then invite other interested parties to ask questions.

Objectors will then be given the opportunity to make their objections in person to the Committee.

The committee are aware of the nature of all objections received.

This will again be followed by any questions, led by the chair, that the committee may wish to ask the objectors.

The applicant's representative may also ask questions of the objectors.

Each party will be given a period of time, to be decided by the Chair, in which to present their case and may be given permission by the Chair to question any other party.

There will then be a summing up by the objector and the applicant before the committee make their decision.

3A. Any Relevant Policies

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

Policing and Crime Act 2009.

Sex Shop Licence Conditions.

The Council Policy on Sex Establishments. (As amended 25 May 2010).

4. Options and Evaluation of Options

That the Committee consider the application.

5. Resource Implications (including Financial Implications)

Licensing Officers will enforce any conditions that may be imposed by the Committee.

6. Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal	Legal
External	Home Office. Sexual Entertainment Venues (Guidance for England and Wales.)

7. Compliance Issues

Finance Comments

Relevant fees will be collected.

Legal Comments

"Any objections received for this application must fall within Paragraph 12 Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the members of the committee must steer away from any moral considerations raised by any objector(s).

The committee ought to have due regard to the European Convention of Human Rights Act Article 1 Protocol 1 (peaceful enjoyment of possessions) and Article 10 (freedom of expression)"

Crime and Disorder Issues

N/A

Equality Impact Assessments

The Equality Act 2010 provides a new cross-cutting legislative framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all; to update, simplify and strengthen the previous legislation; and to deliver a simple, modern and accessible framework of discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.

In implementing the Licensing of Sex Entertainment Venues, associated legislation and guidance, this Licensing Authority is committed to ensuring that the obligations and duties within this legislation are met.

Human Rights Act Implication

Local Authorities must take into account any rights the existing operator may have under Article 1, Protocol 1 of the European Convention of Human Rights,(which entitles every person to the peaceful enjoyment of their possessions) and Article 10 (freedom of expression).

Other compliance issues: None

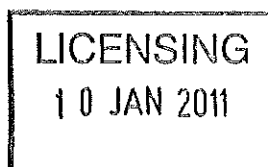
8. Background Papers

Home Office	Policing and Crime Bill	
Sex Entertainment Venue	Supplementary Guidance	30/11/09 12/02/10

Name	Signature	Date	Ext.
Author	Mr P Bayliss	3/2/11	7099
Corporate Manager	Steve Elsey		
Director	Julie Seddon		

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The Licensing Officer
Northampton Borough Council
Borough Solicitors Division
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE



Dear Madam or Sir

I am writing to OBJECT to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for the Urban Tiger Lap Dancing Club, Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4AA.

My objections are on the following grounds:

1. Lap dancing clubs encourage their customers, and wider society to see women as sex objects. They reinforce the idea that women are always sexually available, as long as you've got a bit of cash to spare. This has to be seen in the wider context of a society in which men still dominate the positions of power and where violence against women is endemic, with 1 in 4 women facing rape in her lifetime and 1 in 2 women facing sexual harassment, stalking or domestic violence. Those working with female victims of male violence believe that the mainstreaming of the sex industries legitimises the attitudes that ultimately lead to violence against women.
2. The existence of lap dancing clubs effectively creates 'no-go' areas where women feel unsafe walking past the clubs because of the graphic advertising, and for fear of bumping into the punters from the club and being subjected to harassment and intimidation.
3. Lap dancing clubs are clearly linked to gender inequality – while women can be bought and sold we will never have equality between the genders. They are also linked to sexism in the workplace as many businesses may use such a club for finalising deals or entertaining clients – which necessarily would exclude the participation of women within those businesses. The council has a duty to consider gender equality in all its actions under its Gender Equality Duty arising from the Equality Act 2007.

I would urge the council, if it does allow lap dancing clubs to continue to exist in our town, to at the very least impose the following conditions on their licences:-

1. No full nudity
2. The 3 foot rule – dancers for their own safety should be 3 feet away from the customers at all times and no physical contact to be permitted between the dancers and the customers at any time.
3. No graphic advertising should be allowed – only subtle wording and silhouettes.
4. No mobile advertising allowed such as mobile ad-vans which could travel around inappropriate places such as past schools, religious establishments, women's refuges, causing great offence.
5. No daytime opening hours – evenings only.
6. Private booths to be prohibited.
7. CCTV monitoring to be used at all times.

These conditions would go some way to protecting women working in lap dancing clubs and women in the wider community. However, because of the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality and women's safety, I call on Northampton Borough Council to reject this application for a Sexual Entertainment Licence by the Urban Tiger.

Yours faithfully

(Although I no longer live in Northampton I still regularly visit due to family + friends living here. I fully support this campaign.)

[REDACTED]

The Licensing Officer
Northampton Borough Council
Borough Solicitors Division
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

LICENSING
10 JAN 2011

2-1-11

Dear Madam or Sir

I am writing to OBJECT to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for the Urban Tiger Lap Dancing Club, Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4AA.

My objections are on the following grounds:

1. Lap dancing clubs encourage their customers, and wider society to see women as sex objects. They reinforce the idea that women are always sexually available, as long as you've got a bit of cash to spare. This has to be seen in the wider context of a society in which men still dominate the positions of power and where violence against women is endemic, with 1 in 4 women facing rape in her lifetime and 1 in 2 women facing sexual harassment, stalking or domestic violence. Those working with female victims of male violence believe that the mainstreaming of the sex industries legitimises the attitudes that ultimately lead to violence against women.
2. The existence of lap dancing clubs effectively creates 'no-go' areas where women feel unsafe walking past the clubs because of the graphic advertising, and for fear of bumping into the punters from the club and being subjected to harassment and intimidation. It is also inappropriate that such images should be seen by children in the street, and offensive to many members of the public of all ages.

The Urban Tiger is situated in an inappropriate site for such a club -being close to local retail outlets and other local businesses, close to bus stops which are used by women late at night, and close to the Games Workshop, a place primarily used by children for the playing of warhammer games.

3. Lap dancing clubs are clearly linked to gender inequality – while women can be bought and sold we will never have equality between the genders. They are also linked to sexism in the workplace as many businesses may use such a club for finalising deals or entertaining clients – which necessarily would exclude the participation of women within those businesses. The council has a duty to consider gender equality in all its actions under its Gender Equality Duty arising from the Equality Act 2007.

A proper understanding of how lap-dancing clubs operate alongside properly conducted gender impact assessments as required by European legislation, means that Northampton Borough Council cannot sanction any clubs at all as they cannot promote equality – lap dancing clubs are the exact antithesis.

4. Lap dancing clubs are linked to wider systems of prostitution. The working practices in lap dancing clubs include a requirement that women pay rent to work and a high performer to customer ratio which leads to intense competition between performers to gain the attention of male customers. Even if clubs do enforce a no touching rule, and even if there is no sexual contact between dancers and customers, the presence of strip clubs in a locality increases demand for nearby prostitution services.
5. The growth of lap dancing clubs promote 'sex-object' culture – the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries and the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls.
6. Lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in wider society. They normalise the representation of women as sexual objects who are always sexually available. They make sexual harassment seem normal, as what takes place within the four walls of a lap dancing club would be considered harassment in any other context

I would urge the council, if it does allow lap dancing clubs to continue to exist in our town, to at the very least impose the following conditions on their licences:-

1. Restriction of opening times to evenings only
2. The use of CCTV monitoring equipment throughout
3. Any external advertising of adult entertainment shall not include:
 - a) Any depiction of full nudity.
 - b) Any images of breasts, buttocks or genitalia.

- c) Any depiction of overtly sexual or violent images or any other images which may give rise to concerns in respect of public decency or protection of children from harm.
- d) Any overt wording such as 'striptease' 'credit crotch' or similar
4. Prohibition of advertising in public spaces, including on billboards, telephone booth boards, and leafleting. Advertising will only be permitted on the interior and exterior of the premises. The use of ad-vans to advertise sexual entertainment venues is prohibited for public decency.
No advertising allowed in media that is not exclusively aimed at adults – this would exclude local 'family' newspapers for example.
5. a) No persons under the age of 18 will be permitted on the premises.
b) Proof of age will be required from anyone appearing to be under the age of 25.
c) No performer or employee will be under the age of 18 and an employment record will be held on the premises. Adequate checks will be made to ensure compliance.
6. a) No full nudity will be permitted.
b) There shall be no physical contact between the customers and performers.
c) Performers are to keep a minimum distance of 3 feet away from the customers. Notices outlining these conditions must be clearly displayed on the premises.
d) Performers will stop immediately and move away from any customer who is offensive or attempts to touch them and shall report such behaviour and any other inappropriate behaviour or breach of house rules to the management.
e) Performers will not take or give telephone numbers or business cards or in any way solicit themselves.
f) No dancing or entertainment shall be provided in dedicated private booths within the premises.
g) All performers will at the conclusion of their last performance, leave the premises and not return that day.

These conditions would go some way to protecting women working in lap dancing clubs and women in the wider community. However, because of the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality and women's safety, I call on Northampton Borough Council to reject this application for a Sexual Entertainment Licence by the Urban Tiger.

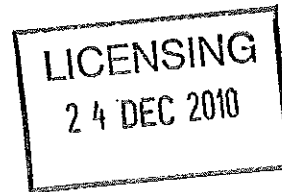
Yours faithfully



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Northampton [REDACTED]

21st December 2010

The Licensing Officer
Northampton Borough Council
Borough Solicitors Division
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE



Dear Madam or Sir

I am writing to OBJECT to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for the Urban Tiger Lap Dancing Club, Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4AA.

My objections are on the following grounds:

1. Lap dancing clubs promote 'sex-object' culture – the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries

The growth of lap dancing clubs has fed into 'sex-object' culture – the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries and the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls. With lax licensing laws leading to the number of lap dancing clubs doubling over the last five years, and a PR makeover branding lap dancing as glamorous and 'harmless fun', we have found ourselves in a situation in which major retailers sell pole dancing kits along with pink frilly garters and paper money in their 'toys and games section'¹, and leisure centres offer pole dancing lessons to girls as young as twelve². This has led to 25% of teenage girls seeing being a lap dancer as their *ideal* profession³.

2. Lap dancing clubs are linked to wider systems of prostitution

The working practices in lap dancing clubs include a requirement that women pay rent to work and a high performer to customer ratio which leads to intense competition between performers to gain the attention of male customers. It is within this context that women report feeling pressured to provide extra sexual services in private booths in order to earn a wage

¹ Eden, I. (2007) *Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult Venues and Licensing in London*, London: The Lilith Project, Eaves Housing for Women.

² BBC News Online (2006), 'Children are Taught Pole Dancing' Tuesday, 12 December 2006, url: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tyne/6173805.stm>

³ http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/161/161338_naked_ambition_rubs_off_on_teen_girls.html

As well as the structural conditions in lap dancing clubs which pressure many performers into offering extra sexual services, research further shows that, even if clubs do enforce a no touching rule, and even if there is no sexual contact between dancers and customers, **the presence of strip clubs in a locality increases demand for nearby prostitution services⁴.**

This places lap dancing on a continuum of commercial sexual activity, irrespective of whether the sexual exchange occurs within the club itself.

3. Lap dancing clubs create 'no-go' zones for women in the local vicinity

Research undertaken in the London Borough of Camden found a fifty percent **increase in sexual assaults** in the borough after the rapid expansion of lap dancing clubs⁵. Personal testimony reinforces the idea of a link between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment for women in the vicinity.

The Urban Tiger is situated on a main thoroughfare into the town centre, close to shops and bus stops – men visiting the club often heckle and jeer at women on their way into or out of the club, causing women to feel unsafe and intimidated.

"Once I walked past [a local strip club] at closing time, when a stripper tried to discreetly leave the premises and a group of punters stood outside. On recognising her, they erupted into loud whooping and jeering as she ran across the road to get away. I found this behaviour completely intimidating and totally in keeping with the behaviour of the street sexual harassment that makes women feel uncomfortable on a daily basis... Punters are encouraged to engage the very attitudes and behaviour which are seen as disrespectful and intimidating to women outside strip clubs... It is vital that councils take this into account when considering applications, so that they can take appropriate measures to limit the normalisation, exploitation and legitimisation of sexism, in order that women feel safe and entitled to walk their streets without fear of harassment or abuse".

Sonia, resident who objected to a lap dancing club in Hackney.

In addition, the **UK Royal Institute of Town Planning** issued a Good Practice Note in December 2007 on the issue of lap dancing clubs and women's sense of safety⁶:
"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"

⁴ Coy, M, Horvath, M & Kelly, L (2007) *It's just like going to the supermarket: Men talk about buying sex in East London* London: Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit

⁵ Eden, I. (2003) *Lilith Report on Lap Dancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*, London: The Lilith Project, Eaves Housing for Women

⁶ Royal Town Planning Institute (2007), *Gender and Spatial Planning, Good Practice Note 7*, 10 December 2007

Links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment and assault led the **Women's National Commission** to include the need to regulate lap dancing clubs in their **submission to the UN Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 2005**:

"The use of women in degrading entertainment exacerbates violence against women...lap dancing and similar clubs must be regulated to ensure that local crimes against women do not increase"

4. Lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in wider society

Lap dancing clubs normalise the representation of women as sexual objects who are always sexually available. They make sexual harassment seem normal, as what takes place within the four walls of a lap dancing club would be considered harassment in any other context.

The links between objectification, discrimination and violence against women are recognised at the international level by the legally binding **United Nations Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, which has repeatedly called on states – including the British Government - to take action against the objectification of women⁷.

Similarly the UK-based **End Violence Against Women** coalition has called on the UK Government to tackle the sexualisation of women and girls because it provides a 'conducive context' for violence against women⁸.

The links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and an increase in the levels of sexual violence in society was raised by Glasgow City Council⁹ in response to research it commissioned into the impact of lap dancing clubs on the city:

"Images of women and 'entertainment' which demean and degrade women portraying them as sexual objects plays a part in 'normalising' sexual violence and contributes 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."

5. Gender Equality Duty

Regulating the expansion of lap dancing clubs is an issue of equality, not morality.

Objections to lap dancing clubs are based on issues of equality, not morality.

⁷ 1979 Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Article 5

⁸ Realising Rights, Fulfilling Obligations: An Integrated Strategy to End Violence Against Women (EVAW) 2008

⁹ Glasgow City Council report on the need for review of licensing legislation in the light of concerns re table dancing
<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/0D19236F-808A-4467-96F7-6A9508C1F312/0/legtablic2.pdf>

The need for policy to be scrutinised in relation to gender equality was recognised by the Government in 2007, with the passing of the Gender Equality Duty. The Gender Equality Duty places a legal obligation on public bodies to take out Gender Equality Impact Assessments on all policy decisions to ensure that decisions do not have a negative impact on women's equality. Furthermore, the Gender Equality Duty requires public bodies to actively promote gender equality and work towards countering gender stereotypes.

Lap dancing clubs promote gender stereotypes and attitudes that say it is acceptable to treat women as sexual objects, rather than real people. They are linked to gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace (as demonstrated by recent successes of sexual harassment cases in which use of lap dancing clubs has been recognised as linked to discrimination) as well as the creation of no go areas in the surrounding areas which reduce women's sense of security and entitlement to public space.

Highlighting these issues is not about morality, or 'having an issue with sex', it is about ensuring that local councils abide by their legal requirements to promote equality between women and men.

The NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Licensing Act 2003 draft Statement of Licensing Policy for Regulated Entertainment, Late Night Refreshment and the Sale of Alcohol (which I assume will be updated to incorporate SEV'S?) states the following:-

"Promotion of Equality

7.10 Over the last four decades, discrimination legislation has played an important role in helping to make Britain a more equal society. However, the legislation was complex and, despite the progress that has been made, inequality and discrimination persist and progress on some issues has been stubbornly slow.

7.11 The Equality Act 2010 provides a new cross-cutting legislative framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all; to update, simplify and strengthen the previous legislation; and to deliver a simple, modern and accessible framework of discrimination law which protects individuals from unfair treatment and promotes a fair and more equal society.

7.12 In implementing the Licensing Act 2003, associated legislation and guidance, this Licensing Authority is committed to ensuring that the obligations and duties within this legislation are met."

It would be inconsistent for Northampton Borough Council to grant any licences for Sexual Entertainment Venues as this would not comply with their stated equality duties.

Sexual Encounter Venues are part of an industry that markets women as sexual objects and promotes working practices that implicitly encourage men to expect and seek sexual services.

The **Gender Equality Duty 2007** requires local councils to assess the gendered impact that lap dancing clubs have on society as a whole.

The lap dancing industry is highly gendered, with men paying women to strip for them in the vast majority of lap dancing clubs - otherwise known as 'gentlemen's clubs'. The gendered nature of the industry makes the proliferation of lap dancing clubs relevant to the Gender Equality Duty making gender equality a factor which should be considered during licensing process.

The ever-increasing sexual objectification of women, facilitated by the expansion of lap dancing clubs, runs directly counter to efforts to achieve equality between women and men.

The more it becomes acceptable to view and treat women as sexual objects, the easier it becomes to disrespect women as a group. As stated by Chris Green, Director of the White Ribbon Campaign¹⁰:

Research into male motivations for visiting strip clubs found that men went to strip clubs to meet women who were not 'feminist' and who were willing to act in more 'traditional' ways¹¹.

Male customers also said that they wanted to 'let frustration out' at the ways in which they had been forced to monitor their behaviour towards women in the workplace¹² "With all of this sexual harassment stuff going around these days, men need somewhere to go where they can act like they want"

In this way, lap dancing clubs represent one of the last bastions of male privilege - a place that time forgot in relation to society's efforts to achieve equality between women and men.

Recent sex discrimination law suits against corporate use of lap dancing clubs, and top business women in *The Economist*¹³ blaming corporate strip club culture for the lack of female representation at high levels of business, demonstrate **the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality in wider society.**

The *Sexism in the City* campaign spearheaded by the **Fawcett Society**, the UK's leading campaign for gender equality, further highlights the links between lap dancing and gender inequality as it calls on government and business to take steps to end commercial sexual exploitation, sexual objectification and sexual stereotypes as crucial measures to achieve equality between women and men in the work place¹⁴.

¹⁰ The White Ribbon Campaign works with men to end violence against women

¹¹ Frank, K. (2005) 'Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations', *Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504

¹² Frank, K. (2005) 'Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations', *Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504

¹³ Jeffreys, S. (2008b) 'The Sex Industry and Business Practice', Seminar: School of Business, Ballara University, 21 May 2008

¹⁴ <http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/documents/SATC%20manifesto%20public.pdf>

6. The current coalition government supports moves to tackle businesses which promote the sexual objectification of women, including lap dancing clubs, as part of their work on violence against women.

The current **Home Secretary, Theresa May**, sent a powerful message to councils to take a bold stance against businesses which promote the sexual objectification of women when, in July 2010 at the Women's Aid Conference, she stated: "It is only when businesses appreciate their responsibility to end the sexualisation of women that some people will stop treating women like objects. And it's only when our communities stand up and say violence against women is unacceptable – that attitudes will really begin to change".

The Conservative Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London (2010 - 2013) explicitly refers to the links between lap dancing clubs, prostitution, trafficking and other forms of violence against women¹⁵.

7 Northampton's Central Area Action Plan

The Urban Tiger falls within the boundaries of Northampton's Central Area Action Plan. This plan presents a vision for the development of the centre of Northampton to 2026. An essential part of the overall strategy for the area should refer to the Gender Equality Duty which affects all decisions made by the Council. To this end surely an essential part of the area plan should be to eliminate all Sexual Encounter Venues within the area. The Urban Tiger lap dancing club is situated on the main road into Northampton town centre and is surrounded by shops, pubs and other local businesses. Women and children have to pass this club together with its offensive posters and publicity material in order to gain access to the central shopping area of town. This does not provide a good impression of Northampton to tourists and visitors to the town. The club is also situated close to the main bus stops for services into and out of the town centre - it is therefore very difficult to avoid or ignore it.

I would hope that the Central Area Acton plan will provide an ideal opportunity to clean up the centre of Northampton by ensuring a zero policy towards Sexual Encounter Venues and would urge the council to ensure that this forms an essential part of the policy.

15

<http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/The%20Way%20Forward%20Final%20Strategy.pdf>

8. Rejection of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence would not lead to the Urban Tiger closing down.

In these difficult times no-one wants to see an established business having to close down. However, if the Urban Tiger had its application for an SEV licence refused, it would not have to close down, but could continue to operate on its premises licence as a licensed premises but without the element of lap dancing. **This would not lead to the loss of any jobs, as the Urban Tiger does not employ its dancers, but charges them a fee for the opportunity to dance in the club.**

Standard Licence Conditions

If Northampton Borough Council decides that it will issue a Sexual Entertainment Licence to the Urban Tiger or to any other lap dancing clubs then it is essential that standard conditions are imposed on those licences for the safety of the women performing in the clubs and for the prevention of crime. Other councils around the UK all impose conditions on SEV licences. Those standard conditions should include the following:-

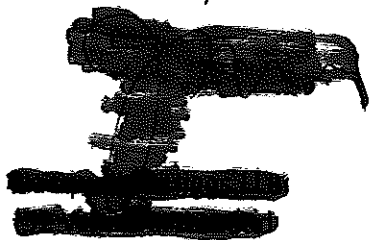
1. Restriction of opening times to evenings only
2. The use of CCTV monitoring equipment throughout
3. Any external advertising of adult entertainment shall not include:
 - a) Any depiction of full nudity.
 - b) Any images of breasts, buttocks or genitalia.
 - c) Any depiction of overtly sexual or violent images or any other images which may give rise to concerns in respect of public decency or protection of children from harm.
 - d) Any overt wording such as 'striptease' 'credit crotch' or similar
4. Prohibition of advertising in public spaces, including on billboards, telephone booth boards, and leafleting. Advertising will only be permitted on the interior and exterior of the premises. The use of ad-vans to advertise sexual entertainment venues is prohibited for public decency. No advertising allowed in media that is not exclusively aimed at adults -- this would exclude local 'family' newspapers for example.
5.
 - a) No persons under the age of 18 will be permitted on the premises.
 - b) Proof of age will be required from anyone appearing to be under the age of 25.
 - c) No performer or employee will be under the age of 18 and an employment record will be held on the premises. Adequate checks will be made to ensure compliance.

6.
 - a) No full nudity will be permitted.
 - b) There shall be no physical contact between the customers and performers.
 - c) Performers are to keep a minimum distance of 3 feet away from the customers. Notices outlining these conditions must be clearly displayed on the premises.
 - d) Performers will stop immediately and move away from any customer who is offensive or attempts to touch them and shall report such behaviour and any other inappropriate behaviour or breach of house rules to the management.
 - e) Performers will not take or give telephone numbers or business cards or in any way solicit themselves.
 - f) No dancing or entertainment shall be provided in dedicated private booths within the premises.
 - g) All performers will at the conclusion of their last performance, leave the premises and not return that day.

These conditions would go some way to protecting women working in lap dancing clubs and women in the wider community.

However, because of the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality and women's safety as outlined above, I ultimately call on you to take a bold stance against the growth of lap dancing clubs by rejecting all applications for SEVs, and in particular, by rejecting this application by the Urban Tiger for a Sexual Entertainment Licence.

Yours faithfully

A large, dark, irregularly shaped redacted area covering the signature and name of the sender.

Northampton

A small, dark, rectangular redacted area covering the address line.



7th January 2011

The Licensing Officer
Northampton Borough Council
Borough Solicitors Division
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

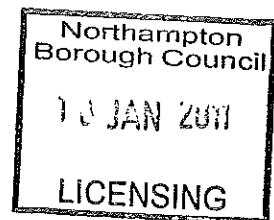
Dear Sir

I am writing to object to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for the Urban Tiger Lap Dancing Club, Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4AA.

I feel very uncomfortable whenever I have to walk past this club. I have young children and feel that the graphic advertising used outside the club is completely inappropriate for public display. I do not want my children to see half naked women in sexual poses with comments such as 'Credit Crotch' when we are on a family trip to town.

Also as a woman I feel that I have to avoid being anywhere near this locality in the evenings. On previous occasions I have been walking past this club with my friends and have been heckled and gesticulated at by male customers going in to and coming out of the Urban Tiger. This is very intimidating and makes me feel vulnerable and threatened. I now have to arrange my evenings so that I don't have to pass this club at all. Why should my movements around my home town be restricted by the existence of table dancing clubs such as this? Sexual entertainment is not appropriate for our town centre.

Yours faithfully



MAIlan
CONFIDENTIAL

Philip Bayliss

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 December 2010 21:26
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: Urban Tiger Lap Dancing Club Wellingborough Road Northampton NN1 4AA

Dear Sir

I should like to register my objection to the granting of a Sex Encounters Establishment license at the above premises. I visit Northampton regularly to work and as I do so in the evenings this often means walking to the station or my hotel late at night. Establishments like these put my safety and well-being at risk. I have often been harassed and on one occasion physically attacked by men stood outside such places smoking and chatting.

On top of this - as with many industries - my career has been directly damaged because I am unwilling to join male colleagues, bosses and clients networking and socialising in such places. The pay gap in this country is wide and shows little signs of closing. It seems obvious to me that these places - which often market directly at corporate and business clients, and even offer "discreet" receipts so that money spent there can be charged to expenses - directly impact on women's equality. As you will be aware it is your duty as a council to consider the gender impact of all decisions you make. In this case granting an SEE license would clearly have a direct strongly negative effect.

Finally in the course of my work I have met a number of women who have worked at establishments like this. Their stories are depressingly similar - it is perceived as a cheap and easy fun way to make extra money. However "house fees" which are paid by performers to clubs to enable them to perform [and outfits and drinks and food usually have to be bought from venues too and fines imposed for failure to comply with deliberately complicated work regulations] mean that at the start of the night they effectively "need" a certain number of private dances to even break even. In desperation this leads to "no touching" rules being swept aside and these premises acting as brothels. Pornographic websites in the UK have innumerable videos depicting sex scenes taking places in strip and lap dancing clubs. Men who visit such places understand this is normal. For women suddenly forced to offer sexual services having expected to be dancing the consequences are horrific. Many turn to drugs and alcohol to numb the experience. Mental health disorders including PTSD are recorded at levels similar to those for soldiers returning from the battlefields of Iraq.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this and think about the points I've made. I would be happy to discuss the matter in greater detail if you have any questions or would like more detail.

Please inform me of the hearing date and location as I would like to attend and to speak.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Philip Bayliss

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 December 2010 16:48
To: Philip Bayliss
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to application for sexual entertainment venue

I am writing to voice objection to the above for the Urban Tiger strip club on Wellingborough Rd in Northampton. I live 1 mile from this venue which is located on the main town centre street. It is completely inappropriate to have such an establishment operating in our town centre, especially considering that families have to walk past it to get to the centre's shops. There are pictures of women spread out wearing barely anything outside the building on posters. To add insult to injury the building used to be a religious establishment as is engraved on the front wall... next to the poster! Again i think this is a totally inappropriate use of this building and I feel this venue should not be granted license for sexual entertainment.
Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Philip Bayliss

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 January 2011 15:27
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence - Urban Tiger

Hello

I am contacting you to express an objection to the above. I understand that there is unfortunately a market for these types of premises, however I do not feel that having a club right in the centre of our town gives a good impression of Northampton.

The club displays erotic images on billboards outside of the club, which are photographs of actual women, rather than discreet silhouettes, which I thought was the requirement of such advertising. Many people pass this everyday, people with children and visitors to our town, it would be nicer for them to see something more constructive.

I also object to the club driving their A board van around our town with the same images for the same reasons. If the club is to remain where it is I suggest these issues around advertising be addressed, but better still that the club does not obtain a license and the space be put to better use.

Northampton has such a wonderful history, it would be great to see a lot more promotion/work being done to attract people to come to visit us to see and learn about this. In my opinion, clubs like Urban Tiger promote the wrong kind of image and attract the wrong kind of people.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
--

[REDACTED] is at risk, right now. If you want freedom to choose, do something here:
[REDACTED]

Philip Bayliss

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 December 2010 14:20
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: Urban Tiger Application



Good afternoon Mr Bayliss,

Further to our phone conversation I would like to put forward my objections to the license application from the Urban Tiger.

I would like to highlight my concerns that the Council consider its statutory public duty under the single equality act and other equalities enactments in considering this application. Within this there is a statutory duty that is not optional that the Council considers in each decision that it makes in what way there maybe consideration of its duty to promote equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination. In this the Council needs to also consider it's duties the human rights conflicts of the freedom of expression and the freedom to enjoy family life and live free from discrimination. The way the the Urban Tiger has promoted itself over the past few years in respect of the venues and sites that it has chosen to advertise and the images that it has chosen to use, I feel has impinged on my rights to enjoy family life and live free from discrimination. In particular the promotional boards outside the venue have been at times offensive and encouraged women being viewed as objects for sexual pleasure rather than human beings. This does no good for our town and in particular no good for women and children in the town (the majority of the population of the town). It is the Councils duty to take this into consideration when making decisions on all issues including licensing issues. In particular I am very concerned that the promotion of the venue in the past has used unacceptable images of women in family environments in the town. These have included local newspapers and magazines, sports clubs and other places where children can gain awareness of the venue and the business that is undertaken there. This does nothing for the way that men in the town treat women that they come into contact with.

In the past couple of months I organised a birthday party trip for my ten year old son to Games Workshop with a number of other boys from school. We had to go past the establishment to get to the Subway to get some food and I felt angry, embarrassed and compromised by the boards outside of the club. What made things worse was the venue is right outside a pedestrian crossing, meaning that when the traffic dictates, members of the public like myself and my children are forced to wait in relatively close to the images.

I am also concerned for the women working in the Club. I am concerned that some women may enter working environments of this kind as other work opportunities in the town reduce as a result of public spending cuts and with cuts to benefits, they indeed have little option. The working environment allows the women no employment rights and without these rights are subject to the whims of the managers of the club and their approach to any poor conduct from customers.

If Northampton Borough Council decides that it will issue a Sexual Entertainment Licence to the Urban Tiger or to any other lap dancing clubs then it is essential that standard conditions are imposed on those licences for the safety of the women performing in the clubs and for the prevention of crime. Other councils around the UK all impose conditions on SEV licences. Those standard conditions should include the following:-

1. Restriction of opening times to evenings only
2. The use of CCTV monitoring equipment throughout
3. Any external advertising of adult entertainment shall not include:
 - a) Any depiction of full nudity.

- b) Any images of breasts, buttocks or genitalia.
 - c) Any depiction of sexualised posing of women
 - d) Any depiction of overtly sexual or violent images or any other images which may give rise to concerns in respect of public decency or protection of children from harm.
 - e) Any overt wording such as 'striptease' 'credit crotch' or similar
4. Prohibition of advertising in public spaces, including on billboards, telephone booth boards, and leafleting. Advertising will only be permitted on the interior and exterior of the premises. The use of ad-vans to advertise sexual entertainment venues is prohibited for public decency.
- No advertising allowed in media that is not exclusively aimed at adults – this would exclude local "family" newspapers, and cricket, rugby and football grounds for example.
5. a) No persons under the age of 18 will be permitted on the premises.
- b) Proof of age will be required from anyone appearing to be under the age of 25.
- c) No performer or employee will be under the age of 18 and an employment record will be held on the premises. Adequate checks will be made to ensure compliance.
6. a) No full nudity will be permitted.
- b) There shall be no physical contact between the customers and performers.
- c) Performers are to keep a minimum distance of 3 feet away from the customers. Notices outlining these conditions must be clearly displayed on the premises.
- d) Performers will stop immediately and move away from any customer who is offensive or attempts to touch them and shall report such behaviour and any other inappropriate behaviour or breach of house rules to the management.
- e) Performers will not take or give telephone numbers or business cards or in any way solicit themselves.
- f) No dancing or entertainment shall be provided in dedicated private booths within the premises.
- g) All performers will at the conclusion of their last performance, leave the premises and not return that day.

These conditions would go some way to protecting women working in lap dancing clubs and women in the wider community.

However, because of the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality and women's safety as outlined above, I ultimately request that you take a bold stance against the growth of lap dancing clubs by rejecting all applications for SEVs in our town, and in particular, by rejecting this application by the Urban Tiger for a Sexual Entertainment Licence.

Philip Bayliss

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 January 2011 18:43
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: Urban Tiger

I feel I must write regarding the licensing of the Urban Tiger lap dancing club in Northampton town centre. As a young woman I feel most uncomfortable walking past the venue and seeing its advertisements featuring almost nude women, and I feel it does not set a good image to our town. I am also deeply concerned about what these establishments mean for women - in this day and age it upsets me that it is still seen as acceptable to objectify women like this. It also paves the way to illegal activities such as prostitution. I truly believe that society would be better off without these places, and since the law has finally realised that lap dancing clubs are not the same as tea rooms, I feel that the time has come to change this seediness once and for all. Please consider this when making the decision about the license, as councils finally have the power to change society for the better regarding lap dancing clubs and it would be such a shame to let that opportunity go to waste.

Thank you so much for your time, and please consider wisely for the good of the town and society.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

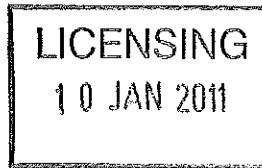
Lead

Philip Bayliss

From: Philip Bayliss
Sent: 10 January 2011 08:10
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Urban Tiger licence

Thank you for your notification of objection to the application for a 'Sex Entertainment Venue' Licence for the Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road, Northampton. You will be notified when a hearing has been arranged with regard to the application.

Kind regards
Philip Bayliss
Principal Licensing Officer
Licensing Department
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE
Telephone 01604 837099
pbayliss@northampton.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2011 17:11
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: Urban Tiger licence

Dear Sir,
I object to a sexual entertainment licence being granted to the Urban Tiger as I think that lap-dancing degrades women, & goes against gender equality which the Council promotes.

The displays outside on one of the main routes into town are offensive, especially as they are alongside stone plaques on the walls dedicating the building as a place of worship.

If Northampton needs a "Men's Club" of this nature, then it should be situated away from the main street where women & children walk past.

Yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Philip Bayliss

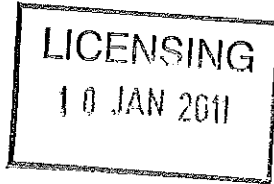
From: Philip Bayliss
Sent: 10 January 2011 08:15
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Objection: Urban Tiger-Sexual Entertainment Venue

Encl

Thank you for your notification of objection to the application for a 'Sex Entertainment Venue' Licence for the Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road, Northampton. You will be notified when a hearing has been arranged with regard to the application.

Kind regards

Philip Bayliss
Principal Licensing Officer
Licensing Department
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE
Telephone 01604 837099
pbayliss@northampton.gov.uk



-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2011 19:38
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: Objection: Urban Tiger-Sexual Entertainment Venue

The Licencing Officer
Northampton Borough Council
Borough Solicitors Division
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Re: Objection to the Urban Tiger application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue.

Dear Licencing Officer,
I hate walking past the 'Urban Tiger' with my 10 year old daughter and have her embarrassed and confused by the posters outside. At a time when she is just forming an understanding of the world, images like this are not what I want her to see.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Northampton
Northamptonshire

[REDACTED]

Tel: [REDACTED]

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Licensing Officer
Northampton Borough Council
Borough Solicitors Division
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE

Dear Madam or Sir

I am writing to express considerable concern regarding the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for the Urban Tiger Lap Dancing Club, Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4AA.

It is my opinion that Lap dancing clubs encourage their customers, and wider society to see women as sex objects. This has to be seen in the wider context of a society in which men still dominate the positions of power and where violence against women is endemic. I understand that those working with female victims of male violence believe that the mainstreaming of the sex industries legitimises the attitudes that ultimately lead to violence against women.

I sense that lap dancing clubs when situated on a main thoroughfare as is the above premises, create areas of unease and an atmosphere especially inappropriate for passing children. This is not helped by the graphic advertising, the fear of bumping into the punters from the club and the possibility of being subjected to harassment and intimidation.

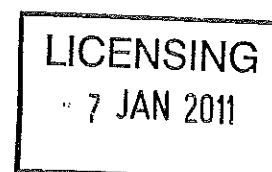
I would urge the council, if it does allow lap dancing clubs to continue to exist in our town, to at the very least impose the following conditions on their licences:-

1. Restriction of opening times to evenings only
2. Any external advertising of adult entertainment shall not include:
 - a) Any depiction of full nudity.
 - b) Any images of breasts, buttocks or genitalia.
 - c) Any depiction of overtly sexual or violent images or any other images which may give rise to concerns in respect of public decency or protection of children from harm.
 - d) Any overt wording such as 'striptease' 'credit crotch' or similar
3. Prohibition of advertising in public spaces, including on billboards, telephone booth boards, and leafleting. Advertising only to be permitted on the interior and exterior of the premises. The use of ad-vans to advertise sexual entertainment venues is prohibited for public decency. No advertising allowed in media that is not exclusively aimed at adults – this would exclude for example local family newspapers.
4. No persons under the age of 18 to be permitted on the premises. Proof of age ^{will} be required from anyone appearing to be under the age of 25. No performer or employee to be under the age of 18 and an employment record to be held on the premises. Adequate checks to be made to ensure compliance.

I call on Northampton Borough Council to reject the application for a Sexual Entertainment Licence by the Urban Tiger.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]



Philip Bayliss**From:** Philip Bayliss**Sent:** 07 January 2011 08:20**To:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** RE: Application for Sexual Entertainment Licence for the Urban Tiger Gentlemen's Club*Email*

Thank you for your notification of objection to the application for a 'Sex Entertainment Venue' Licence for the Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road, Northampton. You will be notified when a hearing has been arranged with regard to the application.

Kind regards
 Philip Bayliss
 Principal Licensing Officer
 Licensing Department
 Northampton Borough Council
 The Guildhall
 St Giles Square
 Northampton
 NN1 1DE
 Telephone 01604 837099
pbayliss@northampton.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]**Sent:** 07 January 2011 08:02**To:** Philip Bayliss**Subject:** Application for Sexual Entertainment Licence for the Urban Tiger Gentlemen's Club

Dear Mr Bayliss,

I am writing to you to voice my concerns over the sexual entertainment licence application for the Urban Tiger Gentlemen's Club in Abington Square.

My objection to a licence being issued is not based on my moral opinion of gentlemen's clubs. Whilst I would never go to one myself, I believe that in a culture of freedom of thought and expression people are free to make their own moral judgements, and so it is not for me to judge the moral legitimacy of the club. My concerns are primarily about the location of the club and its exposure to young children.

I am not a parent myself yet, but I am sure most parents would agree with me when I say that this is the sort of establishment that we would not want our children to be exposed to, particularly at a very young age. However, the club is located on a very busy stretch of road where a great number of men, women and children pass by every day. It is also very near to shops aimed at children, such as a school uniform shop and a warhammer shop, and is housed in a large building, so is not easily missed. Whilst it is obviously not open during the day when children are most likely to be about, it is still obvious from the outside what the venue is.

I also have a concern about the advertising outside the venue. Most of the advertisements are large and can easily be noticed by passing pedestrians and vehicles. There is also a pedestrian crossing directly opposite the club which means you notice the advertising perhaps more than if you were just walking past it. Some people will find the content of the advertisements objectionable and offensive. There is also the crucial issue of protecting young children. Whilst from the exterior of the club you may not instantly recognise that it is a gentlemen's club, from the advertising you certainly would. My concern is that very young children are being exposed to advertisements for sexual entertainment. I think that most people will agree that this is not particularly appropriate.

I do not expect the Urban Tiger to be completely closed down. If that is where people choose to either go for entertainment, or to earn a living, then that is a personal decision that they have made. What I believe the best compromise is for both the company and the people who object to the club, is either the relocation

of the club to a less prominent location or, at the very least, the movement of its entrance so that it does not open straight out onto the main street. I also believe that it would be appropriate to enforce a limit, or ban, on advertising outside the club.

Thank you for your time, I hope you will take my views into account.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Philip Bayliss

Email

From: Philip Bayliss
Sent: 11 January 2011 08:55
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Sexual Entertainment License - Urban Tiger

Thank you for your notification of objection to the application for a 'Sex Entertainment Venue' Licence for the Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road, Northampton. You will be notified when a hearing has been arranged with regard to the application.

Kind regards
Philip Bayliss
Principal Licensing Officer
Licensing Department
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE
Telephone 01604 837099
pbayliss@northampton.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2011 00:28
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: Sexual Entertainment License - Urban Tiger

Dear Sir/Madam

I am hereby writing to object to the proposed application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence for the Urban Tiger Lap Dancing Club, Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 4AA.

I am objecting to this License for the following reasons:

Lap dancing clubs promote 'sex-object' culture – the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries

Lap dancing clubs are linked to wider systems of prostitution

Lap dancing clubs create 'no-go' zones for women in the local vicinity

Lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in wider society

Gender Equality Duty: Regulating the expansion of lap dancing clubs is an issue of equality, not morality.

The Urban Tiger lap dancing club is situated on the main road into Northampton town centre and is surrounded by shops, pubs and other local businesses. Women, children and men that aren't interested in such establishments have to pass this club together with its offensive posters and publicity material in order to gain access to the central shopping area of town. The club is also situated close to the main bus stops for services into and out of the town centre - it is therefore very difficult to avoid or ignore it.

Philip Bayliss

From: Philip Bayliss
Sent: 11 January 2011 14:59
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: sexual entertainment license application

Thank you for your notification of objection to the application for a 'Sex Entertainment Venue' Licence for the Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road, Northampton. You will be notified when a hearing has been arranged with regard to the application.

Kind regards

Philip Bayliss
Principal Licensing Officer
Licensing Department
Northampton Borough Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Square
Northampton
NN1 1DE
Telephone 01604 837099
pbayliss@northampton.gov.uk

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2011 13:31
To: Philip Bayliss
Subject: sexual entertainment license application

Dear Mr Bayliss,

I am placing an objection on the license application by the Urban Tiger for a sexual entertainment license application on behalf of Dostiyo Asian Womens Organisation. Our organisation operates its Northampton based activities from our Centre in Dunster street and offers social support and advocacy for vulnerable Asian Women in the Town and surrounding area.

The Borough's licensing objectives are

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance, and
- The protection of children from harm

The venue is quite close to our centre and some women accessing our centre have to walk past it.

Often they are with children or older family members. Often outside the Urban Tiger there are larger than life unclad images of women promoting the venue. This is offensive and causes those women who do walk past it considerable distress and disquiet. It is completely unacceptable that women with children going about their daily business should be exposed to this. This kind of imagery in public places affects the way men view women and encourage domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment. In our view this is directly contrary to the Boroughs Licensing policy objective of the prevention of crime and disorder and promoting public safety. In addition to our concern about the effect that the venues operation has on women, we also have a concern that boys growing up in women oriented households (as large amounts of Asian households are) get the wrong messages about the position of women in western society and the nature of positive relationships with women and what life outside of home should be like, through the operation of the establishment and in particular in the way it has promoted itself. In our view this is directly contrary to the Boroughs Licensing policy objective of the protection of children from harm.

If Northampton Borough Council decides that it will issue a Sexual Entertainment License to the Urban Tiger or to any other lap dancing clubs then it is essential that standard conditions are imposed on those licences for the safety of the women performing in the clubs and for the prevention of crime. Other councils around the UK all impose conditions on SEV licences. Those standard conditions should include the following:-

1. Restriction of opening times to evenings only
2. The use of CCTV monitoring equipment throughout
3. Any external advertising of adult entertainment shall not include:
 - a) Any depiction of full nudity.
 - b) Any images of breasts, buttocks or genitalia.
 - c) Any depiction of sexualised posing of women
 - d) Any depiction of overtly sexual or violent images or any other images which may give rise to concerns in respect of public decency or protection of children from harm.
 - e) Any overt wording such as 'striptease' 'credit crotch' or similar
4. Prohibition of advertising in public spaces, including on billboards, telephone booth boards, and leafleting. Advertising will only be permitted on the interior and exterior of the premises. The use of ad-vans to advertise sexual entertainment venues is prohibited for public decency.

No advertising allowed in media that is not exclusively aimed at adults – this would exclude local “family” newspapers, and cricket, rugby and football grounds for example.

5.
 - a) No persons under the age of 18 will be permitted on the premises.
 - b) Proof of age will be required from anyone appearing to be under the age of 25.
 - c) No performer or employee will be under the age of 18 and an employment record will be held on the premises. Adequate checks will be made to ensure compliance.

6.
 - a) No full nudity will be permitted.
 - b) There shall be no physical contact between the customers and performers.
 - c) Performers are to keep a minimum distance of 3 feet away from the customers. Notices outlining these conditions must be clearly displayed on the premises.
 - d) Performers will stop immediately and move away from any customer who is offensive or attempts to touch them and shall report such behaviour and any other inappropriate behaviour or breach of house rules to the management.
 - e) Performers will not take or give telephone numbers or business cards or in any way solicit themselves.
 - f) No dancing or entertainment shall be provided in dedicated private booths within the premises.
 - g) All performers will at the conclusion of their last performance, leave the premises and not return that day.

These conditions would go some way to protecting women working in lap dancing clubs and women in the wider community.

However, because of the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality and women's safety as outlined above, I ultimately request that you take a bold stance against the growth of lap dancing clubs by rejecting all applications for SEVs in our town, and in particular, by rejecting this application by the Urban Tiger for a Sexual Entertainment License.

Yours

Philip Bayliss

From: Bryan David [david.bryan@northants.pnn.police.uk]
Sent: 10 January 2011 13:44
To: Philip Bayliss; Louise Faulkner
Subject: Urban Tiger, Abington Square, Northampton.

Mr Bayliss,

Please accept this E-mail as Northamptonshire Police notice that they have no observation or objection to the grant of the Sexual Entertainment Licence for Urban Tiger.

Thank you,

Regards

David Bryan Constable 113 | Licensing Officer | Safer Stronger Northampton Partnership

Northamptonshire West | Northamptonshire Police

☎ Telephone 03000 111222 Ext 8634 | 📠 Facsimile 01604 632645 |

✉ Email david.bryan@northants.police.uk

📍 Address First Floor, 14 Fish Street, Northampton. NN1 2AA

| Working in Partnership for Safer Stronger Communities |



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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR SEXUAL
ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 aa (the Act)

Urban Tiger, Wellingborough Road, Northampton, NN1 1DE

I am instructed by Urban Crowd Ltd, which is the current operator of this site.

The premises currently operate under a Premises Licence issued by the Council under the Licensing Act 2003. Licensable activities permitted include sales of alcohol and provision of music and dancing and related regulated entertainment. It is understood that the premises have, for some time, offered the style of entertainment that will now be described as sexual entertainment for the purposes of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 aa, (the Act) on a regular basis.

My client is aware that the sub-committee will wish to have the assurance that strong controls will continue to be exercised at this site, should they grant a Licence under the Act. It is, therefore, most willing to offer conditions to deal with prevention of crime and disorder and public nuisance; the protection of children from harm and the control of the premises and visibility of the performance areas, advertising, control of customers and the protection, care and control of dancers. They are attached, together with the Code of Conduct for dancers and House Rules referred to.

My client is also aware that the sub-committee is entitled to consider the suitability of the locality for a specific number, or any, such venues. It strongly urges the sub-committee to accept that, as the existing user has been in this area for some time without causing any genuine complaint or issue, it has demonstrated that it is in an appropriate area that should either not be controlled as to the number, or where the number should equate to the existing properly managed lap and/or table dancing venues. To find that a nil quota or lesser number was appropriate in this area would be, in our respectful submission, contrary to the applicant's Human Rights and its legitimate expectations.

V2

**CONDITIONS FOR SEX ESTABLISHMENT (SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE)
LICENCE**

General

1. The grant of a licence for a Sexual Entertainment Venue shall not be deemed to convey any approval or consent which may be required under any enactment, byelaw, order or regulation other than Schedule 3 of the Act.
2. The Premises shall be maintained in good repair and condition.
3. Alterations or additions either internal or external and whether permanent or temporary to the structure, lighting or layout of the premises shall not be made except with the prior approval of the Council.
4. The copy of the licence and of any Regulations required to be exhibited in accordance with paragraph 14(1) of Schedule 3 of the Act shall be reproductions to the same scale as those issued by the Council. The copy of the licence required to be displayed aforesaid shall be suitably protected and the copy of any Regulations shall be retained in a clean and legible condition.
5. The Licensee must remain in personal control of the premises at all times that it is trading or nominate in writing an individual over the age of 18 with the authority to direct activities within the Premises.
6. Any individual employed on the premises to conduct a security activity (within the meaning of section paragraph 2(1) (a) of schedule 2 to the Private Security Industry Act 2001) must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority (for so long as that Authority is operative).
7. The Licensee must ensure that a sufficient number of authorised Door Supervisors are employed in the premises to supervise customers and performers whilst sexual entertainment is provided.

Admission to the Premises

8. No person under the age of 18 shall be admitted to the premises and a notice to this effect should be clearly displayed at the entrance(s) to the premises
9. Customers who appear to be under the age of 21 must be asked to provide a Pass-Scheme approved photographic card, their passport or photographic driving licence to prove their age. Prominent notices must be clearly displayed to this effect at the entrance(s) to the premises.
10. Information shall be clearly displayed within the internal exit areas of the premises, reminding departing customers to behave in a responsible and appropriate way towards all persons, particularly women.

Advertising

11. The Licensee shall ensure that any external advertisement promoting the entertainment on the premises complies with the Advertising Standards Agency guidelines and has the required prior Council approval.
12. The use of ad-vans to advertise sexual entertainment venues is prohibited.
13. The Licensee shall not permit the display outside of the premises of photographs or other images, excluding trade marks or logos, which are unacceptable to the Council, and which may offend public decency.
14. Where the Council has given notice in writing to the Licensee objecting to an advertisement on the grounds that, if displayed, it would offend public decency or be likely to encourage or incite crime and disorder that advertisement shall be removed or not be displayed.

Premises

15. The Licensee shall ensure that the interior of the premises where sexual entertainment is offered shall not be capable of being seen from the outside of the premises, and that the exterior is maintained to a satisfactory level of decorum.
16. At no time shall performances be capable of being seen from outside of the premises

CCTV

17. The Licensee shall ensure that CCTV is installed and maintained to the reasonable satisfaction of the Police.
18. CCTV shall be installed in the private performance areas.
19. CCTV images shall be retained for a period of at least 28 days and made available to a police officer or authorised Council officer (subject to the Data Protection Act 1998). The said images shall be down loaded on request and a copy provided to such an officer at the earliest practicable opportunity.

Performers

20. Performers shall be aged not less than 18 years. The Licensee must maintain records of the names, addresses and dates of birth of performers including identity checks.
21. Performers must remain fully dressed in public areas and in all other areas except while performing.
22. Performers must re-dress when the performance has ended.

23. Performers must not perform a nude table dance unless in a supervised area and within sight of a floor supervisor.
24. Performers may not accept any telephone number, email address, address or contact information from any customer, except in the form of a business card, which must be surrendered to the Licensee or their representative before leaving the premises.
25. There shall be no intentional full body contact between customers and performers except for the placing of money or tokens into the hand or garter of the performer at the beginning or conclusion of the performance.
26. Performers will stop immediately and move away from any customer who is offensive or attempts to touch them and shall report such behaviour and any other inappropriate behaviour or breach of house rules to the management.
27. No performances shall include any sex act with any other performer, persons in the audience or with the use of any object.
28. Performers must not engage with the customer in any act of, or communication likely to lead to an act of, prostitution or solicitation.
29. The Licensee is to implement a policy for the safety of the performers when they leave the premises.

Customers

30. Customers must remain seated during the entire performance of a private dance.
31. Customers must remain fully dressed at all times.

Definitions

“The Act” means the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 aa

“Licensee” means the person to whom the licence has been granted or transferred under the said Schedule 3.

“Approval of the Council” or “Consent of the Council” means the approval or consent of the Council in writing.

“Approved” means by the Council in writing.

“The Council” means Northampton Borough Council.

“Performances” means performances defined in the Act as sexual entertainment

V4



HOUSE RULES

CONDITIONS AND HOUSE RULES

1. If invited, a dancer will dance for you. A recommended minimum tip of £5/£10 will be paid for topless and £20 full nude for each recorded track. A single dance will be for approximately 3 minutes.
2. You may invite a girl to stay at your table for up to 5 recorded tracks and tip her at your discretion. She may accept a drink whilst at your table.
3. Dancers must not be propositioned in any manner.
4. Whether or not there is a bar operational, we will always have waiting staff to provide a full drinks service.
5. Dance vouchers may be purchased through your waitress or floor host. This facility is subject to 20% charge including VAT.
6. We accept most major credit cards. Cheques must be supported by a banker's card. All prices are inclusive of VAT. All prices and details are subject to alteration.
7. There is no personal photography allowed. All cameras must be handed in to the cloakroom before entering the premises.
8. No phone cameras can be used in the club.
9. Other than arrival and departure, visiting the cloakroom, lavatory or standing in the bar area, customers must remain seated at all times.
10. Apart from the shaking of hands on introduction and the placing of money or dance vouchers in a garter or hand, there is no intentional full body contact allowed at any time during the performance.

If you fail to obey our strict house rules, you will have to leave Urban Tiger and may be refused future entry.

If you have any questions, please ask for the floor host or duty manager.

Rights of admission are reserved.



CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS

THE FOLLOWING APPLIES AT ALL TIMES AND MUST BE READ SUBJECT TO ANY VARIATIONS AGREED WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES ATTACHED

1. Dancers must be aged 18 years or older and provide the following documents before they may commence working in the premises;
 - a) Proof of age (photographic proof of identity showing date of birth). A copy to be made and kept in individual Dancer files for each Dancer.
 - b) Proof of address - 2 forms of proof (utility bill, phone bill, V5, Bank statement etc). A copy to be made and kept in individual Dancer files.
 - c) If not a citizen of the EU community, the dancer must provide proof of permission to work in the UK. A copy is to be kept in the individual dancers files.
2. No Striptease of any form may take place if such a performance may be visible to people outside the premises.
3. All Dancers are to complete an Induction process before they may commence working in the premises to include;
 - a) To thoroughly read the Code of Conduct and sign to confirm the Dancer has read & understood it – a sign off sheet to be kept in the individual Dancers' file.
 - b) Explanation of Stage and Podium requirements
 - c) Schedule requirements and Changing Room Etiquette
 - d) Customer Relations and Conflict Management
 - e) Fire Safety – Health and Safety
4. Dancers may never give out any personal contact information, including telephone numbers, or contact details away from the Club. Dancers may provide a customer with the days and shifts they or other dancers work at the Club.
5. Dancers may never accept any telephone number, address or any other contact information from any customer except in the form of a business card, but may not make use of that information to contact the customer. Before leaving the premises; dancers must permanently surrender all such cards to a member of management (without copying any information).
6. Dancers are never to perform a nude table dance unless in a supervised area
7. Dancers may not use language of an inappropriate or sexually graphic nature at any time.
8. Dancers may only consume alcohol in moderation.
9. During the performance of a nude or semi nude dance:
 - a) Dancers must not allow intentional full body contact or straddle the customer.
 - b) Dancers must maintain at least one shoed foot on the floor at all times and not place their feet on the booth seat.
 - c) Dancers may not perform any act which may offend the customer and must stop the performance immediately if requested to do so by the customer, door supervisor or management
10. If a customer attempts to touch, or speak to any dancer inappropriately, the dancer must immediately stop the performance and explain the relevant customer rules. If necessary, ask for assistance from and cooperate with a floor supervisor, who will take appropriate action, which may include escorting the customer out of the Club.
11. Dancers are never to engage in an act of prostitution (to include the receiving of gratuities or payments for any form of sexual favour or offer of such).

12. Dancers must not accept a customer's offer of payment in return for sexual favours and must report any such behaviour to a member of management or supervisor.
13. Dancers must not engage in communications that could be deemed as acts of prostitution or solicitation.
14. Dancers are never to agree to meet a customer outside of the Club.
15. Dancers must never engage in any unlawful activity within the Club.
16. Dancers may never leave the premises during a shift, except in the case of an emergency and then only with the express permission of the duty manager. In that event, dancers must sign out before leaving the premises. If a dancer leaves early, for any reason, the dancer will not be re-admitted during that shift.
17. At the end of the night shift, dancers must not leave the premises until after the customers have departed and then have been cleared to leave by the manager.
18. Topless table dances and full nude table dances may be performed for the pre-determined rate.
19. Whilst performing on stage or podium, Dancers shall not perform any act which is likely to offend the customer and must stop the performance immediately if requested to do so by door supervisors or management.
20. By agreeing to dance at the club, the Dancer accepts that the club may use any recording as the club deems fit and in accordance with the Data Protection Legislation.
21. Any dancer found to be in violation of any of these rules, without exception, will be subject to the cancelation of pre booked shifts.

**ANY BREACH OF THE ABOVE RULES
 MAY RESULT IN THE DANCER BEING EXCLUDED FROM THIS CLUB
 AND ALL OTHER ASSOCIATED CLUBS WORLDWIDE.
 OBEY THE CODE! COMPLY WITH STATUTE LAWS!
 USE COMMON SENSE!
 WE HAVE ZERO TOLERANCE FOR;
 PROSTITUTION, SOLICITATION, UNLAWFUL DRUGS, UNLAWFUL CONDUCT!**

The signing of this document signifies that you, the dancer, have read and understood the CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS, and that you agree to comply with the Code of Conduct and accept the obligations under it. This document is in no way designed to restrict your own artistic performance or freedom of expression.

Dancer signature _____

Dancer printed birth name _____

Dancer stage name _____

Printed Club Manager Name _____

Date Signed _____

RESPONSE BY URBAN TIGER TO MAIN OBJECTION ISSUES

There are no objections from the Police or any other responsible authority or local organisation, such as schools.

Whilst names are properly removed from the objection letters before you, the content makes it clear that the majority, if not all, are from women.

It will be noted that the great majority of the objections are duplicated, and many find their roots in the OBJECT website, and in particular in Appendix 3 to OBJECT's publication "Stripping the Illusion". Many others echo the words used by Jac Higgs in her letter published in the Northampton Chronicle on 1 January, inviting objections to the application, or the comments made by former Councillor Anjona Roy in the article published on page 3 of the same edition of that paper. That article also referred to the campaign mounted on the internet (on Facebook and mumsnet) by a group opposed to the application, to get the licence refused. Those objecting as a result of these campaigns are fully entitled to do so in the way that they have, but the Committee is entitled to place such weight, if any, on those objections as they think fit in all the circumstances.

The applicant's responses to the main tenets of the objections received to the application are set out below.

Main points raised in the 3 x 8 page full objection letter

1. Sex object culture

Beautiful women have chosen to show off their attributes in dance as an entertainment for literally thousands of years (Salome comes to mind as an early example, with the Bluebell girls etc in the otherwise restrained sexual atmosphere of the early to mid 20th Century). The culture in which we now find ourselves is open and liberal about sexuality and sexual issues, which is demonstrated daily in all aspects of the media including films etc.

Many regard this move away from repression to be healthy and good. Men and women are no longer ostracised or penalised for openly stating their sexual preferences, be that homosexual or heterosexual. Of course, abnormal or harmful practices must be properly controlled and curtailed to protect children and the vulnerable, and that is essential. My clients have families themselves and are especially sensitive on the issue of child protection.

Past experience has shown that, if activities are driven underground, they don't stop, it is just that they are controlled solely by criminals without rules or scruples. Examples are Prohibition in the US, and the abolition of hand guns here a few years ago, where the poster seen at

the time in lawful and well run gun clubs “If you outlaw guns only outlaws will have guns” proved almost 100% accurate.

The growth referred to in the objection (doubling in the past 5 years) simply demonstrates that this is an entertainment that is in demand. If the venues are not allowed to continue lawfully, the demand is unlikely to suddenly go away, it will just go underground, which would be a dire and thoroughly undesirable outcome for all concerned.

2. Leads to Prostitution

I believe that the operators of the leading quality lap dancing venues will be the first to advise that running an establishment of this nature properly is not easy. Both Mr Knight, who has a long association with the highest quality venues, and the current operators who have run this venue without complaint for approaching a decade, are fully aware of the standards, controls and investment that must be put into place to ensure that both dancers and customers know, and obey, the rules.

Mr Knight has liaised closely with Police and other partners in the various locations where he has operated (from Westminster through to City centres and areas across the country), and has never been charged with the accusation that the presence of his establishment has increased “demand for nearby prostitution services”. One must accept that there is a possibility that a poorly run establishment in a “red light” area could have such a result, but we are returning to the argument of sidelining/criminalising this entertainment style and the potential results of that.

If there was any concern on the part of the Police that this was a genuine objection with regard to this club, I have absolutely no doubt that they would have made an objection to this application.

3. No go areas.

The cited 2003 Lilith Report for Camden LBC preceded not only this legislation, but the LA 2003 which came into effect in 2005. On 19 January this year, Dr Brooke Magnanti published a statistical re-analysis criticizing this Report for its significant methodological errors. Her “green paper” demonstrates that in the period since lap dancing became legal in London the rate of rape in Camden has fallen, is lower than areas of London without the clubs, and is in line with national averages. She also claims that research “supports the conclusion of no demonstrable casual link between adult entertainment and rape”. Other studies in favour of abolishing exotic dancing suffer, she claims, from flaws in research methodology.

Once again, in his liaison with the Police etc, the operations with which Mr Knight have been involved have never been charged with increasing

sexual assaults. Considerable care is taken of the dancers to ensure their safety, and they are required to be at the venue before it opens, and stay until customers have all left. (see Rs 16 & 17 COD).

There is criticism that this venue is on a “main thoroughfare” (Wellingborough Road). The Royal Institute of Town Planning quote of issues in “certain locations” is cited in favour of this being inappropriate. Conversely, I would respectfully suggest that all concerned got this absolutely right from the outset. It is not in a secluded side street, or a seedy area, where women may well be entirely justified in feeling threatened, but in a busy main location not far from the Police Station and other business and public service offices. Most of the offices etc are closed when the premises are open for lap dancing, but traffic will still pass to provide security. It is not, however, in the central hub of Northampton within the ring road, where most pedestrian and family activity is likely.

This club has been offering a quality venue with lap dancing as an entertainment for 7 years. There has been no complaint from the Police that they have seen any local increase in violence against women as a result of the lap dancing activity. It bears repetition to say that the Police raise no objection to this application and I am sure that they would have properly brought any fears or concerns to this Committee had that been appropriate, as would any other responsible authority.

4. Negative impact on women’s safety in wider society.

I have grave difficulties in following the argument about sexual harassment in the clubs in this context, unless it is addressed at male customers by the self-assured and competent dancers! You will hear from a dancer about her experience in this industry, but I would respectfully submit that the authors of these statements may well not actually have been to a properly run lap dancing club to see how they operate, because there is no harassment.

This objection is also very clearly countered in practice by the number of women customers who regularly attend this club, with between 5 and 15% of customers on a typical evening being women. The committee has evidence of their satisfaction of the way in which this club is run before it in the support comments for the club.

I have already commented on the “sex object” objection (at 1 above).

5. Gender Equality Duty

The website from which all these objections taken is obviously not yet updated to take into account that the Gender Equality Duty Act 2007 is now superseded by the Equality Act 2010. As this Committee will be aware, there is no longer a requirement to effect a gender impact assessment, although that is replaced by a duty to prepare and publish

equality objectives and information having regard to the three general and specific equality duties and this legislation is, in fact, referred to in the extract from the Council's draft Statement of Licensing Policy published here. This Statement of Policy is, of course, distinct and separate from any SEV policy you may decide to adopt in the future. You will not, therefore, be updating your Licensing Act 2003 Policy as suggested by the 3 objectors referring to this document. Your proper commitment to compliance with this legislation is expressed in the quoted extract.

The statement that to grant any licences for SEVs would be contrary to your stated equality duties is, in my respectful opinion, wrong. The nub of equality is to "eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act" (first general equality duty), and to advance equality of opportunity and foster relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (second and third duties).

I would respectfully submit that there is no harassment of the dancers in this club, and there is no evidence of victimisation nor of unlawful discrimination. Conversely, I would respectfully argue that the men, and women, enjoying this style of entertainment have a right to be able to continue to do that - provided, of course, that there is no direct evidence of harm arising (and there is no such evidence in respect of this club). Many venues also offer male entertainers for the benefit of female customers, so to wipe a broad brush across the whole industry as suggested is inappropriate.

The women who contract to dance at the club do so entirely of their own free will, so they are not the subject of unwanted sexual attention and their ability to perform as an artiste in this environment without unwanted attention is protected by the strict house rules and licence conditions.

6. Sexual objectification.

This is effectively a repetition of the objection raised at paragraph 2 above and my response is likewise repeated.

7. Northampton's Central Area Action Plan

I have addressed the Equality Act duties, and do not propose to rehearse those again. I have also addressed the siting of the club and the reason we believe that to be a good position. I would respectfully submit that this club is far less prominent in both its display of its activities and its position in pedestrian areas than, for instance, Ann Summers, in the High Street.

8. Urban Tiger's future without an SEV

Put simply, in this current economic climate, and having regard to the issues that ordinary nightclubs bring to an area which lap dancing clubs do not (ie an increased potential for noise, nuisance, crime and disorder)

there is no future without an SEV Licence. We appreciate the acknowledgment of the authors that they would not wish to see it close. If no SEV was granted and it did have to close, then as many as 20 full and part time on site jobs as such could be lost, together with up to 5 agency door supervisors, and between 25 and 45 self employed dancers (according to the time of year and how busy the club is) would lose this source of income.

Standard Licence Conditions

As this is repeated in several other objection letters, I shall refer to these suggestions at a later stage, but those who took the trouble to consider the application lodged will be aware that extensive conditions were offered at the outset by the applicants to show their commitment to continue operating a top quality club here. The majority of the issues covered in these suggestions have already been offered as conditions, but some are inappropriate and comment will be made on that following the consideration of other objections before you.

Most of the points raised in the 41 x 3 page objection letter, replicate those in the full objection letter, and are already addressed above.

Some additional points are raised which merit a response, and these are:

1. Graphic Advertising (paragraph 2)

My clients, with the input of the experienced Mr Knight, recognised before receiving any of the objections now before you, that advertising could be a cause for concern. Following consultation and advice Conditions 11-14 are specifically offered to control advertising. I would invite you to look at these again.

11. The Licensee shall ensure that any external advertisement promoting the entertainment on the premises complies with the Advertising Standards Agency guidelines and has the required prior Council approval.
12. The use of ad-vans to advertise sexual entertainment venues is prohibited.
13. The Licensee shall not permit the display outside of the premises of photographs or other images, excluding trade marks or logos, which are unacceptable to the Council, and which may offend public decency.
14. Where the Council has given notice in writing to the Licensee objecting to an advertisement on the grounds that, if displayed, it would offend public decency or be likely to encourage or incite crime and disorder that advertisement shall be removed or not be displayed.

It will be seen that, if the Committee kindly grants an application, and makes it subject to the offered conditions, there will be extensive controls over the advertising. Firstly, advertising outside the premises must comply with Advertising Standards Agency principles and standards. Next, it must have Council approval. Conditions 13 and 14 offer additional assurances regarding such external advertising and the form it may take.

Several individual objectors have also complained about the A board or ad van used to promote the entertainment at the premises in the borough, and it will be seen that the site has agreed to give this up.

2. That the Club is in an inappropriate position (paragraph 2) due to :

- Bus stops used by women late at night

The concern is raised that these premises are near such bus stops. There are two bus stops, each at least 50m from the club. The main trading hours of Urban Tiger for this entertainment are :

Monday to Thursday : 10pm to 3am
Friday & Saturday : 9pm to 4am

The premises will occasionally open earlier, but not generally before 6pm. The premises are sometimes booked for private or special events which may require earlier opening.

The majority of women out alone will not be out in this area at the general start of trading times (ie 9pm or 10pm), although it is accepted that those without transport may need to do so. The last bus from the Abington Square stop is at midnight, which is 3 or 4 hours before the terminal hour for entertainment.

This issue has not been raised prior to this application, and there is no reason to believe that a permission to continue to operate will cause any problems.

- Games Workshop used by children for warhammer games etc

Individual objectors also raise the issue of a shop selling school uniforms being close by. It appears that the main concern was the graphic advertising complaint, and that is now fully addressed at 1 above. Both of these establishments generally operate during normal working day opening hours and even the late night Thursdays for the Games Workshop (8pm) is very unlikely to coincide with the normal operational hours of these premises.

An individual correspondent expands on the location of the club and exposure to young children, claiming that is that this is a busy stretch of road, that a great number pass by every day as well as being close to the uniform shop and Games Workshop. A suggestion is made to relocate

club or move its entrance. Another suggests that if Northampton needs a Men's Club of this nature, it should be situated away from the main street where women and children walk past.

For the reasons previously stated both above and in our response to paragraph 3 on page 4 of this document, it is averred that the position is, in fact, good. As well as being away from main shopping areas etc, it is only a short distance to the main Campbell Square Police Station. Any public nuisance or crime and disorder issues arising out of its use or position would have given rise to a potential application for Review under the current legislation, but no such applications have been made or complaints received. This position has, in my respectful submission, far less potential for bringing pedestrians and children in contact with window displays and advertisements that may be inappropriate than in the High Street where, for example, Ann Summers is situated.

Once again, no issue has been raised in this respect prior to this application, and there is no reason to believe that grant of the SEV Licence to continue the operation will cause any problems.

3. Business entertainment resulting in exclusion of women colleagues (paragraph 3)

This is an expansion of the "Gender Equality" argument propounded by the objectors, and the concern is that a female business colleague in a situation where clients were being entertained at Urban Tiger would "necessarily" be excluded. This is inaccurate. It is far from unknown that female as well as male business people attend with clients to entertain them. Urban Tiger is a regular venue of choice for business entertainment because of its excellent service and well furnished and decorated surroundings, and the safe and controlled environment. Most business women, especially those in a male dominated business, will be very used to professionally dealing with most business situations. I anticipate that the majority in that situation would not regard themselves as "necessarily" excluded from entertaining clients at Urban Tiger, and that some may well be offended at the suggestion that they should be excluded.

An individual correspondent has indicated that she believes her career has been "directly damaged" by her unwillingness to join male colleagues in such establishments, but such a claim, if wholly accurate, would appear in itself to smack more of discrimination by her employers.

Most of the conditions suggested have either been offered at the time of the application. Comment will be made below on those which are not regarded as being appropriate.

There are no points raised in the 20 x 2 page objection letter, not already addressed above (this appears to be a truncated version of the 3 page objection letter).

Individual objections not already addressed above

The majority of those objecting do so in respect of the advertising of the entertainment, and this has been fully addressed by the applicants at the time of the making of this application, and is referred to above.

One refers to fear of harassment and intimidation from the “punters”, and another claims to have been heckled by men customers coming from and going to the club. This is certainly not something of which my clients are aware. Door supervisors are at the entrance of the club when it is open, and will be able to see what is going on in the street outside. They would immediately intervene should they witness any such behaviour, and would also report the incident to the management. No such reports have been received. It is a sad fact that some men can act entirely inappropriately towards women, especially when in a group or drunk, but they could have previously been at any of the bars or clubs in the town. Any former or prospective customer of Urban Tiger found behaving in this way would face an entry ban.

One email correspondent refers to walking to the Railway Station or hotel late at night. The Committee will be far better acquainted with the area than I, but it is not very close to either the Station (on the other side of town) or hotels. Apparently, the nearest hotel is believed to be the Park Hotel, about a mile away.

She also recounts what she describes as “depressing” lap dancer stories - with its permission, the Committee will hear from a dancer in person and can judge for themselves. She will also be able to comment on the allegation made that men who visit “such places” regard prostitution services on site as “normal”. My client advises that no such provision would be tolerated and that gentlemen attending this club will most certainly have no reason to hold such a view, and would very soon be disenchanted if they did. Once again, if the Police were of a similar view in respect of this club, they would no doubt be objecting to this application.

Conditions

Several of the correspondents helpfully and sensibly suggest control of the establishment by condition. As previously stated, my client readily accepts that this is appropriate to demonstrate the controls that will be maintained and their fitness to hold this form of licence. If a licence is granted on

conditions, then the Committee can be assured that, even if the operators should change (which is not under current consideration) the proper controls will be in place.

The Committee will note that the great majority of the various conditions suggested are either offered in terms indicated or with a similar effect, and mainly at the time that the application was presented, except those seeking the following restrictions :

1. *No full nudity permitted.* This has been offered here for 7 years without issue, and is offered and controlled without issue at most quality operator sites. As only those who wish to enjoy the entertainment will be able to see the performances, there should be no reason to curtail the performances. No offence will be caused to anyone who may otherwise find this offensive, as it cannot be seen except by those deliberately going to enjoy the entertainment.
2. *3 feet rule.* This has been found to be practically incapable of implementation or enforcement, and most authorities (including Westminster) have reverted to the “no contact” type condition offered for clarity. The Association of Chief Police Officers has recognised the problems with enforcement of a 3’ rule, and does not advocate such a condition. Condition 25 is offered by the applicant.
3. *Challenge 25.* We have already offered Challenge 21 and respectfully submit that this works well. The very thorough checks carried out by door supervisors have ensured that there are no known instances where someone under 18 has been admitted to the club whilst lap dancing is being performed.

The customer profile, especially having regard to the average spend per head of £50+, is generally late 20’s and over.

For clarification, Condition 23 offers the comfort sought by those seeking a “no private booths” condition, and is in fact wider than such a condition. This club does not have enclosed private booths. Some clubs have been known to have private rooms, or fully enclosed booths, in which dancer/s and customer/s may be without supervision, and it is accepted that this is not desirable. The “no private booths” condition follows one of the few suggestions made in the University of Leeds Research preliminary report, to improve conditions in lap dancing clubs. In a survey of 300 dancers, the report findings included that job satisfaction amongst dancers was very high, whilst those who felt disrespected was under 10%, and most felt safe at work. The methodology also included interviews with those in the industry, Police and Local Authorities.

JCP Law
For the Applicant
21.2.11

13 January

Dear Licencing Officer

My name is Supatsara Khansapad and I work at Urban Tiger as a dancer for 3 years. I also study full-time. It is a good place to work because it is safe, because the staff look after us, everyone is very friendly. I never have any problems in the club.

If I lost my job I lost everything. I lose my college, I lose my flat and I would have to claim benefits. Please keep Urban Tiger open.

Regards,

20 February

To the licensing officer:

I currently work at Urban Tiger as a dancer and I wish to express my support for their licence application.

I am 28 years of age and run a successful food importing business with 7 employees. I therefore do not have to work as a dancer, but I choose to as a hobby and an activity that I enjoy. I choose to work at Urban Tiger because it is an extremely friendly club with a great atmosphere. It's also a very well run establishment and I feel comfortable working there, and feel well protected by the staff and security.

The customers that visit the venue understand the rules and treat the dancers with respect. I have never seen any trouble in the club, and the customers are always very well behaved. This is in complete contrast to any other nightclub or bar that you may visit where you will find people who are drunk, rowdy, having sex or taking drugs in the toilets or other inappropriate behaviour. This just does not happen in Urban Tiger, where the customers on average are more mature and less drunk, and where the club does not tolerate any bad behaviour.

I believe that Urban Tiger is an asset to Northampton for many reasons. It provides a unique form of entertainment for adults. Increasingly we find women coming in as customers, and I often meet couples or even all women groups in the club. Everyone is made to feel welcome. Also, I believe Urban Tiger brings business from outside of Northampton, as I meet customers from all over the country. And it provides a great form of employment for the staff and for the dancers, at a time when jobs are not easy to come by.

In spite of objections by a noisy few, I hope that Urban Tiger is granted a licence, because there are many thousands of people who get a great deal of enjoyment from it, as well as those who rely on it for their income.

Yours sincerely,

Hannah Clarke

12 January 2011

To the Licencing Officer,

I work at Urban Tiger for 2 years as a dancer. I need to work to pay my rent and bills and for my education. I really like this job and I never had any problems in the club. It is really safe place to work and I am very comfortable here. If I lose my job I wouldn't be able to do my degree and I don't know what I will do and how I will live.

Thank you.

Anna

14 Jan. 11

To the Licensing Officer, Northampton Council

My name is Lucy Hart and I work at Urban Tiger as a dancer. I've been dancing for 7 years and in that time I have worked in 40 lapdancing clubs in the UK. During my time of being a dancer I've never been pressured or forced to work, its always been of my own choice. As a single mother the job enables me to provide for my child, and it suits my lifestyle.

I can work as and when I like. The wages can be extremely rewarding, and the friends, staff and customers I have met through my work have been fun, friendly, respectful, and I have made some long-term friends in this job.

Urban Tiger is a beautifully designed club which attracts a classy clientele. Its rules, which are upheld by management and staff, are some of the best I've seen to protect myself and the customer. If Urban Tiger was closed down it would be a great shame as I would lose my place of work, but also this would pander to naive arguments that this industry is bad for women, and I believe this is not true.

I never hear of people complaining about ladies' nights with male strippers, where there the rules are a lot less controlled and often the stage shows are a lot more explicit. I think this is very sexist and unfair.

I also think the rules in lapdancing clubs are very strict when compared to regular clubs where you get people dancing on bars, having sex in the toilets, drinking till they pass out. This just does not happen in lapdancing clubs. Lapdancing clubs are very controlled and any bad behaviour from customers is not tolerated at all. This is why I feel that Urban Tiger is a very good club to work in.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Hart

Good Morning Karim/Paul,

Apologies for my late response offering my support for the renewal of the license for Urban Tiger. I understand you are sending the support letters to your legal team today.

The campaign against the Urban is so poorly organised and documented, that I wasn't aware of there even being one on. However since your e-mail (karim) I have looked a little online at the website of the local papers to see what the problem is. Still frankly I do not understand the points being raised by the objectors?? So I will keep my e-mail brief and express my view.

As an individual and also as a company director of several businesses. I entertain in central Northampton at least 3 times a week, so my first question to the objectors would be? Where in central Northampton could you entertain colleagues or friends to relaxed, safe and enjoyable post dinner drinks and discussion??

Because with the exception of Sazerac or Urban, there isn't anywhere. Wonder if the objectors have ever tried having a business conversation in the centre of a club? Say like Lava + Ignite? I have and it's not pleasant or productive. If Urban closes! Sazerac only opens 1-2 days a week! I would take my tens of thousands of pounds a year I spend in central Northampton restaurants, clubs and bars entertaining! And simply go somewhere else, like London. There are many business people based in the town who like me will do the same, potentially a huge loss in revenue for the town centre.

Over the years, since the opening of Urban. I'm guessing? but must have visited the club approximately 50-60 times. In that time I have brought with me I don't know exactly? but about 200+ people. These have been principally business colleagues and friends. These people are from all walks of life, male and female. They all have varied, but include directors of a well known supermarket chain, people in the public eye and one night (I think back when Les was the GM) I brought a famous supermodel in with me. She normally charges approx £15,000 a day for a photo shoot, that really is what you call exploitation!!

Everytime we have visited we have been made to feel welcome and the club has a friendly warm atmosphere. Most of the friends and colleagues, I have been with have re-visited many times and used the club for entertaining themselves. Urban has provided a lot a good wholesome fun evenings and has many happy memories for a huge bunch of people. It would be a sad day if it had to close.

If there is anything else I can do to help? Please let me know? If you would like me to attend the hearing and provide an independent view, I am happy to do this + I can be reasonably articulate when called on?. I don't know if this would help or not? But I do employ a few people, run or am involved with several successful companies and trusts, in addition my family is reasonably prominent in the town having been here and in business, since I think the last Ice age. Let me know.

Anyway, best of luck. And if you want me to print a load of rude anti-protester T-shirts, call me.

Kind Regards Gyles
Ego Sales UK Ltd

18 February 2011

To the licensing officer,

I have been working at Urban Tiger as a dancer since it opened. It was the first club I have worked at. I have worked at other clubs but I prefer Urban Tiger because I feel safe there.

I regularly visit Urban Tiger as a customer when I am not working, either on my own or with friends, because it is the only club in Northampton where myself and my friends feel that we can have a drink without getting hassled by men, or being affected by other people fighting or drunken behaviour. Urban Tiger is the only club in town where you can get a table and sit down and have a drink in peace, without feeling vulnerable, or being hassled by other people.

My friends and family all know that I am a dancer, and I am proud to work at Urban Tiger because it is a beautiful well-run club. My mother is even keen to come and see me dance on the stage there. Dancing is not my main job, I do it because I enjoy it – I love performing on stage, and my nights at Urban Tiger for me are recreation. It's not just the money, it's actually fun work.

I would be really upset if Urban Tiger didn't get a licence and had to close down. I have been unable to dance recently as I was injured in a car accident, and being unable to dance has caused me to suffer depression – I enjoy it that much, and it is a release from my daily stresses.

Yours sincerely,

Michelle Baker

Morning Karim

Over the past couple of years I have been involved in organizing a couple of events at The Urban Tiger. I found the place to be a particularly well run plush establishment providing

excellent night time entertainment for Northampton.

Following both events we received a lot of positive feedback from our mixed audience which were mainly drawn from the county's business community, many of which stated they

would return.

In today's world, all tastes and styles have to be catered for and The Urban Tiger fills a much needed void in a discreet and subtle way.

Kind regards

Alan Spooner

Dear Sir

We are writing to you today to add our support to the re licensing application for Urban Tiger in Northampton

My wife and I first went to Urban Tiger to see what the fuss was about back in 2004, At first my wife was unsure about going because of the reputation that Gentleman's Clubs have.

At the time I was working as a CCTV operator for Northampton Borough Council so I had seen door staff at work and heard the radio conversations so I know that the club had a lot less trouble than most of the other Northampton night clubs, I had also witnessed the door staff supervising the dancers back to there cars or taxi's making sure the girls were safe after a nights work, All of these examples helped ease Louise's concerns

And when we went we found it to be a perfect example of a well run professional establishment with pleasant, polite staff and NOT at all seedy or populated by villains or delinquents

We decided after our first visit that it was the nicest place to go with friends for a drink on a night out in Northampton due to the safe and secure atmosphere and returned many times.

My wife became good friends with a number of the dancers and not once did any of them complain about the clients, working conditions or any other aspect of working at a gentleman's club.

I therefore ask you to grant Urban Tiger its new licence and allow Northampton to be the proud host town of one of the finest, safest and most well run gentleman's clubs in the country and allow us both to enjoy our nights out in Northampton for many years to come

Yours sincerely

Ian and Louise Brock

Thursday, 03 February 2011

RE: Urban Tiger, Northampton, application for a licence.

To The Licensing Officer

I am dismayed to find that the renewal of Urban Tiger's licence is being threatened by a small minority of people in the town which does not express the opinions of the majority.

Neither are their objections to the renewal of its licence based on any facts or evidence to their claims. They are simply personal opinions and I believe that objective research based on evidence should be made against these claims.

I do not believe that Urban Tiger proves any threat to the surrounding area or businesses and has always appeared to remain respectable and discreet.

Urban Tiger provides a unique arts entertainment platform in the town which I believe enhances the quality of the diversity of entertainment on offer.

The entertainment on offer is not exclusively for men, women are made to feel very welcome and have their own nights provided as well as attending the Cabaret nights. All the performances are tasteful and I believe erotic and burlesque dancing should be regarded as an art form.

The club also provides dancing workshops to women who want to learn a skill and get fit.

But most importantly it also provides employment opportunities to women, such as single mothers and students who would otherwise face unemployment if the club is forced to close. It also empowers women with equal rights and the freedom to make their own choices.

As a long term resident of this town I would like to see Urban Tiger receive its licence for all the above reasons.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Trasler

19th February 2011

To The Licensing Officer,

I am writing this letter to support the application for the S.E.V. license at Urban Tiger, Northampton, where I have been working as a dancer since September last year. I am a single mother and working at the club has provided me with flexible hours and an income that supports me and my children. I am very grateful for the work Urban Tiger gives me which not only do I enjoy, but also gives me a sense of self-respect and financial independence.

In comparison to other clubs I have worked at, Urban Tiger has a very friendly and comfortable atmosphere which is felt amongst the dancers, staff and customers. I have never felt uneasy or under pressure while doing my job.

I personally feel that this type of club provides a worthwhile service to local men and women who are looking for a good night out with entertainment. I have gotten to know many of the club's regular customers who always give us very positive feedback.

Regards,

Nikki Avron

13 January

Dear Licensing Officer,

I have worked at Urban Tiger for 6 months as a dancer. Working at Urban Tiger makes me independent and I enjoy working there. I have been in England now for 3 and half years, changing jobs 17 times. I was casino worker, personal seller, cashier, waitress, bartender, I worked for a temp agency also doing different things. I had 17 jobs and I never enjoyed any of them, and this is the first job that I have that I enjoyed. It is a great atmosphere, nice people to work with, and a very safe place to be.

If Urban Tiger was closed down I would be looking for work that I don't want to do. It is very hard to find jobs now anyway, and if I can't find work then I have to claim benefits or rely on my family.

13 JAN

To the Licensing Officer,

I work at Urban Tiger since 3 years and I am a part-time student, so I cannot work during the day. At Urban Tiger I like the atmosphere, the customers, I made here some friends as well, it is a nice place to work. I have worked in many other clubs and Urban Tiger is good because it is like a big family where everyone knows and respects each other. I think it is a safe place for women and I never had any problem with customers.

I have been dancing for 6 years and I enjoy this work. If Urban Tiger is closed I will be unemployed and I can't pay for my studies and my rent. So please don't close it.

Regards

To the Licensing Officer:

I have worked in Urban Tiger for about 6-7 weeks and have thoroughly enjoyed working here, I have never felt unsafe or pressured by the customers. The club is well ran and the welfare of the girls is a number one priority. Since working at Urban Tiger my confidence has boosted, this has been due to the help of the staff, management team and the girls. I have heard of other clubs in the area and I have looked into a few but Urban Tiger was the place for me to work.

I do not feel that any of the girls are exploited or degraded as the dancers uphold a sense of class and we conduct ourselves with class, also I believe that we get a large percentage of female customers that thoroughly enjoy being in the club, and I have had the pleasure of dancing for a few of them and hearing their views on the club.

If Urban Tiger was to shut I think it would be a great loss to Northampton, as this is the only gentleman's club, and it's not only a place to have a lap dance but a chilled, relaxed environment where there is always a friendly smile and warm greetings, not only by the dancers but the staff as well.

Kind regards,

Kerry-Ann Lucas

18th Feb 2011

To the Licensing Office

I fully support the application for Urban Tiger to remain licensed. This is a second job for me and an income I rely on to help pay the mortgage and bills every month. I do not agree with the comments people have made about the club degrading women, the club has a very nice atmosphere and all the girls work here because they are respected for the job they do.

Urban Tiger appeals to everyone it is not just a venue for men, lots of couples come here and also groups of women (including myself before I worked here), the general comments from customers is they like to come somewhere where they can relax, get a seat and not get harassed from the usual drunk crowds you would find in the bars around town.

Yours sincerely

Emma Sills

8 January 2011

For the attention of the Licensing Officer,

I am writing to you to support Urban Tiger's application for a licence. I have worked as a dancer at Urban Tiger for a year and a half. I really like Urban Tiger as a club because it is well run and it is a safe environment for us girls. I have worked in several clubs, and it is one of the safest clubs I have worked in. There are other clubs nearer to where I live, but I prefer to work at Urban Tiger.

Some people say that dancers are being degraded and exploited, but I don't agree. We choose to dance because the work is fun, it builds your confidence and you can earn a good income. Lots of women and couples come to the club, and I dance for lots of couples, so I think this is a safe environment for women to be in.

Kind regards,

Leah Farrell

1 February 2011

Dear Licensing Officer,

My name is Alice Petrie. I work at Urban Tiger as a dancer, and have worked there for a year. I would like to support the club's application for a licence because I feel that it is a nice environment to work in, everyone is friendly, it is a well run club and it is popular with both staff and customers – both men and women.

I have seen many women coming to the club because they feel comfortable coming here to have a drink, because they know they won't get hassled like they do in other places in town. We also get lots of couples coming in to enjoy the entertainment together. It is safe to say that lapdancing clubs are no longer seen as places just for men.

This is the only job that I have, and if the club closes down I will be out of work. Obviously I would look for another job, but there are not many jobs around at the moment that I could apply for and I know lots of people that are having trouble finding work at the moment as it is.

Some people who have never been in clubs like this have a stereotype image of them as being sleazy places, linked to prostitution or worse. But it is not like that. Urban tiger is a clean, well run club that offers a fun night out for adults, and it brings people into Northampton from miles around. I therefore believe Urban Tiger is an asset to Northampton and it would be a great shame to lose it.

Kind regards,

Alice Petrie

10 January 2011

To the Licensing Officer:

I work at Urban Tiger as a dancer. I am writing to you because I am worried that Urban Tiger might get closed down. That means I lose my job and have no money to pay my rent and bills.

Urban Tiger is a great place to work. I like work here. It is safe place to work and I enjoy being here very much.

Please give Urban Tiger a licence.

Yours,

Olga Blinova

19 February

To the licensing officer:

My name Jana Kutliakova and I work at Urban Tiger. I would like Urban Tiger to get a licence because I am a single mum and I need to support my family. If Urban Tiger is closed down I lose my income and I have to look for work further away from where I live. But to find childcare is difficult, and driving long distance late at night is dangerous for me. Some nights I only sleep 2 hours as I have to get up early for my child. If I have to go to Birmingham to find work some nights I won't sleep at all. I worry I fall asleep while driving.

Urban Tiger is nice place to work, I like my work there. Please keep it open.

Regards,

Jana Kutliakova

Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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