



Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

Responses to Public Consultation – March/April 2012

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1.0 Background to Consultation on Proposed Draft Policy

- 1.1 Consultation took place on the proposed policy between 1st March 2012 and 12th April 2012, the responses to which are to be considered by the Licensing Committee prior to final publication of the policy.
- 1.2 This document summarises the main points made by respondents in relation to the proposed policy and should be read in conjunction with the associated document which provides analysis and findings arising from the public consultation.

2.0 Basis of Consultation

- 2.1 In addition to asking for the public's views on the proposed policy, four specific questions were also formulated in order to gauge views on certain discretionary grounds upon which the licensing authority may refuse an application.
- 2.2 The questions posed were as follows:

Question 1.

Do you agree with the Council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy?

Question 2.

Do you agree with the Council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy?

Question 3.

Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations?

Question 4.

Do you have any other comments to make regarding the draft policy?

3.0 Comments received in support of Nil Policy

- 3.1 I am writing regarding the licencing policy regarding Sex Establishment in Portsmouth and to express my desire for the council to be given total control over the establishment of Sex Entertainment venues (SEV's)in Portsmouth and surrounding areas.

In light of recent events (London riots etc), it is clear that our "broken society" will further be degenerated by the establishment of such venues in our community. I believe strongly that it will be morally wrong for the government to allow the establishment of such venues and at the same time express a willingness to rid the society of moral decadence. Portsmouth is very peaceful and family oriented and attracts a large number of visitors majority of which are children and teenagers. The establishment of SEV's will devalue this identity is surely NOT the away forward for our already "broken society" and hence have no place in our local community altogether.

In particular, I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it will be totally inappropriate and unacceptable to establish such venues near Churches, schools, tourist attraction and other public areas. Doing this will attract the wrong kind of clients (debased men and women) to this areas, lead to inappropriate graffiti (this cost money to remove)and make people uneasy when passing by. Sex entertainment venues are an inappropriate way of making profit and will certainly devalue our society and teach children bad values. It is a sexist behavior that degrade women and reduces them to "sex-objects" to be used for selfish financial gain of the organisers. This behaviour should be discouraged and completely stopped.

- 3.2 Portsmouth SEV licensing consultation.

1 yes

2 yes

3 no

4 exploitation is wrong at at any time and/or any place. it amazes me that such a statement even NEEDS to be made.

- 3.3 I am writing in support of the licencing policy regarding Sex Establishment in Portsmouth and to express my desire for the council to be given total control over the establishment of Sex Entertainment venues (SEV's) in Portsmouth and surrounding areas. I am in agreement of the council's preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment. In particular, I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it will be totally inappropriate and unacceptable to establish such venues near Churches, schools, tourist attraction and other public areas. Doing this will attract the wrong kind of clients and expose our children to activities that could lead to the grooming and sexualising our little ones. Sex entertainment venues are an inappropriate way of making profit and will certainly devalue our society and teach children bad values. It is a sexist behaviour that degrades and reduces women to "sex-objects" for financial gains of the organisers. This behaviour should not be encouraged in any form whatsoever. Also taking into account that Portsmouth is the most densely populated city in the UK, what is required in the city is more help for young people and their development. Sexual exposure in the form of SEV is a negative as it would lead to more delinquencies within

the city especially among young people who are trying to survive the hardship brought about by the current economic climate.

- 3.4 I would like to register my comments and my answers are as follows:
1. Yes
 2. Yes
 3. No
 4. I disagree with establishments such as those mentioned. I have a young daughter to bring up in the Portsmouth area and it worries me that she is growing up in a community where the objectification of women is acceptable. I feel unsafe around such premises and feel this is an unfair addition to so many issues already raised in my local community.
- 3.5 I know many people who have been harassed outside of existing establishments, even though they were not customers or workers or in any way connected with said establishments and were simply walking past. On my own visits to the city I am often there after dark and would feel considerably safer and more comfortable if these establishments were no longer present; I would also probably visit more often and would be more likely to consider the city an attractive place to live and work in the future. The sex industry perpetuates outdated and harmful stereotypes of women and normalises a view of them as objects who are subordinate to men, thus furthering problems with abuse and gender inequality in our society. Portsmouth is no place for businesses that conduct their affairs within this damaging context.
- 3.6 I do not believe that Portsmouth City Council should be licensing sex establishments as the impact that these clubs have, particularly on young female students, is detrimental.
- 3.7 There is a lot of talk on Facebook and in the Portsmouth area in general about the council shutting down all of the strip clubs in the city. As a dancer myself, who has worked in all 3 of the Portsmouth clubs, Elegance, Wiggle and Heaven Sent I think it would be a great idea. I am not a reformed dancer who doesn't believe in the industry anymore, or a disgruntled girl who has been sacked from any of the above mentioned clubs. My reasons that you should look at / review / decline licences are as follows.

The clubs in Portsmouth DO NOT ensure that the girls get to their cars safely at the end of the night. They DO NOT send doormen with them, whatever they say. They leave the girls to their own devices and do not seem to have a duty of care towards them.

The clubs allow the customers to participate in taking drugs. This may sound strange, but they see the type of customer that has the money to spend on drugs has money to spend in their clubs. If you believe this to be un true, ask the police how many times the clubs have called them asking for assistance when drugs have been seen to be used, or shared. I'm pretty sure they have never called. I've personally witnessed this brought to a managers attention, only for that person to be told, "but they spend a lot of money"

A number of the girls have developed drink problems, due to customers being encouraged to by buy them drinks, and some girls needing to "loosen up" before being able to work uninhibited. The club may have "rules" about them drinking too much, but again, they will not turn down the money. The clubs DO NOT seem to care about the girls and do not offer counselling etc. which I personally think would be a very good idea.

A number of girls also break the laws regarding how close you can get to the customer. As I believe, and I may be wrong, but this should be a non contact "strip tease". The problem is, the girls think if they do not touch the customer or let the customer touch them, they will not make much money because another girl will let them. This starts a domino effect which the club managers ignore all the time that the customers are spending money.

Also a number of the girls I know have developed drug problems. This is generally due to young girls suddenly making lots of money and not knowing what to do with it. Again, the clubs do not seem to care about this. All they worry about is "fining" them x amount of pounds. Again, they DO NOT offer counselling, advice etc. They are aware of these problems but just brush them under the carpet.

They say that this is not the sex industry, but I have witnessed girls meet men inside the club, and then leave with them in their taxi's. This is against ALL club rules, but again, the club will just fine the girl. Again, as long as the clubs get their money, they are happy. They DO NOT warn the girls of the hazards of leaving with customers, and some of the girls that have done this do then charge for sex. The clubs DO NOT condone this behaviour but they DO NOT do enough to stop it happening.

There has also been a lot of talk about the council would have to support these girls if they were suddenly out of work. This is simply not true. They are self employed and are free to work where ever they wish. In the summer they will all work in Bournemouth and chase the money as they do ever year. If all the clubs in Portsmouth shut, they would simply go and work in Southampton or elsewhere. Also, a very high percentage of these girls DO NOT declare any of there earnings to HMRC. They work TAX FREE. A high percentage also claim Job Seekers, Housing benefit, Council Tax reduction etc. How is this fair when they can and do earn over £1000 PER WEEK !!!

I urge you to seriously consider licensing any more clubs, and as I understand, Wiggle DOES NOT yet have a licence and never should.

3.8 I write to commend you on your draft policy for a nil cap on Sex Establishments within Portsmouth. This is for the following reasons set out below.

1. I live in Leamington Spa. We have had one strip club here since 2008, located in the socially and economically disadvantaged southern part of the town. When the new regime was introduced, the local council refused it an SEV licence back in June 2011. It then applied again in January, and was refused on Thursday 15 March. The reasons for refusal were partly because of the residential nature of the area and the location of a nearby place of worship, but also because the sex industry has had a negative impact on an area which local stakeholders have spent thousands of pounds trying to regenerate. Incrementally, the Old Town area is improving, but overnight all that hard work can be unravelled by bringing an image of sleaze, prostitution, degradation and poverty to an area. This depresses house values, drives away much needed trade and creates an intimidating 'no go' zone for young women who fear assaults by sex industry patrons.

The refusal received cross part support.

However, we do not have the benefit of a nil cap. This means that other applicants are applying to run as strip clubs and yet again, local people volunteer to motivate objections

and we have another to fight on 18 April. This club is about 70m away from the one refused this week, and the same grounds for refusal apply. But it would be far more expedient and cost efficient for everyone if it were recognised that there is no where in this small regency town which is appropriate for the sex industry. Until that happens, or a UK ban is introduced (which is only a matter of time) every six months or so a small group of us work flat out to preserve our town as a welcoming, safe and respectable place which everyone can enjoy, regardless of gender or age. Right now, we are in a situation where one or two businesses want to make money from the sale of sexual services by poverty stricken teenagers without any consideration for residents or businesses which are based here. If you want to save your council the trouble of these businesses and the aggravation they produce, set a nil limit and it will discourage the sex industry from establishing itself in your town.

2. When I was a university student I went out in Portsmouth with friends. Anything which makes the streets of Portsmouth a safer place for young women is a positive and well considered step. The sex industry benefits no-one except the strip clubs owners, whilst residents and businesses suffer.

3.9 I regularly come to Portsmouth to visit my daughter and grandson, and also to shop, and help bring groups of senior citizens in a minibus to do their shopping. We enjoy the theatre also.

I don't think sex clubs are appropriate for the town, and would lead to a generally sordid air. Portsmouth is an attractive town, and has a lot of interesting history and healthy entertainment - it would be a shame to spoil it and put off visitors, as well as upsetting the locals.

3.10 I agree that allowing any sex establishment in the area of premises as outlined in the draft consultation should stand in Portsmouth, not only on moral grounds but could teach children bad values and de value our society.

3.11 As stated in the policy paragraph 4.1 Portsmouth has a population of 200,000 in an area of only 4,196 hectares making it one of the most densely populated cities in the country outside London. This would make any sex establishments in close proximity to places of worship, schools and tourist attractions.

Over the years the city has transformed itself as a tourist centre, with impressive improvements along the waterfront and is also home to world class facilities for athletes training and preparing for the Olympic Games. Portsmouth is also known for its good schools, with pupils travelling from other counties to attend the prestigious schools within Portsmouth – Portsmouth Grammar, Portsmouth High School etc. All in all Portsmouth is now considered very family and a place where people are proud to raise their children. It would be sad to lose such a hard earned reputation.

Portsmouth also plays home to three outstanding special needs schools. As a parent I am alarmed at the prospect of a sex establishment in close proximity to a special needs school which could potentially increase exposure to the sex industry. It is impossible to comprehend the sheer effort that goes into the caring of these children and with the city investing so much into the care and protection of children, it begs the question as to what would be achieved by granting licenses for more sex establishments. It is no secret that

sex establishments attract the wrong crowd and increase the incidence of sexual malpractices. In the case of special needs children one worries about the potential for falling victim to sex trade. There is also the issue of capacity to exercise informed choice which will certainly come into question if they become exposed to sex establishments. There is already precedence for this in Oxford where children, some of whom were in care, fell victim to sexual malpractices. The big question on my mind is “How will children in Portsmouth be protected”? With increasing budget controls on the police any extra responsibilities that might be brought about by sex establishments will only serve to stretch the already tight resources of the police. Would it not be far better to concentrate the efforts on making the city safer rather than creating more problems only to have to address them later?

For these reasons I agree with the council’s preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where it would be appropriate to license a sex establishment. I support unreservedly paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 which state that it would not be appropriate to have a Sex Establishment in Portsmouth, especially in the vicinity of a place of worship, school or tourist attraction.

- 3.12 I have been a resident of Portsmouth for the past 17 years and have lived in various places across the city. For quite some time I lived in Southsea very close to 'elegence' and on a number of occasions I was verbally harassed outside the club. Men leaving the club or walking towards the club would regularly shout lewd comments at me if I was outside my flat, implying they would pay me for a dance or asking me to "get my tits out". Because these men were often in groups and very often quite intoxicated I did not feel safe to go to my local shop (previously called stu's news now called the Nisa local) whenever the club was open as I'd have to walk right past the club to get there. The door staff never did anything to prevent any of the harassment even after I reported it to the club. I often felt confined to my flat during the opening hours of the club. This kind of harassment is also something that has happened on a number of occasions outside 'heaven sent'. I have been verbally harassed by men standing outside smoking when I've been on nights out in guildhall walk and in particular when I have stood in the smoking area outside fuzzy duck. I have found it so intimidating that I have stopped going to the area for quite some time now. It is not fair that entire areas of the city become no go zones for women who don't want to experience this kind of harassment. From speaking to others I am aware my experiences aren't unique and that almost every women I know has experienced similar harassment outside these clubs. They promote the idea that women are sexual objects there for someone's sexual entertainment. From what I can tell, having any more clubs open in the city will only exacerbate the problem so I fully support the draft policy and a NIL cap. I feel these clubs promote an outdated sexist attitude that doesn't belong in a city in this day and age...especially one with white ribbon status!
- 3.13 As Portsmouth City Council have adopted the new licensing legislation for SEVs I believe very strongly, in relation to question 3, that ALL clubs should be forced to re-apply for a license. Why should existing clubs have an advantage over potential clubs. In relation to question 2, the character of Portsmouth as a geographically restricted and densely populated city with high levels of domestic abuse means that there is no area in Portsmouth that is suitable for a sex venue. I am a 33 year old female living in Southsea. I have an active social life and family living in the area. I do not feel safe walking near The Strand, Guildhall Walk or the south end of Commercial Road. I actively avoid these areas and will not use public transport near Commercial Road. I have been sexually

harassed by customers of lap dancing clubs, both outside the venue, and in my workplace where men feel entitled to discuss and joke about the women they have purchased whilst comparing their female colleagues to them.

- 3.14 It is interesting to see the face of the owner of two lap dancing clubs in today's News, a man who is prepared to degrade women who perform in these places along with their mainly male clientele .

I have the misfortune to live near the "Elegance" club, although there is nothing elegant about it. The club attracts prostitution and drug dealing to the area. I have also made a number of complaints to police and local councillors about illegal parking outside this club in the late evenings, who choose to ignore the problem. On more than one occasion, while driving home at about 11.00 p.m. I have been forced onto the wrong side of the road into the face of fast traffic coming from the opposite direction by the eight or ten cars illegally parked on double yellow lines. Sooner or later this illegal parking will cause a serious accident.

I consider that there is no place for clubs of this type in residential areas of Portsmouth, populated by families and young female students many of whom feel unsafe at night. Indeed there is no place for any of these degrading establishments in our society, full stop.

- 3.15 I find it hard to believe in this day and age that men paying to watch (primarily) young, attractive women remove their clothes is seen as an acceptable form of entertainment. This is all about the power that men have over women and as long as these establishments are allowed to trade, the idea of equality for women will continue to be an aspiration rather than a reality.

There are worrying links between the sex industry and violence towards women and girls due to the dehumanising / objectification of the latter. Rape is often justified by the idea that 'she was asking for it' or was being a 'prick tease'. Isn't the titillating dancing and stripping taking place in these clubs simply reiterating these attitudes?

The argument that women happily choose to do this kind of work is a terrible fallacy. It is often females who are desperate for money and suffering from lack of self-esteem. There are numerous reports of women being bullied and ruthlessly exploited. The following is an excerpt from one piece of research: "Applicants are told working as a stripper is flexible, lucrative, and that they will not be forced to do anything they do not want to do. Later, strippers discover that managers overbook them so they are forced to compete with each other, often gradually engaging in more explicit activities in order to earn tips. It's important to understand that strippers are typically hired as 'independent contractors' rather than 'employees.' They have no fixed wage, and their income depends on pleasing customers in order to earn tips. They are not entitled to any of the following privileges: workers' compensation, health insurance, unemployment benefits, or filing discrimination claims. Club owners save money by paying no Social Security, no health insurance, and no sick pay". (Ref http://www.oneangrygirl.net/Life_of_the_Stripper.html). Hardly the type of working conditions the Council should be encouraging!

This is a sordid and sexist industry which panders to male egos and continues the cycle of men exploiting women. It has no place in our city.

It is worth noting that in 2010, Iceland outlawed striptease. Johanna Sigurðardóttir, Iceland's prime minister said: "The Nordic countries are leading the way on women's equality, recognizing women as equal citizens rather than commodities for sale." The politician behind the bill, Kolbrún Halldórsdóttir, said: "**It is not acceptable that women or people in general are a product to be sold.**"

- 3.16 I am writing in support of the licencing policy regarding Sex Establishment in Portsmouth and to express my desire for the council to be given total control over the establishment of Sex Entertainment venues (SEV's)in Portsmouth and surrounding areas.

In light of recent events (London riots etc), it is clear that our "broken society" will further be degenerated by the establishment of such venues in our community. I believe strongly that it will be morally wrong for the government to allow the establishment of such venues and at the same time express a willingness to rid the society of moral decadence. Portsmouth is very peaceful and family oriented and attracts a large number of visitors majority of which are children and teenagers. The establishment of SEV's will devalue this identity is surely NOT the way forward for our already "broken society" and hence have no place in our local community altogether.

In particular, I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it will be totally inappropriate and unacceptable to establish such venues near Churches, schools, tourist attraction and other public areas. Doing this will attract the wrong kind of clients (debased men and women) to this areas, lead to inappropriate graffiti (this cost money to remove)and make people uneasy when passing by. Sex entertainment venues are an inappropriate way of making profit and will certainly devalue our society and teach children bad values. It is a sexist behavior that degrade women and reduces them to "sex-objects" to be used for selfish financial gain of the organisers. This behavior should be discouraged and completely stopped.

- 3.17 I do NOT think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade even if they comply with the law and other policy areas.

I am a mother of two pre-school boys and I am concerned about their future development and environment and I want them to be brought up in a city which promotes equality and teaches respect and dignity for both men and women alike. I am strongly of the opinion that sex establishments threaten these cornerstones of society by undermining the role and function of women and teaching inappropriate values to our children, young men and young women in our city.

- 3.18 You invite responses to the council's policy on the above issue and I would agree with its preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where such an establishment should be licensed. I have lived in Portsmouth for over 30 years and have seen major improvements to the city during that time, particularly in the provision of tourist attractions which appeal to families. The encouragement of sex establishments will militate against all that has been achieved. Parents will not wish to be walking their children past such places, and areas surrounding them may become "no go" areas for the local population as well as visitors. Portsmouth is such a densely populated "island" that the geography of the place would not allow the siting of such establishments away from schools, churches,local shops, etc., and the users and employees of such establishments would

scarcely enhance the city! It would be better, in fact, if existing sex establishments could be banned from trading, too, which would further improve the reputation of Portsmouth.

- 3.19 I am writing to support the draft consultation policy on SEV's and believe that the council's conclusion that there are currently, no suitable venues in Portsmouth is sound and valid. Portsmouth is a very densely populated area, as a consequence of which there are many schools, children's clubs and activity centres, places of worship, meeting places for the elderly etc, throughout Portsmouth. I have 8 grandchildren, 6 of whom live within Portsmouth, and I would be gravely concerned about the message we are giving to children and young people if these type of establishments were to proliferate in our city. I believe we should be encouraging our young people to aspire to education, and improving their own future by using their skills and talents, rather than creating an environment in which they may be tempted to become involved in activities which they may well later regret.

Portsmouth is also working hard to establish itself as a centre of culture and because of that, its history, and naval connections, Portsmouth attracts many tourists from both home and abroad. With the huge variety of attractions and interests that the city already offers, it would be good to build on the excellent base already established as there is a real risk that SEV's could attract an entirely different clientele.

I trust that the policy for Portsmouth will ultimately be agreed with Portsmouth's own reputation and population at its forefront rather than being influenced from those outside the area who may wish to create businesses in Portsmouth for their own benefit, rather than the benefit of the majority of Portsmouth's population.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my opinion on this important subject.

- 3.20 Yes, I agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy.

Yes, I agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy.

No, I do not think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations?

I think that a nil cap is necessary because I believe that sex establishments do not merely sell bodies to be seen (and perhaps used physically), but that they sell sexism. I fail to see what is beneficial to society about institutionalising women into believing that their bodies are the extent of their worth as human beings whilst this is not the case for men — we live in a patriarchal society and I think that challenging the sex industry is key to moving towards a more equal society. A nil cap on sex establishments is a good way to do this.

- 3.21 Portsmouth has no need for lap-dancing clubs. The council should be encouraging local businesses that offer scope for development of the city as a vibrant place of culture that appeals to both men and women. Lap-dancing clubs actively work against that outcome

by presenting Portsmouth as a seedy and backward looking community with little respect for residents, male or female.

3.22 Without a nil cap there would be no limit as to the number of sex entertainment venues in the city of Portsmouth. Due to the nature of the industry I believe it would be irresponsible of Portsmouth City Council not to apply restrictions to the number of these venues in the city. I myself and friends and colleagues have experienced sexist and misogynist abuse close to these venues as a result of what these venues

3.23 I write to express my opinion on the ongoing consultation on Sex Establishment License in Portsmouth.

- I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it would not be appropriate to have a Sex Establishment, eg in the vicinity of a place of worship, school, tourist attraction etc., etc.
- I agree with the council's preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.
- I suggest in view of this that all existing sex establishment premises should be abolished.
- Events like, Lap dancing clubs, or live sex entertainment venues do not help the stability of our families. On the increase is the misbehaviour of our youths in particular.
- Families that use to be happy are now breaking up with either of the couple visiting the nearby sex entertainment venues
- They usually attract the wrong kind of customers, debase women and lead to inappropriateness
- They will make women, children and men uneasy if passing by..
- They will end up in devaluing our society mentally and emotionally.
- The whole family and society will be put at great risk of sadness, abuse, wrong handling and crimes.
- This is one of the most inappropriate ways of making profit by teaching our young ones bad values.
- The soceity needs peopel who will make very meaningful application of their talents in areas that will bring about the development of Portsmouth and UK at large.
- I strongly oppose the establishment of these centres to protect the society from huge crime mentatlity and disrespect to humanhood
- Finally, may the council reject any proposal calling for such license or sex centres to be established in Portsmouth. Let the council call for the abolishment of the existing ones.

- 3.24 I am writing with regards the current consultation on draft policy for Sex Establishment Licences.

I do agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy.

Yes I also agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy.

No I do not think that the existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations.

In addition; I do not feel safe travelling past these venues and feel that this is the case for many others - this makes these parts of the city inaccessible for us.

Sex entertainment venues promote the concept that women are a commodity, this extends beyond the venue and feeds a culture that normalises the sexual objectification of women. There are overwhelming links between sexual violence and the commercial sexualisation of women - these should not be ignored. I believe that allowing existing sex establishment premises to remain to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations is endorsing the promotion of women as a commodity - I think this is contradictory to the aim of providing a safe and fair community for all, and to promoting healthy attitudes.

- 3.25 a) I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it would not be appropriate to have a sex establishment, in the vicinity of a place of worship, school, tourist attraction etc.

b) I agree with the council's preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.

c) I think the existing sex establishment premises should not be allowed to continue to trade.

d) I oppose it for moral reasons.

e) It is inappropriate nature of this kind lap dancing - They might lead to inappropriate graffiti, make women, children, youth and men uneasy if passing them, devalue our women, society, teaches our children bad moral character. Make our women worthless, gives our great city bad image to the tourists.

I strongly oppose this sex establishment policy.

God bless the city Portsmouth and United Kingdom as a whole.

- 3.26 I do not feel safe walking past these establishments. As someone who has a history of being sexually abused, I have to avoid places that have these venues nearby at night. I have been verbally harassed outside these venues in the past and find it very intimidating and traumatic. I believe I should feel safe to walk anywhere within my city so would like to see no SEVs in Portsmouth.

3.27 I answer to the Questions posed in your consultation my answers are as follow:

Do you agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy? YES

Do you agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy? YES

Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations? NO

I no longer live in the city having moved to bring up my family. However, i am a regular visitor into the city for work, shopping and socialising. I visit friends weekly who live in Brookfield Road, Nelson Avenue and Ringwood Road. My Husband who is in the Royal Navy also works in the Naval Base.

We are do not wish to come into the city and see this type of establishment. The girls who work there are exploited and make little or no money without having to offer extras with the potential to lead them into sex work. This is surely not the image the city wishes to portray.

3.28 These venues present women as one dimensional objects, cheapen the area and will contribute little to resolving employment issues in the area

3.29 I am pleased the local council is taking these measures to protect woman (particularly vulnerable young women) in Portsmouth) from being taken advantage of.

3.30 Though I am not a Portsmouth resident I spend a lot of time in Portsmouth socializing and visiting friends. I want a nil cal because lap dancing clubs attract drunk, and rowdy groups of men determined to prove their masculinity. I myself have been subject to sexual harassment from men leaving these clubs and I don't feel safe anywhere near them.

The clubs encourage a sexual objectification of women, which leads men to see women not as humans but as sex objects for the pleasure of men.

The argument's against the nil cap always focus on peoples 'rights' their rights to work in these establishments and their 'rights' to visit them. I would argue that women have the right to walk through Portsmouth feeling safe and that the safety of the majority should be more important than the employment of a few.

If Portsmouth City Council is truly committed to it's White Ribbon Status, as a city standing against Sexual Violence, then they should not be afraid to set this Nil Cap

- 3.31 Please receive my email supporting the policy drafted by the Council concerning Sex Establishments in Portsmouth.

I agree strongly with the statement there is no place should be considered suitable for such sites in this city. I would not wish this on any neighbourhood or ward of Portsmouth, where women face demeaning and degrading attitudes which infect the local area. School children may also be affected, churches and other places of worship, local businesses, and other public places will all feel the degrading effects of any such establishment in the area.

I confirm my support of the council on their policy

- 3.32 I hear that there is to be a review of policy in giving licenses to lap dancing clubs. I beg every member of the Council to think very seriously about this.

I have the misfortune to live near Elegance in Granada Road. I drive my car quite short distances because I cannot face walking past it in the evening. It should not be there so near schools and churches where so many youngsters are. It exists to play to the sexual fantasies of men, exploit young women and make money for the less desirable people in the city. We are a crowded island and really have no room for such places. Southsea claims to be a good and attractive place for family holidays. I wonder if any of the Council members have seen this building. It is black, ugly, ill-kempt and usually has a great deal of filthy litter left outside. The pavement needs deep-clean scrubbing. It is a disgrace to the area. I am not a prude but I want the best for Portsmouth/Southsea.

Most of all, such clubs are demeaning to all women and attract the worst type of men. I can see absolutely no justification for ANY such place to be allowed to operate in the city.

- 3.33 As a young woman I am increasingly alarmed at the rate that these sex clubs are appearing in Portsmouth. I believe that the normalisation of the sex industry through the proliferation of lapdancing clubs is damaging to our city, communities and residents.

Among other things they promote a one-dimensional view of women's sexuality and encourage the view that women are sex objects whose bodies can be bought and sold. I think these establishments take advantage of vulnerable young women who feel they have no other option but to strip naked for a man with questionable morals to earn a living. I think instead of letting any more of these sex clubs open in the city the council should be investing in better sex education in schools and colleges that promotes equality between the sexes, that women aren't just sex objects to be ogled at and paid for.

- 3.34 Just to say that I think it is important to recognise that the policy, far from being an attempt at a moralistic attempt to regulate others behavior as some have claim in the media, should be seen as a contribution to build a society where women aren't objectified or available for purchase. I believe these venues do contribute to a social atmosphere in which women are dehumanised and this leads to a normalisation of violence against them.

- 3.35 Lap dancing is an unpleasant and degrading job for any woman. Recent memoirs and articles written by women who have worked in lap dancing clubs make clear the extent to which they hated having to do the job and the degree of financial exploitation exercised by the management.

- The acceptance of lap dancing as a 'normal' entertainment promotes poor attitudes by men towards women which then become part of the culture of male-female relationships. This can be seen in the frequent inclusion of visits to lap dancing clubs by (male) businessmen in entertainment programmes for other (male) executives. Female executives, whom we need to encourage in this country, are regularly humiliated and embarrassed by our 'laddish' corporate culture.

- The idea that lap dancing is 'empowering' to women is a myth promoted by powerful/rich elderly men. Paying a woman to take off her clothes and giving you your own 'private' dance is surely the ultimate proof that money is power, and that not having enough is a powerful incentive to do things you would otherwise find distasteful or degrading.

3.36 I am sure Portsmouth City Council aims to promote spaces that provide inclusiveness to many different communities. I feel that the proposed measures are a step towards promoting such spaces, particularly in areas that are popular for those socializing at night. Setting a nil cap on sex establishments will hopefully reduce the number of lap dancing/pole dancing/strip clubs in the city which at the moment make certain areas 'no go' spaces for women. The incidents and fear of sexual harassment outside such venues mean that many women do not feel comfortable walking near them especially at night when they may be out to visit the city's bars or pubs. By placing a nil cap Portsmouth City Council is enforcing the message that it rejects venues that portray women as sex objects. It also shows it wishes to address the problems women are facing in the current economic climate (Figures out in December 2011 reveal that women's unemployment now stands at 1.10 million - the highest level in 23 years) which can result in women feeling they have little choice in jobs except for in a previously mentioned sex establishment. There has also been work done to suggest (Cordelia Fine mentions Coventry as a case study in her work) that such sex establishment venues have a detrimental effect on women in other industries. It is suggested that lap dancing clubs are used to further business practices through socializing in them with clients. However, there is a link between such practices and the desire to exclude female colleagues who feel uncomfortable in such venues and thus miss out on career advancement. I hope that you consider the points I have made and how such venues do not promote inclusion within public spaces. I strongly feel that a nil cap would more strongly regulate such venues making them safer for their employees and would hopefully reduce the amount of sex establishments within the city providing a safer environment.

3.37 As a regular visitor to Portsmouth I would like to contribute to the Sex Establishment Licence – Consultation on Draft Policy.

Yes I agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situation where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy

Yes I agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy

No I don't think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations

3.38 I am totally opposed to allowing any licence(s) for lap dancing clubs in Portsmouth. There is already enough unlicensed prostitution and sexual violence without adding to it. I am please that the council has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within Portsmouth in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.

- Do you agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy? YES
- Do you agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy? YES
- Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations? NO
- Do you have any other comments to make regarding the draft policy? Please let common sense and decency prevail. There is already enough alcohol-related violence in Portsmouth, without adding to it. It is already a known fact that sexual violence/rape doubles in areas with lap dance bars and strip clubs, which should be reason enough to not allow any licences

3.39 I'm a woman, I can't stand anywhere or anyone that sees women as just a body. I think it's dangerous and currently keep well away from this area at night. If the women doing it don't feel degraded that's up to them but I think it's simplistic to think the people go and leave the objectification of women mindset at the door when they themselves leave. Please don't allow it.

3.40 As the owner of a property in southsea, fairly close to an SEV, I would like to see that no further clubs open in the city. Ideally I would like to see the existing clubs close as they take down the ton of the area and attract crowds of drunken, men on stag do's who vandalise, urinate in the street and general exhibit anti social behaviour. I am also a farther and would like my children to grow up in a city which doesn't have clubs that encourage the objectification of women, and I would like them to be able to walk to school/playgroup/the local shops without having to pass SEVs or their advertisements.

3.41 I do agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy.

Yes I also agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy.

No I do not think that the existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations.

In addition; I do not feel safe travelling past these venues and feel that this is the case for many others - this makes these parts of the city inaccessible for us.

Sex entertainment venues promote the concept that women are a commodity, this extends beyond the venue and feeds a culture that normalises the sexual objectification of women. There are overwhelming links between sexual violence and the commercial sexualisation of women - these should not be ignored. I believe that allowing existing sex establishment premises to remain to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations is endorsing the promotion of women as a commodity - I think this is contradictory to the aim of providing a safe and fair community for all, and to promoting healthy attitudes.

- 3.42 it is well known that there are illegal sex workers being exploited in the city, it would be better to put a stop this practice rather than encourage more by making it "legal"
- 3.43 I occasionally frequent The lounge at EQ which is next to Elegance lap dancing club, on a number of occasions i have been made to feel uncomfortable when by the lap dancing club by men making lude suggestions, whilst this happens throughout the city at this particular establishment quite often the boucers as well will join in showing the utter lack of respect for women that this part of the sex industry promotes.
- 3.44 I am writing in support of the licencing policy regarding Sex Establishment in Portsmouth and to express my desire for the council to be given total control over the establishment of Sex Entertainment venues (SEV's)in Portsmouth and surrounding areas.
I do not think it will be necessary for me to emphasis the need to curtail crime and not to encourage it in any way. Portsmouth being a University community does not need the distraction of such establishments.
In particular, I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it will be totally inappropriate and unacceptable to establish such venues near Churches, schools, tourist attraction and other public areas. Doing this will attract the wrong kind of clients (debased men and women) to this areas, lead to inappropriate graffiti (this cost money to remove)and make people uneasy when passing by. Sex entertainment venues are an inappropriate way of making profit and will certainly devalue our society and teach children bad values. It is a sexist behavior that degrade women and reduces them to "sex-objects" to be used for selfish financial gain of the organisers. This behavior should be discouraged and completely stopped.
- 3.45 I am writing with reference to the public consultation on strip clubs in Portsmouth. There is no place on the modern respectable high street for strip clubs, lap dancing venues or any venue involving sex entertainment. Not only do they generally drag down the whole area, they are incompatible with the whole notion of community. They are a throw back to an age from which I thought we had evolved as a society. They do demean women, and they have no place in a world where we pride ourselves on striving for equality. Not just women, but many people in general feel uncomfortable around this type of area, and they are a magnet for undesirables. I feel strongly that I do not want to live in an area which supports businesses of this type and would urge the authorites to stop giving them ALL licenses.
- 3.46 As a ratepayer and voter, I think the Council should take the wider view of what a 'civilised' society means by drawing a line between sex and sexual exploitation.

- 3.47 As a resident of Portsmouth I feel that having these Lap Dancing Clubs is firstly an insult to women, and Women/Girls may feel very vulnerable when walking past these venues and be subjected to sexual advances from clients of these clubs.

I also feel it is not a good example for our young Male and Female population and should not be promoted as a career choice!

These Venues always talk of free choice for the Women working in their clubs but we all know of the Trafficking of Women does goes on so would hope that the decision is to have a Nil Cap.

- 3.48 No, I do not believe they should be allowed to continue to trade and it is a shame they were able to do so in the first place. My opposition to the presence of any sex establishment in the City, they do not attract the sort of person that is of benefit to the area, the trade debases women and devalues society as a whole, it is an inappropriate way of making a profit, teaches bad values to children, and treats sex as a commodity, millions of women and children are mistreated and trafficked each year or end up in sexual slavery and we are naive if we think that sex shops and establishments don't feed this industry

- 3.49 I would like to comment on the sex establishments within Portsmouth. I believe there is enough sexually explicit things on our televisions and internet. I do not consider my views to be Victorian in wanting to bring up my 4 children to believe that sex is something special that is shared between husband and wife within the safety of Marriage. We only have to look at today's society to know where the ability to indulge in immoral thoughts and actions leads people.

I believe that people should be protected, especially our children, from having to have these establishments on their doorsteps. They may be legitimate businesses but certainly not helpful to our society and feeds unhealthy habits.

I would be opposed to allowing anything that promotes sexual promiscuity within Portsmouth or Britain. Our families should be protected from potential harm that these places can bring.

- 3.50 I am writing in support of the licencing policy regarding Sex Establishment in Portsmouth and to express my desire for the council to be given total control over the establishment of Sex Entertainment venues (SEV's)in Portsmouth and surrounding areas.

In light of recent events (London riots etc), it is clear that our "broken society" will further be degenerated by the establishment of such venues in our community. I believe strongly that it will be morally wrong for the government to allow the establishment of such venues and at the same time express a willingness to rid the society of moral decadence. Portsmouth is very peaceful and family oriented and attracts a large number of visitors majority of which are children and teenagers. The establishment of SEV's will devalue this identity is surely NOT the away forward for our already "broken society" and hence have no place in our local community altogether.

In particular, I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it will be totally inappropriate and unacceptable to establish such venues near Churches, schools, tourist attraction and other public areas. Doing this will attract the wrong kind of clients (debased men and

women) to this areas, lead to inappropriate graffiti (this cost money to remove)and make people uneasy when passing by. Sex entertainment venues are an inappropriate way of making profit and will certainly devalue our society and teach children bad values. It is a sexist behavior that degrade women and reduces them to "sex-objects" to be used for selfish financial gain of the organisers. This behavior should be discouraged and completely stopped.

- 3.51 Lap dancing clubs/strip clubs/sex shops etc. should not be situated in residential areas. The ridiculously named 'Elegance' club in Granada Road is in a particularly bad position situated next to a housing estate full of young families.
- 3.52 I support the proposal to curb these establishments. They may provide work for 100 people, but the work is demeaning to women and promotes the wrong view of how they should be treated.
Surely the only reason for these clubs is to pander to men's baser instincts? There are enough sources provided for those men who wish to be sexually aroused, and I can't think of any reason other than this for their attendance at these places.
The current obsession with "sex" does not seem to have brought increased happiness.
- 3.54 As a Portsmouth resident I'm writing in support of the draft sex establishment licensing policy which is currently out for consultation.

I agree with the council's preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where it would be appropriate to license a sex establishment. In particular I support the proposal in paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 suggesting that it would not be appropriate to have a sex establishment in the vicinity of a number of other places regularly used by members of the community who would not wish that such an establishment should impinge upon their everyday life.

The draft policy mentions the values underlying the Portsmouth strategic plan, and the City Council's aim to develop Portsmouth as a city where everyone feels and is safe, an attractive and sustainable environment, encouraging healthy choices, a city of culture and an inclusive city, protecting and supporting the more vulnerable residents. I would thoroughly endorse these values, and would suggest that a proliferation of sex trade establishments would militate against them. These establishments risk exploiting and debasing women, encouraging unhealthy choices and making people feel unsafe in their vicinity.

Portsmouth is one of the most densely populated cities in Europe and it would be very difficult to locate such establishments in places where they would not impinge on the lives of those who do not wish to be associated with them, so I very much hope that the City Council will endorse the draft policy at the end of consultation period.

- 3.56 I think in this day and age this should be outlawed. I and most people I Know dont want These Taccy Establishments. We want a family safe and nice atmosphere in the Portsmouth.
- 3.57 I frequent Portsmouth regularly and find that in the evening it is not safe as a woman to walk past these establishments. I think women and girls should be able to walk without the fear of sexual harassment, which these clubs do contribute towards.

- 3.58 I support the Portsmouth City Policy about its initial conclusions on the licensing of Sex Entertainment establishments, particularly paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15, because it will not be appropriate to have such establishments within the vicinity of places of worship like Churches, places of learning like Schools where children are taught etc.

I definitely agree with the Council's preliminary conclusions that there is no place appropriate for such establishments in Portsmouth and environs.

In fact, in my opinion, I think the existing sex establishments in Portsmouth should not be allowed to continue to trade here because of the social ills like increase in drug use among young people, gambling, devaluation of women, irresponsible alcohol use and abuse, lewd graffiti and other social evil associated with such establishments.

These kind of establishments have capacity to corrupt our little children, can lead to young women seeking to sell their bodies for money, encourage the influx of drug dealers and pimps to our streets thereby encouraging gangland culture. These establishments can therefore debase our society and eat into the moral fabric of our fragile community, whilst exploiting for profit; vulnerable and gullible women and even our male kids due to the result of gambling that are also easily traced to such establishments.

Statistics all over the world has shown increase use of drugs and alcohol abuse, women abuse, domestic violence, burglary and other crimes with increase in the number of these kind of establishments.

I therefore support the Council totally in not giving room to such establishments which are principally concerned with making money without due consideration for the overall negative implication of their unwanted presence. Thank you.

- 3.59 a) I support paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 where it would not be appropriate to have a sex establishment, in the vicinity of a place of worship, school, tourist attraction etc.
- b) I agree with the council's preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.
- c) I think the existing sex establishment premises should not be allowed to continue to trade.
- d) I oppose it for moral wise.
- e) It is inappropriate nature of this kind lap dancing - They might lead to inappropriate graffiti, make women, children, youth and men uneasy if passing them, devalued our women, society, teaches our children bad moral, character. Make our women worthless, gives our great city bad image to the tourists.

I strongly against this sex establishment policy.

- 3.60 I agree with the draft statement not to have sex establishments in the City especially near schools, tourist attractions places of worship or areas where young people congregate. I agree that there no place in Portsmouth or Southsea for licencing such a place. I don't think that existing establishments should be allowed to continue to trade. Such places attract the wrong kind of customers who have no respect for women. Others might feel uneasy about walking past the place and even threatened if they are

women or children.

- 3.61 I do agree with the council's proposed policy that it would be inappropriate to have sex clubs in Portsmouth.

I do agree there is no place for these clubs and licenses should not be granted.

I do not think existing establishments should be allowed to continue.

When such establishments are opened, rapes and sexual assaults on women go up by more than 50% in the vicinity. This is what you would be licensing - an increase in attacks on women.

The links between a culture which views women primarily as sexual objects, discrimination and violence against women are recognised internationally by the legally binding United Nations Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This organisation has repeatedly called on the British Government to take action against the objectification of women. If Portsmouth bans these clubs and stands up against the objectification of women, it would be enforcing this international law and would be a city I would be proud to continue to work in and to live.

However, if a densely populated city like Portsmouth allowed these establishments to remain and to increase, I would not want to continue to live and work here.

Please do not license these establishments.

- 3.62 I have looked at the Draft Policy and support paragraphs 7.14 & 7.15. It is not appropriate to have Sex Establishments in the vicinity of a place of worship, school, tourist establishment or indeed anywhere where families may have to pass by to reach the shopping centre.

I agree with the council's preliminary conclusion that there is no place in Portsmouth where it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment. Indeed the area where these places already exist is very near to schools etc. In the middle of this area is the Guildhall and the New Theatre Royal where family entertainment is held.

Portsmouth is quite a small city and very densely populated. Therefore there is no area where residents will not be effected

- 3.63 appreciate that this consultation is chiefly concerned with the licensing of sex establishments, but would like to take this opportunity to state that the establishing of sufficient support systems available to the women working at these establishments, who will find themselves unemployed and potentially extremely vulnerable to even more serious sexual exploitation such as prostitution, is absolutely imperative.

- 3.64 I agree with the council's preliminary findings that there is no place for a sex establishment in Portsmouth. The city has enough problems without adding to them.

- 3.65. **Do you agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a license would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the**

draft policy?

YES: In the event that an application is made, it is very important that the applicant realizes that the council may refuse. Sensitivity must also be shown regarding granting applications of Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in relation to their proximity to community areas such as schools, religious establishments, tourist attractions etc. It is also fair to say that there is no suitable place in Portsmouth for SEVs as ALL women are affected by a porn-culture that has links with exploitation and trafficking of women, sexual violence, misogyny, and the objectification of women and the normalization of paying for sexual services.

Do you agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to license a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy?

YES: There is no suitable location in Portsmouth for an SEV due to the compact, urban high-density nature of the city. If SEV licenses were to be granted, they would create instant 'no-go' areas for the 52% female population, which is hardly in keeping with the city's image.

Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations?

NO: Seeing as Portsmouth City Council already adopted the new legislation for SEVs in 2011, I believe that all existing clubs should be required to re-apply for a new license in the same way that any new club should. Why should an SEV receive special treatment? When this policy is set it should be applicable to all.

Do you have any other comments to make regarding the draft policy?

I do not believe that SEVs have any place in a city that prides itself on being family friendly and that they are a major step backwards in the fight for equality between men and women and the sex trade is highly demeaning and exploitative to both sexes. We are unfortunately living in an increasingly sexualized culture where suggestive, semipornographic imagery is readily available and easy viewing for all age groups, and that from an early age, boys especially are desensitized to 'lad mag' and 'porn' culture and taught that objectification of women is 'the norm'.

SEVs are simply an extension of this phenomenon, and while they are seen as "a bit of fun" and harmless titillation, actually have negative consequences for the area in which they are situated - a (suspected) rise in crime, a (proven) sharp decrease in property value - and for the local community in general.

There is widespread belief by academics, human rights groups and politicians that this increasing sexualisation in has a direct link to declining standards of decency and morality in society, and an increase in sexually related offences. Though it is difficult to categorically prove a link between the two, in a city that has lap dancing clubs already in totally unsuitable areas - 'Elegance' (situated near two schools, and a church and residential properties), and 'Wiggle' (situated near the university, and from the flyers it

has distributed around local businesses views female students as simply 'pieces of meat')

I would ask, is it REALLY worth the risk?

3.66 I am against any sex trade anywhere. If I should get to meet some of these girls I bet I'd find that given some other opportunities and different lifestyles to try that they would not do these demeaning jobs.

3.67 In 2012 I sincerely believe there is no place for these establishments. They objectify women and I believe increase the risk of violence against women. I have experienced verbal abuse whilst walking past one of these venues. I love my city & don't want these establishments to part of it - we deserve better.

3.68 I do not feel safe walking past these venues and have been verbally harassed by men leaving them. I have several female friends who have shared the same experience. I believe all women in the city, be they residents or visitors, have the right to feel safe at night. Sexual harassment has become so normalised in today's society, partly because of the prevalence of these types of establishments. It is not a pleasant experience to have men shout at you about your body, what they would like to do to it, services they would like to pay you for. It is not complimentary, it is intimidating and degrading.

3.69 I feel the culture of buying and selling sexual services is damaging to women. There is evidence that suggests that the level of sexually motivated crimes increase within the vicinity of lap dancing clubs. Several of my female friends have experienced sexual harassment from men leaving these clubs. I have also come to understand that the owners of Elegance do not let their female staff smoke in public areas because 'it is not safe'. According to a former member of bar staff, on her first night she went out for a cigarette and was harassed by several punters. She was told by security to smoke out back as it was dangerous to do otherwise. I understand all dancers and bar staff are sent home in taxis, again because to do otherwise 'is not safe'. On the one hand it is positive that the club owners seem to care about the safety of their staff. On the other hand, it makes it clear that the club owners are fully aware that they are making a Portsmouth a more dangerous place for women. They are deliberately putting people at risk for the sake of profit which is unacceptable.

I would like to see all SEV's in the city close. I understand that there is an issue with job losses but hopefully these women can be supported back into full time work in a field which not only perpetuates a misogynistic culture, but actively puts them in danger.

3.70 My reasons for supporting the nil cap policy on sex establishments in Portsmouth are both personal and political, but all are based on my experiences as a lifelong resident of the city, and as a keen champion for Portsmouth, particularly its culture-led regeneration. My experience as a resident of Clarendon Road living not far from the SEV 'Elegance' is that such venues are the direct cause of anti-social behaviour, including street harassment. Whilst many parts of the late night economy can be accused of this, I believe that the proximity of Elegance as a sexual entertainment venue to the neighbourhood's only 24 hour shop, in a densely populated residential area differentiates the risk of anti-social behaviour in a particular way that impacts disproportionately on female residents.

Since Elegance opened, I no longer feel confident or safe about using the late night shop after 10pm alone. Equally, as I have many friends in the area, if walking home alone at night I deliberately avoid the area, and if I cannot (I live directly on a route between the developing evening and late night economy of Palmerston Road and Elegance - so groups of men regularly go from the former to the latter), I take special care that someone knows where I am. Where possible this means I speak to someone on the phone for the entire duration of my walk home, or I call the person I have been visiting as soon as I arrive home to let them know I did so safely. I never walk home without experiencing a sense of acute anxiety and fear.

By contrast, I never do either of these things when walking home from an evening at the Kings Theatre or the Wine Vaults on Albert Road, even though these are a comparable distance away. The differing variable here is that I do not walk near Elegance, nor do I walk on the 'through route' to the club from Palmerston Road.

I believe that this reflects a little-understood reality for women living near these clubs, who like me have experienced street harassment from customers and potential customers of clubs like Elegance. This is not the 'run of the mill' risk of harassment from groups of people who may have been heavily drinking, but a very specific sense of risk and danger commonly experienced by women living near or travelling near these clubs when they are in operation.

The customers of such clubs have frequently experienced several hours of 'entertainment' where women are represented as purely sexual beings, not only on display, but acting at the bidding of their customers, who can choose when the women dance, and how much they wear. When they emerge from the club, usually having also consumed large amounts of alcohol, there seems to be little difference in their perception between the women in the club and their perception of women in the street. I believe this is why I have experienced street harassment near Elegance that has often been of a sexually explicit nature.

I genuinely believe that I am not alone in this, and that many other women - of all ages frequently experience the same thing. I further believe that this view is fundamentally not exclusive to those who support the nil cap. Indeed, it is common if not standard practice in Elegance, as I understand it, that their dancers and even their female bar staff are escorted home in taxis or by other members of staff precisely because the club managers themselves perceive the same potential risks from their customers towards their staff. Moreover, as I understand it, female bar staff and dancers are advised not to go outside to the front of the club (for example to smoke) during the club's opening hours because it is not felt to be safe, but are instead directed to another, 'safe' area.

More broadly, and beyond my personal experiences as a resident, I am in support of the nil cap for political policy and strategic reasons and it is to these I now turn.

I have worked for the last five years as a freelance writer and researcher working predominantly with the cultural sector of Portsmouth - its museums, theatres, libraries and arts sector, for example. The City Council has continued to invest in these services, has attracted external funding from the private and voluntary sector, and is working in partnership with the city's broad cultural sector as part of the city's overall plan for social and economic regeneration, particularly in the current economic climate.

I believe that in this context - as outlined in the draft policy in section 7.9 - setting a nil cap is part of the city's strategic approach to developing the visitor economy and to ensuring the overall economic development of Portsmouth. Whilst I understand and deeply sympathise with the concerns relating to the potential loss of jobs of frontline workers in existing sex entertainment venues, I strongly feel - as a resident and active citizen in Portsmouth - that we must balance these short term concerns with the long term economic health of the city. The development of Portsmouth as a 'lap-dancing capital of the South' - currently with 3 open clubs and another proposed - hardly seems congruent with the city's broader development strategy, and I contend it actually undermines it.

Finally, Portsmouth is one of many local authorities favouring the 'nil cap' approach to sex establishments. It is notable that many of the authorities that have chosen to do so are centred in the nation's capital (the City of London and many of its boroughs, including Merton and Haringey) - a city that, like Portsmouth, also relies heavily on its cultural sector and visitor economy.

I firmly believe that in a decade, the nil cap will have become the norm, and in the long term, that sex establishment venues will have become an outdated, and slightly puzzling, thing of the past. As a lifelong Portsmouthian, I profoundly hope that my city will have been - as it was with the slave trade, for example - firm in its early resolve to rid itself of this outdated and unsafe industry.

3.71 I am grateful for the opportunity to make my views known on the Draft Sex Establishment Licence Policy that is currently out for public consultation.

I totally oppose all sex establishments as a matter of principle and fully support Portsmouth City Council's proposal for a nil limit on these establishments in the city. I would also urge the closure of those that currently exist.

It is a matter of great regret that women continue to be used as sexual objects by all sections of the media and the entertainment industry. They are exploited, degraded and portrayed as readily available for no other purpose than the gratification of men. I suspect that many men who use sex establishments would not wish their own female family and friends to earn their living in this way, yet seem content to let the family and friends of others do so for their 'entertainment'.

At a time when our young people are constantly exposed to sexual images all around them, it is important that they are given positive messages that encourage them to treat each other as equals and with respect. Sex establishments such as 'lap dancing' clubs perpetuate the unhealthy message that there is an unequal power relationship between men and women and that women can be 'bought'.

It has been argued that closing existing establishments would mean a loss of jobs (not to mention the money making potential for those who own them). Also that there is a demand for the 'service' they provide. Yet this is not simply an issue of supply and demand, as the outlawing of other exploitative employment practices has demonstrated over the centuries. It is a matter of the type of society we want. I believe in a society that provides better choices for women; a society in which they do not have to degrade themselves to earn a living; a society in which women are regarded as more than just sex objects and a society in which men too are not exploited by those who pander to their

base instincts to make a profit.

Portsmouth should be promoting itself as a family-friendly city in which everyone is valued and respected. As such, it should be a city in which sex establishments have no place.

Portsmouth was the birthplace of Charles Dickens, who often used issues of social justice as themes in his novels. In this, the bicentenary year of his birth, it would be a fitting tribute to him if Portsmouth City Council took a stand against the exploitation of women by banning sex establishments. I would be proud to live in a city that had taken such a positive step.

3.72 As a resident of Portsmouth having been born and brought up in this city i feel there are so many positive aspects to our community. SEV's do nothing to add to the community and simply detract from the positivity of my community. I feel unsafe walking past any of these establishments and am very unhappy that Elegance is within walking distance from my home and right next to my children's school. SEV's are demoralising to women and simply view women's bodies for sale. I do not support them being in my city at all and being an upstanding citizen a tax payer and working in the field of violence against women i know both anecdotally and can support with evidence that SEV's subjugate women further and add to crime in our city.

3.73 Politically speaking, I tend toward libertarian (pro-choice), but also humanitarian. I would object to some of the establishments covered in this proposal firstly on a principled feminist or humanist basis (as a father of a daughter and one who believes in equality for all). Despite the apparently willing participation of 'performers', it seems many such establishments only serve to demean and debase this notion of equality and personhood, dealing rather in commodification and objectification.

Secondly, however, I object to the fact that any establishment of this kind will effectively be 'on someone's doorstep'. It is well observed that Portsmouth has a high density population, with close clusters of residential areas, educational establishments etc. The fact is that there are very few viable locations for such establishments that would not infringe on these demographics, and I would especially agree that the agreed outcomes for children that PCC looks to champion (the Portsmouth 8?) could well be undermined by such a move, either in principle or in practice.

3.74 Solent feminist parents are a group of parents and/or carers living in the solent who are either feminists or are raising our children with a feminist ethos. We currently have 22 members living in and around Portsmouth and our meetings have so far always taken place in Portsmouth.

Our response to the consultation is as follows:

1.Yes

2.Yes

3.No

4. Lap dancing clubs encourage a sex object culture, sexism and are degrading to women. They are not something we want our children to grow up around. As parents we face constant battles to keep our children from becoming sexualised at a young age. Music videos, TV shows and magazines already expose children to a large amount

of provocative imagery and sexual content. Most of which show women being objectified and degraded! For example I recently watched a music video showing a rapper scanning women's bottoms as though they were barcodes- implying women are purchasable commodities.

There are topless women in g strings bending over on the front cover of Sunday newspapers placed a toddler eye level. There are thongs, padded bras and playboy bunny logos on clothing aimed at girls as young as 6, as well as toys which encourage children to focus on their bodies and how people might value them based on their appearance/sexual attractiveness. A pole dancing doll was recently pulled from the shelves of a popular supermarket but its existence just goes to show how much young children are aware of, and being influenced by all this sexual content. SEVs are contributing to this.

Casually walking past lap dancing clubs on your way to school makes it very difficult to keep children from being exposed to this industry. The signs on the outside of the clubs in Portsmouth make what goes on inside very apparent and the posters advertising the clubs show images of dancers and list prices. 'Wiggle Club' has an image of a lady dancing on a pole in view of everyone walking past it, not to mention the families of Avalon House who's windows face the club front. And a simple search on Youtube brings up a number of films of women dancing inside the clubs- something that isn't hard for computer savvy children to search for and watch.

It's a struggle to teach a child to grow up respecting themselves, their bodies, and their partners as well as teaching them to view women as equals when we have clubs on our doorsteps that allow men to purchase a sexual lap dance from a woman for as little as £10! Our next generation would be much better off without these outdated sexist clubs. Solent feminist parents fully support this policy and would like to see Portsmouth City Council take the future wellbeing of the city's young people into consideration during this consultation and take on the draft policy.

- 3.75 I do not consider that there is anywhere in Portsmouth suitable for a sex establishment. As a non driver, I frequently walk within the city and would feel very intimidated having to walk past such a place or worse, for my children to have to do so.
- 3.76 I would like the Council to look at this from a different angle. If there were only black women in these clubs being abused by white men, the punters, you yourselves would be angry and put a stop to it as it would be an example of outright racism. I would agree with you on that.

Being of mixed race, white/asian, I see it from both angles. Racism is put a stop to immediately but hatred of women in general, and then you have to have a consultation. I find this idea quite appalling that the Council would protect the black side of me but allow abuse of the white side of me.

I am a 64 year old woman who volunteers where I live in Gosport but I also volunteer in Portsmouth and often have to walk the streets late at night. When men have been in this lap-dancing club where they have been abusing women all evening, they then find it very easy to continue the habit in the streets of Portsmouth.

I would prefer that Portsmouth Council saw the protection of women as an important

issue for you to stand up and be counted. The very fact that a consultation is taking place at all offends me as a woman.

Obviously, I would like these clubs banned completely but at the very least a nil cap on any more.

Portsmouth Council should see it as important to protect the women of Portsmouth. It is your responsibility!!!!

- 3.77 I have read the draft sex establishment policy and agree with the first two proposals the council are putting forward but not with the third.

Sex establishments are degrading to women and foster a belief that women are merely sex objects.

Establishments like these tend to be in and around shopping areas, theatres, restaurants and night-time entertainment areas where families go and often with their children. We should lead the way and prevent businesses like these operating in Portsmouth.

- 3.78 Unless a robust policy is adopted, exploitation for financial gain of the most vulnerable and disenfranchised members of society will be perpetuated.

- 3.79 I would like to record my support for the above. As a Christian, I believe that allowing any Sex establishment in the City would be detrimental to the welfare and reputation of the city. The type of people who would patronize eg Lap dancing, strip clubs etc are unlikely to be those who desire the best for the community, or have the moral interests of young people at the top of their agenda.

I would also prefer to see existing sex premises refused permission to continue. There are so many pressures on children and young people to indulge in sexrelated experimentation.....introducing even more really should not be allowed.

Apart from the moral issues, there is the matter of extra policing, and the inconvenience to the folk living in the vicinity of such an establishment.

I recall a night club opening in Kingston Road a few years ago, and as local residents, we suffered considerably by the behaviour of it's customers. Thankfully the Council withdrew the licence. It would seem to me there are those unsavoury characters who frequent certain types of places for their "entertainment" then forget to behave in a decent fashion when leaving.

I support Paragraphs 7.14/15. In fact I can think of no area in the city which could be considered suitable!

I do commend the Council on the stand being taken.

- 3.80 Firstly, I completely and entirely agree with the Councils proposed policy considerations and believe this is a brilliant asset to this policy.

I also agree with the councils proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place that would be appropriate for a sex establishment to exist considering Portsmouth is such

a densely populated city.

I don't believe that existing sex establishment premises be allowed to continue, especially given some of them have already broken the law such as opening without appropriate planning permission. They add to the violence of the city and the few we already have are having an impact on the students under my remit to protect. I believe evidence has been presented to you on multiple occasions outlining the strong evidence which shows a correlation between sexual harassment and the opening of sex establishments, the exploitation or the Women who work there. I myself am in contact with a woman who worked at a strip club for a number of years who is undergoing severe mental distress as a consequence of her experiences which include regular sexual assault, verbal assault by the staff and the punters.

The vast majority of Portsmouth people do not want to live in an area with a sex establishment and I hope this consultation will demonstrate this to you.

3.81 I welcome the council's proposed policy. As a young woman who has lived and worked in Portsmouth for most of my life I believe that lap dancing clubs, and what they represent, is damaging to women and to society as a whole. In base-level terms, the existence of these clubs promotes and supports the view that women are objects which exist for the sexual gratification of men and that women's bodies are for sale if the price is right.

Having also worked in the field of domestic abuse and sexual violence for most of my adult life it is abundantly clear to me that the attitudes which consistently underpin (and in some cases, support) sexual and domestic violence towards women - i.e. power, control, male dominance, and the view of women as objects (and in particular, sexual objects) are the very same attitudes promoted and supported by the existence of lap dancing clubs.

I don't feel we can make further strides towards equality and the elimination of violence against women and girls if we continue to ignore the links between the objectification of women and the violence they experience. Of course this objectification also extends to the portrayal of women in the media and to various other areas but for the purposes of this consultation I am obviously focusing on Lap Dancing in particular. In a modern, forward-thinking society (and a city that has been awarded White Ribbon Status) there should be no place for these clubs. I understand that there are many reasons why women choose to work in Lap Dancing clubs and my comments relate to the existence of these establishments rather than to the dancers themselves. However, I don't accept the argument that because dancers choose to work in these clubs, this therefore negates any wider harmful and detrimental effect that the clubs may have or means we should ignore it.

I would point to the number of cities and boroughs in the UK who have already taken steps to remove lap dancing clubs from their areas: areas who have researched and recognised the harmful effects of these establishments, similar to those outlined above. Portsmouth is not the first to consider taking this position and the arguments for a nil cap have been well laid out and implemented by the City of London and the London Boroughs of Hackney, Haringey, Harrow and Richmond, and by North Tyneside, Slough and Winchester amongst others. Many others are currently consulting and expected to take a similar stance. This is not about being anti-sex, prudish or taking a moral objection - for me this is about recognising the ongoing social implications of allowing these

establishments to exist.

Finally, I would highlight Iceland as an example of an **entire country** that has recognised the damaging effect of Lap Dancing clubs. The Politician introducing the idea of a total ban on these clubs observed: *"It is not acceptable that women or people in general are a product to be sold"*, and following the shutting down of every strip club in the country Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdottir made her position clear: *"I guess the men of*

Iceland will just have to get used to the idea that women are not for sale". In my opinion it's time for the people of Portsmouth to do the same.

4.0 Comments received against a Nil Policy

- 4.1 I have many friends who have worked dancing and bar staff in clubs in portsmouth as both full time work as well as those who have worked part time to fund their university degrees. I can understand some people having concerns with these clubs but at the end of the day where do you stop? These clubs offer many jobs, with dancer jobs being completely optional. If the main argument is children seeing these clubs you need to ask yourself what children are out between the hours of 9pm- 5am when these venues are open? My children are completely unaware of these venues, and are more likely to see inappropriate material in the sun page 3 which is easily accessible to everyone day and night, as our excit magazines in shops, petrol stations! The whole idea is ludicrous. Surely children are more susceptible to exposure through methods such as these!
- 4.2 I believe an nil policy for sex establishments is a needless infringement of sexual freedom. Ultimately it is based on the idea of "good" sexuality approved by the Council and "bad" sexuality opposed by the Council. I believe this to be unacceptable.
- 4.3 Please do not continue your attempts to restrict / close down the strip clubs in Portsmouth. In particular, I support the right of Wiggle to remain open, in it's current location which I do not feel to be either dangerous or inappropriate. I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few.
- 4.4 I am a resident of Portsmouth or the surrounding area or visit Portsmouth for business or leisure. I'm in favour of letting the existing lap dance clubs remain. I may or may not use these venues but feel that I should have the choice.
1. I am opposed to section 7. 13 & 7. 14 Location of premises
 2. I am opposed to section 7.10 To having a Nil policy
 3. I am in favour of keeping existing establishments.

These premises do not open till 10pm so do not affect children who should be in bed at that time. They do not cause any trouble and if they did we can oppose the renewal of their license.

I would like to show my support for the existing lap dancing clubs. I believe that people should have the choice of where they can go. I have never ever seen any trouble in or near these clubs . Let's not have any more but leave the existing ones.

4.5 I would like to show my support for the lap dancing clubs in Portsmouth. I believe that we should all have the choice of where we want to go, I have never seen any trouble in or around these places. There is always a relaxed atmosphere in these places, and people in these economical climates need some way to unwind, The idea of the council or licensing trying to close already struggling businesses in Portsmouth is ridiculous, when you are advertising that you help small businesses... Something needs to be done, stop asking for back handers and actually help businesses, if all these places close then the city will die, and all shops will be boarded up and the city will be dead.

4.6 I am a resident of Portsmouth or the surrounding area or visit Portsmouth for business or leisure. I'm in favour of letting the existing lap dance clubs remain. I may or may not use these venues but feel that I should have the choice. Please do not send me any documentation via post. Thank you.

I am in favour of keeping existing establishments.

These premises do not open till 10pm so do not affect children who should be in bed at that time. They do not cause any trouble and if they did we can oppose the renewal of their license.

4.7 In this economic climate why should so many people loose thier jobs because a few narrow minded councelors have victorian outdated views on society. The employees at this club work hard and pay their bills INCLUDING COUNCIL TAX There are enough unemployed without adding to them.

4.8 Please do not continue your attempts to restrict / close down the strip clubs in Portsmouth. In particular, I support the right of Wiggle to remain open, in it's current location which I do not feel to be either dangerous or inappropriate. I have never attended a strip club, nor do I intend to, but I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few.

4.9 Following the article in today's The News, I don't believe the council should have the right to close down the lap dancing clubs and should treat any new applications as they would treat any other applications for licensed premises such as pubs and clubs.

It's no good pretending they're not popular or in demand just because a few don't like the idea of them. If people are offended by what goes on inside a lap dancing club then they simply stay away - no-one is forcing them to enter! They certainly shoudn't be dictating to the women who work there how they should or should not be earning a living. These clubs bring money in to the city and provide jobs for local people, like any other business. As long as they're not breaking any laws, however archaic, I think they have every right to be open and more clubs too - they're only providing healthy adult entertainment to those who want it!

For info, I am female, a married mum of 2 and work in the charity sector.

4.10 I believe people should have a choice of entertainment in their town. I am for a choice of variety and therefore support lap dancing clubs in Portsmouth.

4.11 I understand that there is a proposal to close the strip clubs in portsmouth. if this is the case i know a few of the girls that work there, they do this job to support

their families. without the income they earn then potentially a few of them will lose their only income and even their homes. more statistics of people homeless and unemployed around the portsmouth area. We must remember that it is the girls and the customers free choice that is being violated. Even if its hard to believe the strip clubs actually help, along with other entertainment establishments keep portsmouth one of the more vibrant places for people to visit and enjoy.

4.12 *Do you agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy?*

I do agree that the local factors should be taken into consideration, however, a school that is used in the daytime should not be a reason to consider it inappropriate to have a night time sex establishment nearby.

Do you agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy?

No I do not agree with this conclusion

Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations?

I believe that current establishments should be allowed to continue to trade.

4.13 I am writing this e-mail to show my support for Portsmouth strip clubs.

I believe that the public should be allowed the choice to go where they choose without being judged upon. The strip clubs are causing no problems to anyone and being that I work in an establishment that has a strip club on the premises I know this for a fact.

It is not fair to take away someone's right to spend their money and go where they want.

So in my opinion Portsmouth strip clubs should be allowed to remain open.

4.14 I firmly believe that it would be the wrong decision to put a ban on strip clubs in Portsmouth. I work in one of the clubs both behind the bar and promoting in the street so feel I have a very good idea of the way things work, the people who work and visit, and different people's views of the club. Firstly, I think it's outrageous that feminists claim strip clubs to be degrading to women. Having the experience of talking with the girls and watching them work, it is clear that it's an extremely empowering job where the girls feel confident, in control and most importantly safe.

Since the club opened, it has quickly gained a good reputation amongst customers and has become a well established name within the Portsmouth nightlife. On more than one occasion I have spoken to groups of gentlemen who have visited Portsmouth with their sole purpose being a visit to the strip club. I believe it is not a good idea to get rid of establishments that have clear economic and social benefits for the city.

With unemployment being a huge problem, especially in our city, is it really feasible to shut down the clubs and add to this issue? Managers, bar staff, promoters, door supervisors, cleaners... all of these people would be out of a job, not to mention the

dancers. These girls are making an honest living, often choosing this job because the flexibility helps them to earn money whilst maintaining a normal family life.

Please consider my comments when making your decision.

- 4.15 Such establishments should only be allowed to continue trading under strict regulation. This would have to consider the impact of such venues on the local environment, which could include issues ranging from a rise in anti-social behaviour and crime. However, far more important is regulation aimed at protecting and defending the rights of workers at these establishments. I would encourage the Council to launch an independent investigation into these establishments to consider a) if workplaces provide adequate protection / security, b) that workers are not being exploited economically, and c) if any establishments directly or indirectly encourage illegal behaviour/actions which may harm the workers or force them to break the law.

While many may have a moral objection to these establishments I am against a policy which could lead to redundancies. Therefore if the council do set any policy which may result in job losses it is the responsibility of the council to work alongside other organisations to ensure workers are suitably re-employed.

- 4.16 I would like to respond to the following questions posed by the consultation.

Do you agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy?

Whilst I agree that the local factors should be taken into consideration, a school or park should which would be used in the daytime should not be a reason to consider it inappropriate to have a night time sex establishment nearby.

Do you agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy?

I disagree with this entirely.

Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations?

Yes - I believe that currently trading businesses should be allowed to remain open.

Do you have any other comments to make regarding the draft policy?

These are my personal views. In addition, as chair of Portsmouth City Pubwatch, I would like to state that the entire group indicated that they were in full support of our two members who operate sex entertainment venues at our meeting this month.

- 4.17 I am 69 and have been a regular user of Elegance and sometimes Heaven Sent ever since they opened. I have never seen any trouble, fights or any disturbance. The girls

seem happy to work there, and they are very well run. I suggest a common sense attitude be applied, limiting the number of clubs to four.

4.18 No one forces people to go in the strip club, everyone is free to choose where want to go, strip club is not crime, it is not about sex as massage parlors.

4.19 you are asking for feedback so I thought I would join in.

Paragraph 7.10 “Given the various factors set out above, the Licensing Authority has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the City of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.”

Doesn't this paragraph render the entire draft rather pointless. You have said “we don't want any in our city, we don't consider it appropriate”

So after all those words what it comes down to is, we can refuse, you can't appeal.

Not saying you are wrong when it comes to strip joints but adult cinemas and adult shops are normally very discreet. Is that taken into account in any serious way?

4.20 Its has come to my notice that council has decided to shut down the strip club which comes as surprise to me. Its was a very good form of entertainment to adults and i used to be there often. By closing down i feel it will not do any good to the community as it is taking away some form of entertainment and associated job losses. I hope the council will rethink about it decision. Thanking you in anticipation,

4.21 I am writing to you to register my disgust at the way you are trying to force a nil policy down peoples throats. There should be no nil policy and the venues should be allowed to operate under review from the council.

I live in Dartford but my daughter is a student at university in Portsmouth and funding her studies through dancing. Having read the campaign by the Solent Feminist Network to get petitions signed by people outside of Portsmouth I assumed that boundaries do not apply. However if you are not accepting the SNF petition and their on line petition then mine would be invalid, but if you accept a petition signed by non residents then my opinion is valid.

4.22 Please do not continue your attempts to restrict / close down the strip clubs in Portsmouth. In particular, I support the right of Wiggle to remain open, in it's current location which I do not feel to be either dangerous or inappropriate. I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few.

4.23 The reason why im signing is because it leaves hundreds of girls, bar staff, and managers stranded with no jobs and the fact is there is no jobs out there them to get and you really want all these people to go on benefits/ job seekers and yet your trying to stop all that as well the strip clubs arnt doing any harm to any one i think you should rethink about this and let them keep there jobs because like i said there's no work out there for anyone save there jobs !!

4.24 I am the franchisee of a subway store being operated from commercial road, Portsmouth. a couple of weeks ago there was an incident at my store on a Friday evening. it was possible to bring it under control due to the assistance received from the door staff at wiggles also their presence has greatly reduced the number of people loitering behind my store who in the past have caused problems with vandalism, public urinating and drug use. I believe with the security at wiggles door it has made surrey street less of a crime spot .

4.25 I've been informed recently that the council and licensing are considering shutting down the strip clubs in Portsmouth.

I'm totally against this and think its the wrong move.

People should be given the choice and have the option to do these things if they want to, every other major city has them and I don't see anything wrong with Portsmouth having them.

Personally I don't go to them but as a promoter and event manager running my own business in the city, I feel its essential especially at the moment to keep any establishments, organisations and companies going. It's better for the economy and keeps people in jobs. Also as someone who works in a related industry in the area, Portsmouth really struggles for venues (good or bad, its a bit of a headache overall) so please trust me when I say we really don't need any less.

Thanks for taking the time to read my email and I do hope it helps making a difference.

4.26 I think closing strip clubs is a ridiculous idea unless you want more people on Job Seekers Allowance!!! I have a son and have worked very hard supporting him without resorting to claiming off the government! The clubs are strictly no contact and well managed, causing no harm to anyone! The environment is now enjoyed by a vast amount of people, male, female, couples, disabled! Don't take away their bit of harmless fun!

4.27 Please do not continue your attempts to restrict / close down the strip clubs in Portsmouth. In particular, I support the right of Wiggle to remain open, in it's current location which I do not feel to be either dangerous or inappropriate. I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few.

4.28 I work for wiggle in Portsmouth as a dancer. And after hearing that there is a chance you could be shutting it down, I'm in fear for my livelihood.. I support my 6year old daughter alone and if I lost my job because you shut the club down I worry I would resort to claiming benefits. I currently don't claim any benefits and wish not to start... I am in no way treated as some kind of sex slave as implied by woman's right groups!! I am a woman and surely isn it my right to choose where I want to work? I work in a safe and clean environment. I have never once felt forced or violated.. I actually enjoy going to work and would like to continue to do so.. I'll hope you'll read this email and understand that you've only heard one side, that being the side of woman that probably have never set foot in a lap dancing bar, so it's hard to take their opinion in to consideration when deciding the fate of mine and many others livelihood... Please understand no one in that club is forced to be there and we are happily paying our own bills and taxes.

4.29 Please do not continue your attempts to restrict / close down the strip clubs in Portsmouth. In particular, I support the right of Wiggle to remain open, in it's current location which I do not feel to be either dangerous or inappropriate. Strip clubs are not a danger to the local community. They operate well outside of school and church hours and from the exterior they are no different to any other bar or club. If the concept of a strip club offends people then they have the freedom of choice to simply not enter one. There is absolutely no possibility that they can impact the area around them in any way other than for the people who freely choose to either work in them or attend them. As for increasing the rate of crime in the local area - ridiculous. Where is the evidence to support this. People do not come out of strip clubs and assault the first woman they see and more than they walk off the fairground dodgems and drive their car straight into someone.

I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices

4.30 I support and welcome lap dancing clubs in and out of Portsmouth and that people should have the choice in which they would like to go to them or not. It also bring great entertainment to Portsmouth it has a calm and relaxed and trouble free atmosphere we / You should let people have the choice in which they participate .

4.31 I'm not sure *anyone* is disputing the right of a council to deny said applications who fail to meet the standard, existing obstacles, but, rather, find the move to deny all applications regardless of the quality of the approach/suitability of the potential licensee based on extremely spurious criteria as an unfair restraint of trade.

No evidence has been submitted to indicate any anti-social effect such establishments may cause within a modern, functioning city and the entire existence of this bill appears to be driven on ideological and/or moral grounds. Tolerance only works if displayed towards all beliefs rather than simply those who shout the loudest or have the backing of wealthy, but unelected, groups such as the church. Were I to attempt to strong-arm the council into denying the building of a faith-based establishment near schools, swimming pools and dentists/doctors surgeries I'd be (quite rightly) labelled a bigot.

Should evidence be produced that unquestionably illustrates a link between lawlessness and the granting of a reasonable number of pole/lap-dancing establishments then there would at least be a leg to stand on in defence of the accusation of hypocrisy/cheap and cynical vote-harvesting; until then, however, I'm still to be shown a single good reason why otherwise blameless, tax-paying citizens of this city are to be denied, prima facie, access to and the chance of employment by, legal businesses of any hue.

4.32 **"Do you agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy?"**

No. While I can see the logic of considering the nature of any locality a business requests a license for, the list as set out within the draft document somewhat highlights the illogical nature of the arguments for some kind of blanket ban.

"Dwellings" is a catch-all term that would relegate any potentially contentious business to industrial parks and in the middle of wasteland while the rest of the examples are facilities that would neither be open during the hours such businesses as lap/pole-dancing clubs operate nor would they be likely to share a clientele. It's somewhat ironic that para 5.6 *specifically excludes* sex shops and sex cinemas which *would* be open during the hours the facilities such as schools, churches, swimming pools etc operate.

"Do you agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy?"

Not only do I disagree, I find the list of areas and facilities to be considered a hotch-potch of unelected authorities and policies that have absolutely no bearing on the rights (or wrongs) of granting licences to legal businesses within a city.

Places of worship, while rightly tolerated, should have absolutely no special sway on council business. I'm personally offended by their presence in my city, by the traffic they create, the noise they make and the damage I choose to believe their work does, but I'm happy to abide their presence as long as there is a demand for them and there is no clear evidence they are contributing to an increase of anti-social behaviour within my community. I may not entirely agree with their business and I will never get any use out of their buildings, but that's liberal democracy. In a convenient display of coincidence, I feel much the same about the pole/lap dancing clubs we're currently corresponding about.

The implication that these establishments will, by their presence alone, have a deleterious effect on crime, commerce, gender equality, community safety and (weirdest of all) vulnerable people visiting health professionals (what did that even come from??) is as egregious a display of muck-throwing as I've encountered for some time. Where is the citation backing up these inferences the draft policy is so clearly lacking?

Finally, bringing the Southsea Seafront Strategy into the argument will do little but produce a cynical response to those of us who have witnessed the front go from a lively and successful commercial area operating for many years and serving a large cross-section of the city (whose major crime appeared to be being young) into what is now a depressing line of boarded up buildings, an entire block resembling post-blitz London and a pier surviving on a commercial knife-edge. The strategy has certainly delivered the peace some Southsea residents seemed to value so highly, but at a depressing cultural cost.

"Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations?"

To answer with another question: for what reasons should they not be allowed to continue to trade? To quieten a loud one-issue minority? As some kind of lame sop to unelected moral guardians? This isn't how a liberal democracy is supposed to operate.

"Do you have any other comments to make regarding the draft policy?"

This seems to be the obvious place to repeat the meat of my original enquiry. Apologies

for any repetition of points made above:

"Having recently been made aware of the idea being mooted to cap the number of lap/pole dancing clubs in the city, I'm writing to ask what justification is being used to arbitrarily limit potential new business?

Having seen absolutely no evidence linking antisocial behaviour with such establishments I'm failing to understand the logic behind such a move. I do not visit these places (I'm not sure I could afford to either financially nor physically at my age) but am a firm supporter of a hands-off approach to social engineering.

I read in the local press that some of the justification rests on the dense population of the city and the number of schools and churches. It should be remembered that the council have had absolutely no problem in rolling over for property developers on the Island, turning virtually every empty building into yet more "luxury" apartments with the steadfast logic of the law of supply and demand used to defend such wilful abandonment of the long-term future of Portsmouth, particularly across the south of the city. To ignore the same supply and demand logic while also having the nerve to cite population density - a problem caused by such an approach to residential building - smacks of hypocrisy.

As for the schools and churches: I'm only assuming, here, but I'm fairly certain neither the operating hours nor the clientele overlap in any meaningful way between these two areas. If churches are broadly against such establishments but demand for them is on the increase, then perhaps that indicates how much gravity people place on the opinion of these unelected mouthpieces in the first place, and the cry of "Won't somebody think of the children?" is a classic leap towards some spurious moral high ground that most people can nowadays see for what it is.

At a time when jobs and businesses are under severe pressure I'm at a loss to explain how this measure could be seen as anything other than a cheap attempt to divert attention away from more pressing matters the council would do well to concentrate their efforts upon."

4.33 I beg you to reconsider your attempts not to close down/restrict the strip clubs of Portsmouth.

I work on the door of one of these local clubs, not through choice, but through necessity. Having been made redundant from my previous job, I was lucky to have my SIA licence to fall back on. This job has been the only thing supporting myself, my partner, and my two young children.

I also know from the friendships I've made with the dancers at the club that a lot of them are in the same boat, they have children, partners, mortgages and a life outside of work which relies on them earning the money they are currently earning.

The views of the 'feminist' groups are not shared by the people they are meant to be speaking up for. The girls working at these clubs are NOT being exploited, they are making a living and supporting themselves, not being forced to do anything against their wishes while someone holds a gun to their head.

I also speak from personal experience working at Wiggle, that we have had NO serious

trouble since we opened in September, not a single cause for police assistance and not a single iota of bother in the slightest. This is contrast to other clubs/pubs that I have worked at where police assistance and trouble is a nightly occurrence.

Please think of all those you affect if you go ahead with this. For every one member of a feminist group that complains we are exploiting innocent girls, there is ten other people who rely on the money they make from these clubs to provide for their family and keep a roof over their heads.

4.34 when i go out in Portsmouth for an evenings entertainment i look at the pub scene and the local nightclubs and also the two gentlemen's clubs and it would be nice to have the choice of where to go ,sometimes my self and my friends.We like to frequent the local clubs and strip clubs and why not if you are over 18 years of age the choice should be yours. If strip clubs were closed down in Portsmouth it would be a great loss to the town for visitors,locals and Navy personnel also.

4.35 With regard to points 7.13 and 7.14 I disagree.

With point 7.10 I disagree.

I think existing premises should be allowed to continue.

Additional comments;

I live within 100 metres of Elegance in Waverley Road and have 2 young children, 1 whom attends a local school and we walk past Elegance to get to school. We have had no/minimal disturbance from the venue. I do not see what the problem is with this type of venue. During the day it is closed and is not obvious what it is. My children have no idea and have no interest in it. It is just a black building. Whilst I do think there should be a limit on the number in the city, as I would not want to live in the lapdancing capital of the south coast, a zero amount is not needed. The club near me has good security and we have no trouble even in the early hours. In stark contrast to having normal clubs like Time and Tangerine Suite in the past, when drunk and loud behaviour was relentless. I fear that if this venue was any other kind of late night bar our lives would be much worse. As it is, it keeps itself to itself. The club is subtle and for people that don't like this kind of venue it is very easy to avoid. Even at night the only difference is that the door is open. It is not loud and in your face like most normal bars. The only way you will get any idea of what happens is if you actually go inside.

So long as there aren't hundreds of these places, and that they are very plain buildings with only the club name visible, there is no harm in them being here. The drinking is a lot better controlled and they always provide extra security. We have a lot more trouble with the amount of dog poo in the area, not about a building that doesn't even open until my children are asleep.

4.36 People have the wrong views of gentlemens clubs, it is not an enviroment in which girls are forced to take part in something they are not comfortable with. a place where drugs and illegalities happen. its an environment in which women are able to make a decent living using their most profitable asset. the girls are totally in control and apart from being polite are not oblided to participate in any activities unless they choose to. sex does not

go on and it is not an aid to prostitution. and in times of recession its a way for women to make an honest living or top up their existing income. there is and will always be a place for gentlemens clubs. sex sells and the illusion of sex sells even more.

in a time of recession and mass unemplyment do you honestly think that closing down 3 venues in portsmouth and taking away hundreds of peoples income is the correct way to go?

Please do not continue your attempts to restrict / close down the strip clubs in Portsmouth. In particular, I support the right of Wiggle to remain open, in it's current location which I do not feel to be either dangerous or inappropriate. I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few.

4.37 I am emailing you to support not closing down strip clubs in portsmouth as it is an attraction venue for regulars like me

4.38 I would like to inform you that I disagree on this matter and I'm sure many would, strip clubs don't only give people the opportunity to have a job, they also give people the right to have a choice of entertainment for men and woman.
I would definitely prefer for someone to work rather than be on benefits, like most people in this city! I know someone very close to me that is a dancer and she is one of the nicest persons I know. Me and my friends sometimes go to the strip clubs after a night out and is always been a good time.

Thanks for taking the time to read my view on this matter and hope you consider not closing down the strip clubs

4.39 I have been pole dancing for a few years now. Every man, even woman needs that everyday lifestyle escape every now and then and what better way to do it than in a calm relaxed environment like a lapdancing club. We have always been well looked after and are forever being complimented and thanked by customers for giving them such a great night. As people get older they don't always want to be in a loud night club surrounded by rowdy teenagers and drunken punchy men. A strip club is the complete opposite. They can sit back relax and chill whilst enjoying the company of the friendly, chatty dancers. I don't think the majority of men would be too happy if this was no longer available to them! Seeing as we get weekly regular customers too.

4.40 as part of this consultation, I would like to offer my support to allowing existing operators to continue to operate with in Portsmouth, these operations do not cause any issues with in Portsmouth City centre and it would be a mistake to close businesses down that are paying taxes and not causing issue. the people that are voting for a Nil quota are morally against this business and that should not be part of the determination as it is not allowed.

if not morally against this business, there is no other reason to oppose these businesses.

4.41 I have worked in a club in Portsmouth for a few months now and got to know some amazing girls. In fact some of the nicest, most confident, hard working girls i know who are making an honest living in Pompey. We aren't the oppressed, submissive, quasi-

unwilling, semi-prostitutes these feminazis would have you believe. These stripclubs do no harm to ANYONE. Since i started working I have not experienced a single problem. They are always a number of bouncers working to protect the girls and customers if anything were to happen like any other club in Portsmouth. I enjoy my job and socialising with the girls. I am in no means being forced to work or exploiting myself or the customers i dance for!!!

4.42 I am against the action of closing down strip clubs in Portsmouth and UK.

I dont think its right that we are forcing more establishments to close down when we should be doing nothing more but encouraging business to open! Market stores, butchers, book stores etc... soon we will have nothing left except Asda, Sainsburys and Tescos on every corner! That is a sad world to look forward to!

Also its bad enough that jobs around england are tough to find and will now only be tougher.

Im not one to go to strip clubs, personally its not my thing... But if people want to spend their money there or earn there way of life there then thats fine by me.

Less people using our job seekers allowances is how i see it...

It would be a perfect world if everyone was good and we all did as we were told...

How ever its not a perfect world and people wont do as there told.
Closing down the clubs will force this business behind closed doors.

This leads down the road of black market and there are enough of those as it is!

Girls being mis treated.
People who shouldn't be doing business doing business!

I know i would rather have a legal business on my street than an illegal one!

Our police have enough on there plates as it is..

I live round the corner from one in Portsmouth and i forget its there a lot of the time...

I hope you take the time to think about your actions

4.43 I am writing in regard to the Consultation on Draft Policy for Sex Establishment Licences.

Firstly I would like to register my disapproval of the pejorative term "Sex Establishment". This is clearly derogatory and its use seems deliberately intended to prejudice the reader's opinions against such establishments. It would be perfectly legitimate to refer to places like this as "Adult Entertainment" venues which would avoid using such loaded expressions.

As regards the consultation questions here are my answers:

1) "Do you agree with the council's proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 and 7.14 of the draft policy?"

2) "Do you agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is no place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy?"

No, I do not agree with these.

I will answer these two together because the implication seems to be that, for some unexplained reason, what goes on in these clubs is contagious and that by simply being close to a church or a school or a swimming pool, people in such venues will suddenly be inclined to start performing sex acts in them. This is utter nonsense.

The real reason, I think, for such "considerations" is that those who have the attitude "I don't like this, so *you* should not be allowed to do it" cannot find a legitimate and legal reason for banning these establishments, so, instead, in the guise of pretending to be reasonable, have come up with a ludicrously restrictive set of criteria for acceptable locations ensuring that a business cannot lawfully operate anywhere that these people have sway.

The inclusion of schools seems particularly nonsensical since these venues do not operate during any times at which children will be going to or from school, by the time they open schools will have long since locked up and the pupils gone home, so this is a completely spurious ground for limitation and seems intended simply to trigger a knee-jerk "Won't Someone Think Of The Children!" attitude.

3) "Do you think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations?"

Yes, absolutely.

Since I see no problem with this, let me address some of the arguments that you will no doubt hear from those who oppose such clubs.

One such argument is "women won't feel safe walking past such clubs" as if the clientele will be so aroused and frustrated by what they have seen that they will immediately grab the nearest woman and try to rape her. They may also repeat the claims from the Lilith Project "proving" a link between lap-dancing clubs and rape, however these claims have been shown to be utterly fallacious, relying on cherry-picking data over a short period of time which are statistically invalid.

Related to this I would also ask how people feel about going down Guildhall Walk at pub closing time. I think they would feel far less safe there than outside a lap-dancing club.

Another argument you will no doubt hear is anecdotal evidence (often second or third hand) about the activities that are alleged to go on in such clubs and the way that, supposedly, women are "pressured" into doing things they don't want to. But such claims have frequently been shown to be spurious or they date back many years to times when

such venues were less strictly controlled and licenced and, as such, bear little relevance to the current situation.

Finally there is the "This will damage the reputation of the city" argument, apparently based on the idea that some people will think "Oh, Portsmouth has lap-dancing clubs, it must be a den of sin and iniquity and so I won't go to see HMS Victory and HMS Warrior and the Historic Dockyard and the Spinnaker Tower and Southsea Castle and so on because of that".

Frankly this is another ludicrous assertion. Is the renown of the city of Portsmouth so fragile (or people so shallow) that they will really think this? Once again this is a completely spurious argument and it should be treated with the contempt it deserves.

I have little doubt that you will receive many more responses from people whose desire is to curtail and restrict the enjoyment of consenting adults based on their own particular prejudices, however I would ask that you be reasonable and consider that those who do not go to such establishments will be "protected" from them by the simple matter of their non-attendance and that those adults who are capable of withstanding the alleged "evil influences" of such places can be permitted to continue to visit them without "Nanny knows best" interference.

- 4.44 Please don't close the strip clubs in Portsmouth they pretty good!
- 4.45 I am a dancer from wiggle and would like to put a few points across wiggle has been open since september now, and its a lovely place to work everyone who comes in has good comments about it ,and always say its a good place to have a quiet drink, theres no trouble and everyone seems to have fun!all the girls work hard and enjoy working there we are not made to work there at all I like some people think we choose to work there and enjoy are line of work... please dont shut the club down im a single girl i have a morgage and bills to pay which i have worked very hard for!!like alot of the other girls to! the club is not harming anyone please think about the people who wont have jobs anymore...
- 4.46 I set up elegance in Portsmouth in 2002 for oj and to this day still help find girls for him to become employed as self employed dancers in his establishments.
There are strict stipulations being consistently adhered to by owner, management and staff on going.
I am in disagreement that these sexual performance clubs , not sex in literal terms , establishments , should ever be shut down .
The location of a pole dance venue is vital , I do agree and should not be near schools etc but they are not.
I believe clubs of this nature should never be open during working day hours so young people never see the clients or staff entering and leaving the club hence the club opens after most young persons bed time ,
I always knew one should respect children when promoting the club only at night and not dropping promo material near schools, these fundamentals are already respected .
Please don't shut the clubs down.
- 4.47 I understand there is a potential possibility Portsmouth city council will be revoking permission for any kinds of strip clubs from operating in the Portsmouth area.

I am a university student that is in my final year of university; I work behind the BAR in Wiggle and cannot really comprehend your logic in taking away their license.

The only argument I seem to have noticed being proposed is that it is demoralising to women and objective to women through out society. These arguments are preposterous reasons to stop a very profitable yet peaceful business to be closed, what part of women's rights are being violated exactly? the rights to have power over men in an act of seduction? This being the case completely contradicts the demoralisation of women!!!

If Portsmouth city council feel that strongly about women's rights and eventually do close any of the clubs I would only see it fair that any kind of sexual activity be banned from Portsmouth all together! What differs from the pornographic magazine on the top shelf of my local news agent to that of the business that is performed in Wiggle NOTHING but the physical presence of the lady in question.

I have worked in clubs for the past five years and in my time at Wiggle since it has opened i have not witnessed, not one violent crime which I'm sure should you revise police reports it is most likely one of the only alcohol licensed premises in Portsmouth that has a considerably low crime rate.

We as bar staff and dancers as performers are all in the industry to make money like the majority of the British population who are lucky enough to have a job in the current economic environment crisis and I very much urge you to consider the amount of livelihoods you will ruin sat on your educated throne with in the council dictating what society should and shouldn't do! Sadly it seems to be evident as I develop my education to a higher level that the further up the hierarchy of influential status candidates in British society seem to be the less whiling they are to absorb the views, wants and needs of those who have conflictual views. I would be ecstatic should you prove me wrong!

I really think that you as a council should stop bullying night clubs altogether let alone strip clubs where women willingly work and often enjoy their jobs at no cost to society but put back into society the satisfaction of men, a boost to the economy (with he tax that is being paid) and a peaceful non violent drinking grounds for people to release themselves.

I hope you take the time to read my email, and will not cast it to one side like you plan to do with jobs of people with in the strip clubs of Portsmouth

4.48 Just heard on twitter that you are looking to shut down strip clubs in Portsmouth. And here are my thoughts on this.

1. It should be the choice of the people of Portsmouth, not Portsmouth City Council to decide on whether they should be shut down or not. That's what a democracy is.
2. Portsmouth is a black spot for wages, I myself commute to London to get a half decent salary. Closing strip clubs means that the staff that work there all have to find other jobs which won't pay as well. That's a simple fact.

3. Have you thought what they would get replaced with? More night clubs, more bars, more crime. How many police call outs do you get coming from strip clubs? I'd imagine not many at all.

I'd like to make out at this point that my opinion is one from a homosexual male so I don't fall into any bracket of interest of dependency on this matter. I simply believe in free will, and what you are imposing is a clamp down on peoples civil liberties.

Perhaps spend the time more wisely, such as making sure we still have a football club to support.

- 4.49 People should be able to do what they won't and go to strip clubs if people want to pay for it then let them and it has given jobs to others also

Keep them open

- 4.50 ref to you email i would like to say that that i do not agree with your so called decision to stop the strip clubs in portsmouth having worked in all of the clubs in portsmouth and visit them with freinds i simply cannot see why you want to close them down could you please answer that one for me please as i believe they are the best run and manged venues of the late night economy and from speakin to and with various police officers aswell they have no issues with these types of venues aswell or is it because of so a certain womans right group that is simply demanding this action ?? maybe we should get all the people that not only go to these clubs but also set up a petition to demand new council members ?? as a few of us know it is no secret that you and your colleagues are also planning a massive review of all late night pub and clubs licences again what purpose does this serve apart from putting people on the welfare state instead you should be putting all your effort into making the night time economy better so not only the people of portsmouth but other visitors to this city enjoy what we have to offer rather than forcing everyone to go out of the city for entertainment

Im sending this email in support of wiggles gentlemand club as i know you and your dept are tryin to close it down i have been there on a number of occasions and can say its one of the most well run clubs in portsmouth with no trouble what so ever and as always i think this is the council and the police saying if these venues close it will save us money which is wrong on so many levels and instead you should be supporting these venues so people have jobs not the other way round shame on you

- 4.51 Hi my name is April and I am beginning a career as a pole dancer for Paul o j at wiggle Portsmouth and I work for Jane s agency, who sends me . My opinion is if the decision is made to shut legal clean pole dance clubs , men may be forced to seek out illegal entertainment, instead , which will increase crime rates . I also wish for you to consider the job losses , loss of revenue generated by the business , and sad fact of this fun entertainment being no more.

Please consider the above

- 4.52 It has come to my attention, that once again a noisy minority, are deciding how we live our lives, with reference to the above. At a time when more spending should be

encouraged and bars and clubs are closing, I think it's outrageous that you should contemplate wielding an axe over businesses, in a nanny fashion. I await with interest.

- 4.53 In two days time there will be an embargo on stripclubs in Portsmouth; this comes off the backs of a petition by the solent feminists club (or something as ridiculous a concept/name as that).

Me personally? I don't go to stripclubs, I do however know some strippers and they aren't the downtrodden, meek, quasi-unwilling, semi-prostitutes these feminazis would have you believe. They are in fact some of the nicest, most confident, hard working people making an honest living in Pompey you could hope to meet. This feminist group would have you believe that stripclubs are exploitative, they are not, churches are exploitative and no-one is closing them down any time soon. These stripclubs do no harm to ANYONE, they also generate jobs and revenue for the city.

This isn't a question of sexual moral...s, moreover it is a question of liberty and choice, the choice to do what you want as long as it isn't harming anyone else.

Finally, it is extremely hypocritical of this feminist group to claim they are for women's' rights whilst at the same time removing the most fundamental and important right of all from these other women, their right to choose. EVERY person should have the right to choose how to make a living, to choose what to do with their bodies, to choose how to live their lives.

Feminists? They sound more like the men they campaign against and despise, only without the balls.

- 4.54 I am writing to you in regards to the recent news and protests from people within the City Council regarding strip clubs within Portsmouth.

I am a regular at Wiggle and often choose to go here over going to any other form of night club within the city. If you go to Guildhall Walk on any given night you are guaranteed to see fights, women in terrible states nearly unable to walk, people who clearly are so drunk that they shouldn't have been allowed to stay within the establishment they were drinking, let alone continue to get served.

It's for those reasons I opt to go to a strip club instead, it is quiet, safe and personally I prefer the music they play. I have never once seen any trouble within Heaven Sent or Wiggle and at any point any gentlemen may seem likely to break the house rules they are removed from the venue, discretely and politely without any argument. It is a shame that other night venues within Portsmouth don't have such a great approach to how they handle their customers, responsibly.

Instead I have been to Club 8 and witnessed racist attacks and incidents where it has required 4 or more bouncers to removed individuals resulting in a brawl, Yates not too long ago was closed for a number of weeks due to the poor behaviour of the customers, I have witnessed gang fights outside of Roast Bar and didn't someone die due to the result of a brawl within Walkabout when it was open?

As for the argument that strip clubs exploits woman is a completely invalid argument. These women choose to work within these venues, every single dancer I have spoken to has convincingly spoke about how she enjoys her job and these women have some serious impressive talent pole dancing. It makes me wonder how no one ever talks about male strippers being exploited? It's simply because, they are not.

Personally I respect these women for going out there, working the unsociable hours and clearly dedicating themselves to learning how to become seriously impressive dancers on the pole rather than claiming countless benefits which is sadly a common place problem within the UK currently.

I noticed the argument that strip clubs shouldn't be opened near churches or schools. Firstly these venues do not contain images of naked women outside and their operating hours are nowhere near the same as schools or churches. Secondly is the religious issue. Unlike life 50 years ago religion is no longer viewed as it once was, thankfully people in general are much more free thinking so the argument of religion should never come into it, however seeing as Cllr Terry Hall threw it in there let me stand my case.

It worries me that Cllr Terry Hall only seems concerned about churches, how about Mosques and Synagogues? Clearly she is only expressing her own personal beliefs which seemed to have a religious push. Personally I am fed up with the idea of religion being pushed onto people, during school I was made to sing hymns within assembly and we often had christian talkers come in and spread the word of god and I didn't even attend a religious school! People should be free to express themselves in anyway they wish, however when you attempt to put your opinion into action such as Cllr Terry Hall this I feel is an abuse of power given the religious mentions.

I by no means am anti-religion, I do not quite know what I do believe however I fully respect everyones right to religion, I just don't believe it should be part of the motivation of suppression of the free right of others, such as what is happening here.

Given those issues aside such venues as strip clubs also play a benefit to men by giving them the option of interaction with women without being rejected or being made to seem hopeless. It is a great way of boosting ones confidence, you may well find that a little tragic but sadly we are not all born with great looks and the self-confidence that others are lucky enough to have.

I would rather see the councils energy more focused towards reducing crime and creating better support for its residents in terms of education, re-deployment to work, cleaning up our streets and creating more outstanding public parks such as Victoria Park and Southsea Common. Rather than trying to stamp down even more in regulation and licensing on strip clubs within the city I would suggest taking a look at the establishments within Guildhall Walk first.

4.54 I was a lap dancer for many years in elegance strip club. It was some of my best memories there. Also i didn't do to badly, I now have a large property portfolio, in which i let out property to the local council for people on benefits. This would not have been possible if it had not been for my years working there. Take a moment and look at the bigger picture, is this really the time to be cutting jobs? You are not just cutting jobs, in some cases you will be destroying peoples lives. The girls choose to work there, they are not forced. The men chose to go there and spend their money, As the economy stands right now, people have very little enjoyment. Paying bills, working, etc. So don't take away venues that right at this moment are needed more than ever. I now have a husband and daughter, I will not dance again, but that is my choice. I still have friends in that profession, and i have to say, they are content. And right now, with the decline in jobs, and inflation so high, I would say they are doing rather well! Good luck girls

- 4.55 I have worked in elegance for over a year as a barman and this has helped me pay my way through university and i know that most of the other bar staff are in the same situation as me. There are few jobs in portsmouth and losing my job at elegance would make it hard for me to continue funding my way through university
- i am writing as an employee of a strip club in Portsmouth. I have had this job since I started university last year, I am currently in my second year and without the job at elegance I would not have had the money to be able to afford to live in Portsmouth whilst at university. The job has also allowed me to experience bar work in a club and has also allowed me to excel in my area of work. Many staff if not all staff at elegance and wiggle are students working to pay their way through university. From my point of view, the strip clubs are not doing any harm to the city, there is never any trouble and they give students a way to make some money and get some experience in the workplace.
- 4.56 I work on the bar at Wiggle and it took me months to find a job in Portsmouth, it's not just the dancers who would be losing their jobs but bar staff, cleaners, bouncers and managers!! I think this is a rash decision which would have huge knock on affects making many unemployed and having to claim benefits. it's not just staff this would affect but families too! It's highly unlikely I will find another job quickly and I am seriously worried about how I will support myself.
- 4.57 I am writing in response to the local pressure to close portsmouth strip clubs. It seems clear to me that it is only a minority of people that want these clubs closed. As a woman with rights and expression of choice I feel that it is my decision if I work in a strip club or not. I take offence when these people protesting call the dancers sex workers, these clubs do not offer sex that is stated on the rules displayed within the clubs. These people protesting that the club makes the area unsafe and promotes violence towards women are completely wrong, the clubs have numerous security cameras fitted inside and outside of the buildings along with security workers at the doors of the clubs until late hours. As a woman I feel safer walking in these areas late at night knowing that if there was any trouble that the security staff are there to protect me. My partner used to work as security in one of these clubs and I would never want him work somewhere that was seedy or offered sex. It was his job to tell the customers as they came in that they were not to touch the girls or proposition the girls. On average strip clubs have a lot less trouble than other bars and clubs in the area and unfortunately the portsmouth area does have violence but most of this is towards males and caused by alcohol. What's next closing all bars and clubs?? There are a lot of people working in these clubs as dancers, bar staff and security, the industry provides a good job for people with small children who would perhaps have to go on benefits if there jobs are taken away. I really hope you will take a note of my comments.
- 4.58 I have seen a recent letter regarding petition of closure on lap dancing clubs in Portsmouth which were posted through doors. At the end of the letter, it urges people to write you with "pre-written" answers which I do find disturbing. I have never been to a lap dancing club and I have nothing against them either. This to me, seems like someone is creating something from nothing, crime figures in Surrey Street has definitely dropped and there is no argument with that. Maybe you are aware of a blog on the internet on the very subject, if not, please take a look: <http://strippingtheillusion.blogspot.co.uk/>

The bottom line is, I am in support of the lap dancing establishments in Portsmouth and do not wish to see the closure of these clubs.

- 4.59 I support Wiggle Portsmouth and other lapdancing venues in Portsmouth to be allowed to remain open. I also support the rights of anyone to choose their own career, and of others to choose whatever form of entertainment they like, regardless of whether small factions of the community approve or not.

By the way, the traffic lights at the Elm Grove/Victoria Rd North/South/Campbell Rd junction need a pedestrian crossing urgently. Please focus your attentions on things that are necessary and stop wasting everyone's time and money on pointless exercises like this.

- 4.60 I would like to show my support for the existing lap dancing clubs. I believe that people should have the choice of where they go. Shutting down these clubs will put many people out of work whom rely on this job to support their families etc. I have never ever seen any trouble in or near these clubs and they are very well run by the management and staff. Everyone who works at the clubs love working there and are not in any way forced to work or made feel uncomfortable or violated at anytime. Please keep the clubs open.
- 4.61 I strongly believe it will infringe on the civil rights and liberties of the public in a democracy like ours to shut lap dancing clubs in Portsmouth. To curb the right to choose or have a voice is autocratic!

These clubs in question have been running for many years . They, like any other business adhere to rules and regulations set by the council and have not proven a threat to the moral degradation in the city.

In tough economic times like the present where we are being hit by waves of recession upon recession I think it unwise to shut down a source of revenue for the city.

Many livelihoods are in the balancing scale here. You will see an increase in citizens claiming benefits... something the Parliament is looking to reduce in every manner possible.

In the name of a just society I'm sure you will concur that the citizen need to be heard. After all isn't politics all about finding common ground?

- 4.62 Hello, after reading a statement regarding the closure/changes to gentlemen clubs in Portsmouth I would like to express my thoughts on the action which may be taken by you the council. Im a local Portsmouth resident and believe no matter what job role someone performs it shouldn't be deemed as exploited, after all what jobs are available these days?. As a community i believe gentlemen clubs provide no harm to the residents or it's customers. Maybe you should walk down guildhall on a weekend. If you get rid of gentlemen clubs not only do you void many jobs, you also void another 'limited' service in the city for people to visit. This is my view on the matter and I hope you take this in to consideration.
- 4.63 Please do not continue your attempts to restrict / close down the strip clubs in Portsmouth. I do not think these places to be either dangerous or inappropriate. I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud,

zealous voices of the few. Furthermore, I do not think they negatively impact the world's view of Portsmouth as a city as they are well managed and are basically harmless fun.

4.64 I am a resident of Portsmouth and as such I am in favour of letting the existing lapdancing clubs, sex shops and other establishments remain. I do not currently use these venues but I strongly wish to have the choice to do so should I want to.

I am opposed to section 7.13 & 7.14 location of premises, and also 7.10 to having a nil policy. The current economic climate is not the time for Portsmouth City Council to consider moves that could close local businesses and lose jobs.

I am also opposed to the Solent Feminist Network being so heavily involved in this matter. Several people who spoke out at the meeting on 24th February regarding this act seemed to be expressing entirely subjective personal moral objections to strip clubs and sex shops, and this is unacceptable. Local government has a responsibility to citizens to ensure that decisions it makes are not biased or inflected with this kind of personal opinion. I am strongly opposed to decision making processes being influenced in this way and will be writing to my MP if the council begins to vote on matters based on the personal moral objections of a minority.

I would also direct you to the support being garnered for these establishments within social networking site Facebook. Over 1100 people have joined the Facebook support group in recent weeks, compared with the 199 members of the Solent Feminist Network page. This really should speak volumes to the council about not upholding the influence of a minority.

No - I do not agree with the proposed policy considerations in respect of situations where the grant of a licence would be inappropriate having regard to the use of the premises in the vicinity as set out in paragraphs 7.13 & 7.14 of the draft policy. 'Vicinity' is not defined in the 1982 Act and the council are assuming a shared understanding of this. Portsmouth is a densely populated city, and the council seems to be translating 'vicinity' to mean 'anywhere'.

No - I do not agree with the council's proposed preliminary conclusion that there is not place within the city of Portsmouth of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment as set out in paragraph 7.10 of the draft policy. Sex establishments operate within legal boundaries, and this draft policy is based on the subjective moral opinions of a minority. The council is not operating within legal boundaries by moving this policy forward on these grounds. As stated above, the loose 'translation' of the act is enabling a small number of people to forcefully impose their views on the majority.

Yes - I think that existing sex establishment premises should be allowed to continue to trade so long as they comply with the law and other policy considerations. The council cannot justify even discussing closing businesses on the grounds of a few people's moral objections at a time of economic crisis, let alone actually doing it. There should be freedom of choice, and a forward thinking council would support diversity of business, not discuss bringing in policies like this at a time of severe economic austerity.

Other comments - Please stop wasting time on issues like this, raised as a concern by an entirely subjective moral minority, when there are other far more important issues for the council to focus on.

- 4.65 I am writing to you to understand my frustration with the decision with the closure of strip clubs Portsmouth and on of the strip clubs that do operate in Portsmouth is Wiggle. I am a cleaner at Wiggle and it is my first job, it took me a number of years to find a job and especially one that i like, the people that work there have been so good and friendly to me and so understandable. With the closure of this club will also see my job not existing anymore and especially in these bad times for people financially, and i know it is going to take me a lot to find another job. With the decision of closing strip clubs you must allocate us with jobs because a lot of us are students and do require money to live, eat and also get us to places. I want to have a choice of where i go and i don't not want to be unemployed. I personally think the decision should go to the girls who do work there because they are females and they will be affected with this decision too.
- 4.66 I think that lap dancing clubs should be allowed and it's up to customer to choose whether they want to attend these venues. The choice should be made by the customer. This is a safe environment and creates jobs.
- 4.67 i think that existing establishments should be aloud to continue providing they operate to strict guide lines. these clubs have been in portsmouth for a number of years now so why close them, they are less trouble then a normal night club.
- 4.68 Please do not have a blanket ban on stripclubs in Portsmouth, I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few.
- 4.69 i have been made aware that you are thinking about closing lap dancing clubs in portsmouth i strongly advise you not to do this as i use them often, and they are doing no harm to yourselves keeping them open all you would be doing is putting lots of people out of work so do not shut them down!!
- 4.70 I am a resident of the area surrounding Portsmouth and visit Portsmouth for both business and leisure. I'm in favour of letting the existing lap dance clubs remain. I may or may not use these venues but feel that I should have the choice.

I am opposed to section 7. 13 & 7. 14 Location of premises and I am opposed to section 7.10 To having a Nil policy I am in favour of keeping existing establishments. Forcing them to close will put people out of job and cause there to be a noticeable drop in income for the city. I am aware of the amount of money that comes through the clubs, and with Portsmouth being such an important naval shipyard, for both our forces and other nations, it seems ridiculous to force them to go else where to spend their money.

These premises do not open till 10pm so do not affect children who should be in bed at that time. They do not cause any trouble and if they did we can oppose the renewal of their license. There is always adequate security on shift, and the large number of staff that work there reduces the chances of any anti social behaviour comming from the clubs.

Shutting down lap-dancing venues in Portsmouth would be irresponsible in the current financial climate. The large majority of the money generated by these establishments is

earned by members of your own counsel or the neighbouring ones. By closing them you would be reducing the number of local jobs and reducing the amount of trade your city has.

I know a few women who work in some of these establishments and every single one of them works there through choice. The way the establishments are run is all above board and often better than normal night clubs.

In particular, I support the right of Wiggle to remain open, in it's current location which I do not feel to be either dangerous or inappropriate. I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few.

4.71 I feel that there should be more lap dance clubs in portsmouth to be in line with other coastal towns

4.72 I rarely go to strip-clubs myself but I know people who work in them and surely it is their CHOICE if they want to work in that industry?

They aren't forcing any of the girls to stay, neither do they treat them unfairly.

This is coming from experience of working in one as a bartender.

Shutting the club will take away many jobs affecting in increasing the rate of unemployment.

Requesting you to think about it and let the people have their own choices to make.

4.73 People should be free, to work, to entertain themselves and in whatever manner they choose within the law. I have not heard of any trouble arising from these venues and can only imagine it is further evidence that PCC are determined to kill off Portsmouths Nightlife. First the clubs & Pubs, now these.

4.74 It has come to my attention that the strip clubs of Portsmouth may be forced to close as soon as Friday. My girlfriend works in Elegance, which is her only source of income. Shutting the club will see her out of a job, along with every other girl that works there. No one is being forced to do anything they do not want to. If anything, the men who go in there are the ones who are taken advantage of.

I firmly believe that this is an erosion of the civil liberties of the silent many to placate the loud, zealous voices of the few. I hope you do the right thing and leave the clubs be.

4.75 I do believe there are locations suitable for sex establishments within Portsmouth, and to come to the conclusion prior to an application being received is un democratic.

Whilst not my chosen leisure time pursuit, i do believe many people enjoy this sort of entertainment.

They also can be responsible for bringing trade to the city, Stag parties, football/ rugby/cricket tours, and voyeur meetings. Maybe not the primary reason the city is chosen, however often a contributory factor.

Having travelled to many cities throughout the UK and overseas, these types of establishment can work within a community, they often remove the sex tout from the residential areas.

Germany have the eros centres, generally located in industrial estates within a city area, these areas are often unoccupied during the night hours, even if they are these are people going about work, children are seldom found in or transiting these areas. Parking is often in abundance at the times sex clubs make there business. Areas such as the industrial area to the west of Rudmore, units are often vacant, the area kiln road, a cul de sac industrial area.

In the US and Canada they can be found in retail malls similar to the area adjacent to Tesco at north harbour, or fitzherbert rd, farlington.

Within many european cities they are in the city centre nightlife area, not only Amsterdam, but beautiful Cities like Antwerp and Brugge. These are tasteful facades often maintained to a higher standard than adjacent properties.

In China they cna be found on the upper floors of office buildings, often redundant after 6PM.

To make the statement 'The council has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within Portsmouth in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.' is rather NIMBIE and pre determined. If an individual wishes to invest in a buisness and considers Portsmouth marketable, lets listen then make a judgment.

I have been affected by an unlicensed brothel, on my doorstep in Baffins. It took 4 years for the police to actually close it. Each time it was raided it started again within hours! Brothels are of course illegal however i believe if they were legalised and liscenced as sex clubs are, more control is maintained. if we say no carte blanc to sex clubs we will push them underground, and uncontrolable.

The statement 'The council has reached the preliminary conclusion that there is no place within Portsmouth in which it would be appropriate to licence a sex establishment.' should not be included in and form of planning policy, guidance or advice. It should infact be retracted.

Sex Clubs can work, pay taxes and buisness rates, lets not discourage any type of buisness from our city.

- 4.76 I am just sending a quick email regarding the attempted closure of both strip clubs. I am currently a member of staff (bar staff) at Wiggle and have been since it opened in September. I believe it to be unfair and an unjust act to have them both closed down, they are both popular venues for both males and females of the Portsmouth area. It is MORE than just a strip club, it is main workers only source of income, not only would the dancers have no income, but the bar staff, the cleaners, the managers, and the security. That is a lot of people that you will be leaving with no source of income for no reason at all, other than a couple members of the public that are unhappy. But, the clubs are not on

the high street, they don't have visible advertising and cause no harm to anybody that works there or that enjoys spending time there.

- 4.77 I would like to show my support or Portsmouth's strip clubs ..And would like to have a choice as to which club I wanna go to
- 4.78 I am writing with reference to the potential shut down of the lap clubs in Portsmouth. I am currently a dancer in my new career and am wholeheartedly enjoying it.

I work for mr I O, and I believe him to be a superb boss. I love working here in Portsmouth and will be devastated to see his clubs shut down. Please reconsider your thoughts to dispose of these establishments. it is an amazing club and people enjoy coming to them

- 4.79 I work in the strip club in portsmouth, this is my only job, I'm self employed, pay tax return every year, I support my school age child with money I earn, pay my bills myself. .. Don't want to be unemployed ... Or go on benefits.. Like some lazy people in this country... Please!!! Don't let shut the gentelmens clubs in Pourtsmouth III!!!

- 4.80 I don't think you have the right to take away a choice I want to make When I am on a night out, if I want to go to a lap dancing then I have the right to

- 4.81 I am completely opposed to this draft policy because the councils view is that of nil sev's. This was a pre judgement In the first place and should not have been approved, The only grounds it was passed through was on morality and that is not allowed by government. I cannot believe that the council has approved this policy before the consultation took place.

I am totally against 7.10,7.13,7.14,7.15, I am also against all the other conditions such as planning and accountancy issues which have nothing to do with Licensing, Licensing should be the only consideration when making an application, we already have enough legislation that covers everything else.

I have not met many people who agree with this policy and we shall prove this with our petitions the ratio for us is 9 to 1, Peoples attitude is that of live and let live. If a person wants to go to a lap dance club it should be his or her choice.

We have over 1200 people on facebook there are people writing into the news with some fantastic views, One chap actually compares our council to one in France that tried to stop the Can- Can film in 1960. I will send you a copy, Others are just disgusted at the fact that the council is or can take the stand on making over 100 people redundant over something that is this trivial.

The main objections are moral, The Schools and Churches are not open when we are trading so 7.13 to 7.15 should not count, We are the best run licensed clubs in the city and should be allowed to continue our legal trade.

I would like to express my support for the existing operating Lap dancing clubs in Portsmouth. I know that they are well run and cause no problems to anyone. I am against this draft policy because it prejudices any application by having a NIL policy and leads to the 6 week consultation being pointless.

4.82 I write further to the articles in The News concerning lap dancing clubs. I would like to express my opinion that, although I have no problem with them in a suitable location, I consider that Waverley Road (the location of 'Elegance') which is an entirely residential area, is an entirely unsuitable location.

Indeed it was my understanding that all nightclubs were supposed to be located in the Guildhall Walk or Gunwharf areas, so how Elegance got a licence in Waverley Road has always surprised me.

4.83 I don't think there's anything wrong with these clubs, I go to Wiggles on a regular basis & it's relaxing, girls & all staff are all friendly, & the girls do not parade in the streets naked, I don't see what the problem is, it's kept behind closed doors.

4.84 I FIND IT SAD THAT PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL HAVE TAKEN SUCH A PURITAN STANCE, THIS IS SUPPOSE TO BE 2012, BUT THE COUNCIL IS ACTING LIKE ITS 1952, I DO NOT USE THESE VENUES BUT I BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE WHO DO SHOULD HAVE THAT RIGHT

4.85 I feel now more ashamed to pay £100+ as Council Tax which I now feel I can rather spend on any of these strip clubs. We live in 21st century and it's just not right to see councils reacting this way to some feminist groups.

4.86 I currently work as bar staff at Wiggle nightclub, and I have in the past worked at Elegance nightclub. I also work 25 hours a week for HMRC and am also a full time student at Portsmouth University completing my second degree. This is my second degree and I have to fund it completely by myself, without my job at Wiggle I would not be able to support myself and therefore would not be able to complete my degree. Having worked in other bars I was surprised to find that both Elegance and Wiggle had very relaxed atmospheres and I have never seen any occasions of violence towards myself or the dancers. My experience of working at Wiggle has been a positive one and I feel that I am well respected as an employee. Having worked with the dancers for some time, I can say that they give the impression that they are also well treated and have heard no complaints towards the management. I would also like to say that I have never felt unsafe when working at either Wiggle or Elegance or when arriving or leaving. The management employ excellent security staff and there are over 30 high tech cameras ensuring our safety.

4.87 I would like to show my support for the existing lapdancing clubs in Portsmouth. I believe that people should have a choice as to where they want to go and as to how they spend their money.

I work behind the bar at Wiggle nightclub and use the money I earn there to support myself through my second degree at Portsmouth University. If the club were to close I would lose a massive part of my income and might not be able to complete my degree. I have never seen any trouble at work or outside work and unlike ordinary clubs, the customers do not get blind drunk and cause disturbances. We have a lot of local customers but we also get customers who are visiting Portsmouth.

Also, the location of the existing clubs is perfectly acceptable, not too close to places of worship or schools.

I agree that Portsmouth does not need any new strip clubs, but the ones it has should be allowed to stay open.

4.88 I have no issue with these type of clubs existing, they should be allowed. It is the customer that chooses to visit them and the licensing laws ensure that such places are safe for all to attend

4.89 I strongly believe it would be shocking to witness the Portsmouth strip clubs to close down.

I'm a promoter for Wiggle strip clubs and as a student it's a great way to earn a little extra cash.

I enjoy being a promoter for the club, it's social and I always feel safe.

I believe the dancers have a right to choose what they want to do.

Cutting out the Strip clubs will mean cutting jobs, not only of the dancers but the managers, bar tenders, security and promoters.

The unemployment rate is the highest it has been in 16 years in England. Portsmouth is the highest in the country.

Why cut more jobs when there's so little else out there available and it won't be easy for the employees to find new jobs.

Shut the clubs down and jobs will be lost. More unemployment in Portsmouth. This is not helping the economy.

Please do not close the strip clubs.

4.90 I would like to pledge my support towards all of the three lap and pole dancing clubs in Portsmouth.

I have only ever been to a lapdancing club once, maybe twice and I am not a frequent visitor by any means but I do feel that by trying to close these venues you are taking away people's rights. Men and women have a right to go to a pole or lapdancing club very much the same as men and women have the rights to go to a gay or lesbian club. If you were trying to close a gay man's bar you would have a possible riot on your hands. These clubs are doing no harm to anyone. The girls all choose to work there and get paid very well. They are also respected by its regulars and looked after to the highest possible level by the in house security. The visitors are also in there through their own choosing. They all know the rules and that is not to touch and be nice to the dancers. Portsmouth has already lost most of its seafront night entertainment and the guildhall walk area is now plagued by some violent incidents in the past. By closing more venues you are restricting people's choices and their rights. As far as I can see they do no harm and just because they are not everyone's cup of tea it does not mean they should be closed. I do not go to a mosque and never would but that doesn't mean they should be closed. I don't go to gay bars but that doesn't mean they should be closed. Well you get the point I am making. As far as I am aware the lapdancing and pole dancing clubs in Portsmouth have no records of any trouble unlike a few pubs I could mention.
Thank you for listening to my support and views.

4.91 I would like to pledge my support for existing lap dance establishments. It is my fair belief that they provide clean and safe entertainment and that it is the freedom of the individual to choose to work in or frequent such establishments.

- 4.92 I am writing to oppose the shutting down of strip clubs in Portsmouth. I am a dancer at Wiggle and have been working there since it opened. It is my sole income and I am registered as self employed.

In no way whatsoever have I ever been forced to work in this industry, I made that choice myself and it is supported by my family. The club is very well run and I feel safe working there. We have more than enough bouncers and CCTV throughout the premises. I thoroughly enjoy my job there and I also teach pole dancing there to other colleagues and as a form of fitness.

I am separated from my husband so depend on only myself to pay my rent/bills/food etc and am in the process of saving for my first house. This is something I would have struggled to do as a single person a year ago and will struggle to do if I am suddenly out of work.

I am very worried about the prospect of having to search for a job in the current economic climate and could be forced to claim benefits if the decision to shut down wiggle is made. Having never had to claim benefits before this is a daunting prospect and one that would mean I would have to move as my rental agreement does not allow it.

The views expressed by the feminist groups that claim we are violated and that we are making the location unsafe I strongly oppose. The club is discreet and there are always bouncers on the door so if anything that area is probably more safe! I have never felt unsafe before after or during work and in no means violated.

I have formed close friendships with the majority of my colleagues and have a good professional relationship with my manager and thoroughly enjoy working at wiggle. I work with a wide variation of woman from single mums supporting their children to students funding their tuition, all of whom would be greatly affected by this decision. It is my choice to work in this industry and I will be extremely disappointed if that choice is taking away from me. I hope you will take some of the points I have raised in this email into consideration when making your decision.

- 4.93 Please do not have a blanket ban on stripclubs in portsmouth, I firmly believe that this is unfair towards the employees who are working there. They are not doing anything illegal it is a genuine choice of career and if you choose to put a ban on this then you are not being fair to anyone. As expressed by Maddie Wallace: The traffic lights at the Elm Grove/Nictoria Rd North/South/Campbell Rd junction need a pedestrian crossing urgently. These issues a FAR more important than banning strip clubs. Strip clubs are harming no one.

Thank you for taking the time out to read these emails you have been receiving and you will see how much the citizens of Portsmouth disagree with your actions.

- 4.94 I have had a few close friends working in strip clubs and also visited some on quite a few occasions. The closing of the strip clubs in Portsmouth seem unneccassary as its not affecting anyone and above all will be taking away jobs for people. And in current climate, jobs are very difficult to come by.

The clubs have never had any trouble in or around them, as they are all very well run and stick to the council licensing. It would be a real loss to for the town and for all that work within them.

Please reconsider the closure of these clubs.

4.95 I strongly object to the manner in which PCC thinks that it has a right to disallow this type of establishment. There is less trouble if any with the police attending less in a whole year than the total times they have to attend pubs in the guildhall and Southsea area in a week. No one is forced to work there. No laws are being broken. Stop this form of injustice now and allow the Southsea establishment and the Guildhall establishment to continue providing a service to the community

4.96 You have a nudest beach for freedom of choice, what about my freedom of choice you take away strip clubs then you have to stop nudest beaches, girls in bikinis in the summer, underwear magazines and every nude thing on television a strip club is no different! So not only are you taking away my freedom of choice your taking jobs away from people in portsmouth who actually want to work instead of stealing money from hard working tax payers!

iv only worked at wiggle for a few weeks but so far its the best job iv ever had, I'm a bartender and the management has been the best out of the many companies iv worked for.

The customers enjoy themselves and keep coming back, like the rest of the world before I started working at a strip club I had a closed off view about it but I was wrong the dancers/strippers don't just dance naked as other people think they provide companionship and take time to make customers happy, where else can you get a warm safe environment where you feel happy to go to and in my case work in. As well as by not allowing the licence you'll be putting a lot of people out of work and going against what your trying to stop more people will go on jobseekers. what happened to FREEDOM of choice no one is forced or pressured into going to a strip club they go by choice and what you are doing is wrong and you know it and by not allowing the licence it would just make the government look bad.

4.97 I am writing with reference to the proposed nil policy for SEVs. I am shocked that in this time of high unemployment the council is even considering a Nil Policy. I understand the council is planning to use exceptions for the existing venues but feel even this would run the risk of being challenged at a later date which could create a legal case that would cost the tax payer quite a lot of money. Cambridge considered the same but their legal people advised them of the financial risks to the council. I would suggest before any decision is made it would be worthwhile discussing the legal impact with Cambridge.

4.98 I am writing in reference to the discussion of NIL SEV policy. WHY are you trying to close businesses? And if clubs are forced to move who is going to pay for it? Really think it should just be left alone and if there are new applications they should be treated on a case by case basis as previously.

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