

Sex Entertainment Venues and Sex Establishment Licensing Policy Consultation

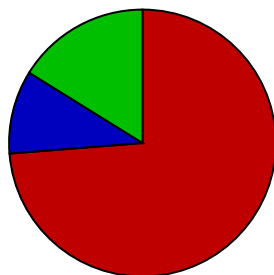
Sex establishment licensing policy consultation

Overview

From **09/06/2010** to **30/08/2010**, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham ran a consultation entitled '*Sex Entertainment Venues and Sex Establishment Licensing Policy Consultation*'. This report covers the online element of the consultation process, which was run from http://www.citizenspace.com/local/lbhf/Sex_Entertainment_Licensing_Policy

Topic 1: ADOPTION OF SCHEDULE 3, LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

Q1: Do you agree that it is a good idea for the Council to adopt Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the provisions introduced by s.27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009?

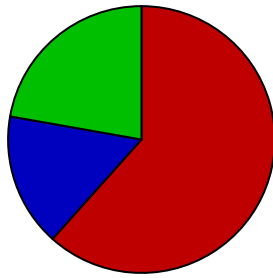


■ **Yes: 73%**
■ **No: 10%**
■ **Not sure: 16%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	55	73%
No	8	10%
Not sure	12	16%
Total	75	

Topic 2: GENERAL

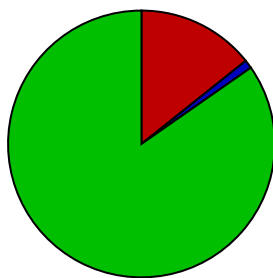
Q1: Do you feel that the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy is clearly written and easy to understand?



- **Yes: 61%**
- **No: 16%**
- **Not sure: 22%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	38	61%
No	10	16%
Not sure	14	22%
Total	62	

Q2: Do you think that the length of the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy is:

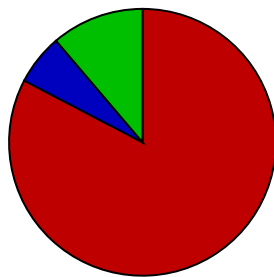


- **Too long: 14%**
- **Too short: 1%**
- **About right: 83%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Too long	9	14%
Too short	1	1%
About right	51	83%
Total	61	

Topic 3: DEFINITIONS

Q1: Do you think that it is useful to include definitions of sex establishments in the main body of the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy?

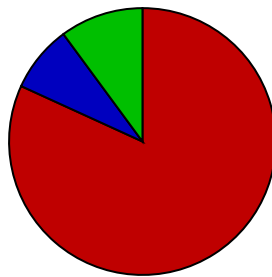


- Yes: 81%
- No: 6%
- Not sure: 11%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	50	81%
No	4	6%
Not sure	7	11%
Total	61	

Topic 4: RELEVANT LOCALITY

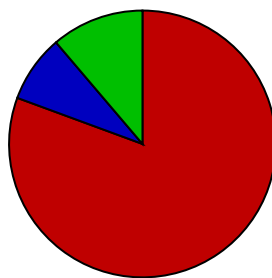
Q1: Do you think that it is a good idea for the council to operate a “relevant locations” policy which limits the number and type of sex establishments permitted within the borough?



- **Yes: 81%**
- **No: 8%**
- **Not sure: 10%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	48	81%
No	5	8%
Not sure	6	10%
Total	59	

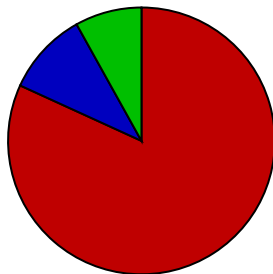
Q2: Do you think that it would be useful to include a map, indicating the different wards, in the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy?



- **Yes: 79%**
- **No: 8%**
- **Not sure: 11%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	47	79%
No	5	8%
Not sure	7	11%
Total	59	

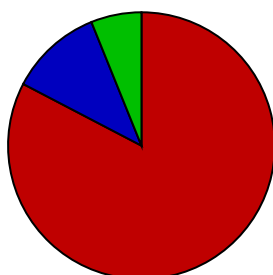
Q3: Do you agree that it is inappropriate to issue a licence for a sex establishment licence, near purely or primarily residential accommodation?



■ **Yes: 81%**
■ **No: 10%**
■ **Not sure: 8%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	48	81%
No	6	10%
Not sure	5	8%
Total	59	

Q4: Do you agree that it is inappropriate to issue a licence for a sex establishment licence, near schools, play areas, nurseries, youth clubs, children’s centres or similar places?

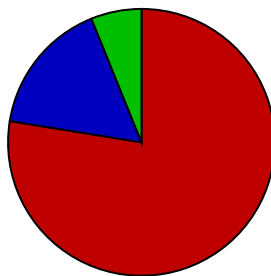


■ **Yes: 81%**
■ **No: 11%**
■ **Not sure: 6%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	48	81%
No	7	11%

Not sure	4	6%
Total	59	

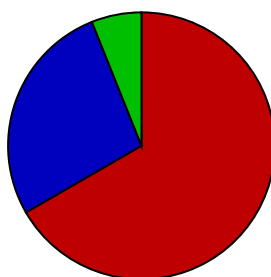
Q5: Do you agree that it is inappropriate to issue a licence for a sex establishment licence, near access routes to and from schools, play areas, nurseries, children’s centres or similar premises?



■ **Yes: 76%**
■ **No: 16%**
■ **Not sure: 6%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	45	76%
No	10	16%
Not sure	4	6%
Total	59	

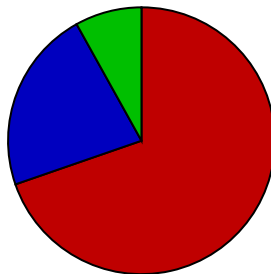
Q6: Do you agree that it is inappropriate to issue a licence for a sex establishment licence, near places of worship?



■ **Yes: 66%**
■ **No: 27%**
■ **Not sure: 6%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	39	66%
No	16	27%
Not sure	4	6%
Total	59	

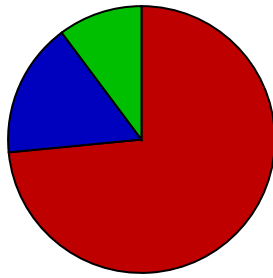
Q7: Do you agree that it is inappropriate to issue a licence for a sex establishment licence, near community facilities or public buildings including, but not limited to, swimming pools, leisure centres, public parks, youth centres/clubs and sheltered housing?



■ **Yes: 69%**
 ■ **No: 22%**
 ■ **Not sure: 8%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	41	69%
No	13	22%
Not sure	5	8%
Total	59	

Q8: Do you agree that it is inappropriate to issue a licence for a sex establishment licence, near historic buildings or tourist attractions?

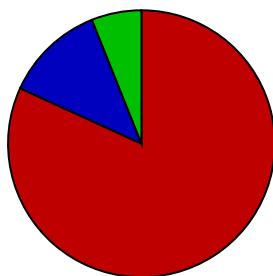


- Yes: 72%
- No: 16%
- Not sure: 10%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	43	72%
No	10	16%
Not sure	6	10%
Total	59	

Topic 5: SUITABILITY OF PREMISES

Q1: Cumulative (collective) adverse impact of existing sex related licensed activities in the vicinity of the proposed premises?

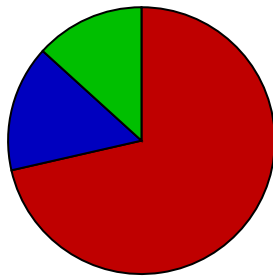


- Yes: 81%
- No: 12%
- Not sure: 6%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	47	81%
No	7	12%

Not sure	4	6%
Total	58	

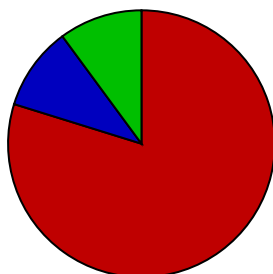
Q2: Proximity to areas with the highest levels of recorded crime?



- **Yes: 70%**
- **No: 15%**
- **Not sure: 13%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	41	70%
No	9	15%
Not sure	8	13%
Total	58	

Q3: Whether the premises have met the relevant planning requirements?

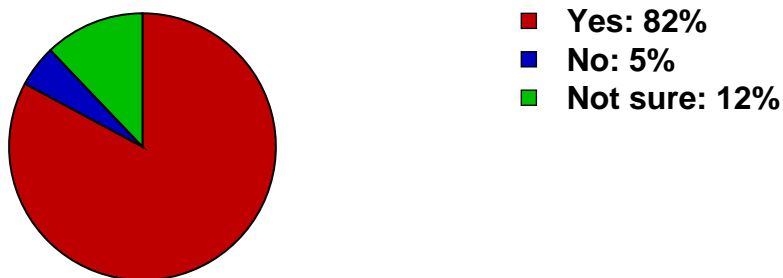


- **Yes: 79%**
- **No: 10%**
- **Not sure: 10%**

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	46	79%

No	6	10%
Not sure	6	10%
Total	58	

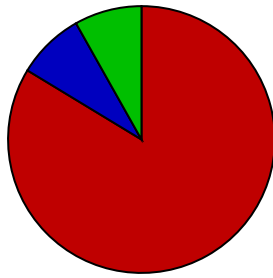
Q4: Whether the applicant is fit and proper to hold the licence. This may include considering the operation of existing or previous licences held by the applicant, and/or any reports received about the applicant from the Police or other sources.



Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	48	82%
No	3	5%
Not sure	7	12%
Total	58	

Topic 6: FIT AND PROPER APPLICANTS

Q1: Each local authority has individual requirements that they will consider when deciding whether or not an applicant is fit and proper to hold a licence. Whilst the Act allows objections to be made on any grounds, do you think that it would be useful to provide information in the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy about what this council will require?

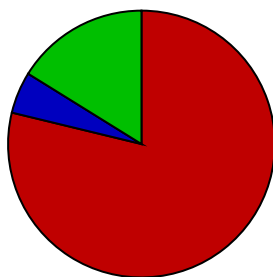


- Yes: 82%
- No: 8%
- Not sure: 8%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	46	82%
No	5	8%
Not sure	5	8%
Total	56	

Topic 7: STANDARD CONDITIONS

Q1: We have included a “Schedule of standard conditions”. Do you think that it is useful to include this information in the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy?



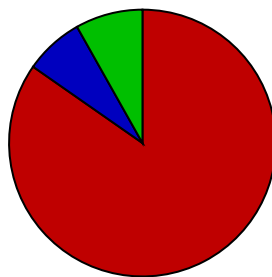
- Yes: 78%
- No: 5%
- Not sure: 16%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	44	78%
No	3	5%

Not sure	9	16%
Total	56	

Topic 8: CONSULTEES AND RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

Q1: Do you think that it would be useful to include details of the consultees and responsible authorities used for this type of application in the draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy?

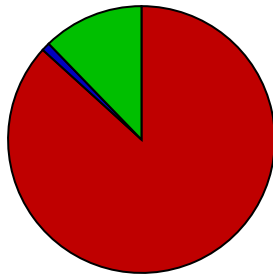


- Yes: 83%
- No: 7%
- Not sure: 8%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	47	83%
No	4	7%
Not sure	5	8%
Total	56	

Topic 9: APPLICATIONS

Q1: Do you think that it would be useful to include details of the application process for new, renewal transfer and variation applications in this draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy?

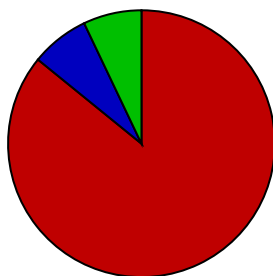


- Yes: 85%
- No: 1%
- Not sure: 12%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	48	85%
No	1	1%
Not sure	7	12%
Total	56	

Topic 10: OBJECTIONS

Q1: Do you think that it would be useful to include details of how to make objections in this draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy?



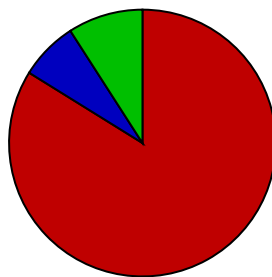
- Yes: 85%
- No: 7%
- Not sure: 7%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	47	85%
No	4	7%

Not sure	4	7%
Total	55	

Topic 11: HEARINGS

Q1: Do you think that it would be useful to include details of the hearings process for new, renewal transfer and variation applications in this draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy?

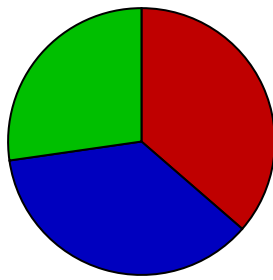


- Yes: 83%
- No: 7%
- Not sure: 9%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	46	83%
No	4	7%
Not sure	5	9%
Total	55	

Topic 12: FEES

Q1: We currently charge £16,688 to licence sex establishments. Do you think this is reasonable?



- Yes: 36%
- No: 36%
- Not sure: 27%

Option	Value	Percentage
Yes	20	36%
No	20	36%
Not sure	15	27%
Total	55	

Topic 13: MISCELLANEOUS

Q1: If you would like to make any other comments around this consultation on this draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy please detail them below.

There are 50 responses to this question. Please see Appendix A for the text of these responses.

Appendix A

If you would like to make any other comments around this consultation on this draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy please detail them below.

1. i frankly think they lead to sexual frusration and hate of women becos the men feel teased. sexual attacks will increase so i actually would like them banned, or at least their activities forced to be ultra tame and 60 percent of their profits given to rape crisis and entry fee at least 200 pounds. this may all sound extreme but we really should not have sex establishments in residential boroughs, it will also bring prostitution. they will endanger women in the borough.
2. Shd be more expensive to buy licence.
3. Most of what has been suggested seems to be common sense and should be implemented in the Licensing Policy document. Strict controls on what goes on inside these establishments should be observed by the Police on an irregular basis, even undercover if deemed necessary. Any infringement of the rules should be stamped on immediately, with the appropriate penalties meted out with a clear understanding that this will end in licence revocation if repeated, with no appeal.
4. These establishments are primarily about sexual exploitation of both men and women and should have the most stringent licensing condition paricularly in the residential districts of this borough. They also have a history of attracting serious antisocial behaviour in term of late night noise & disturbance, and in some cases drug distribution and prostitution.
5. We need to change perceived attitudes about these types of establishments which denigrate women. Generally, permission should not be given and never near a residential area, church, school or other establishments mentioned in your list.
6. I think that Hammersmith and Fulham Council should adopt the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy and impose more control. I accept there may be a demand for these clubs but then enforce the regulations more strictly. Not in residential areas, avoid proximity to religious and child-activity buildings and mainly increase the licence charge. £16,688 is far too low - that works out at £46 a night: the price of a lap dance?
7. The Licence fee for Sex Establishments should be higher.
8. Fees could be a lot higher. in general these establishments should be severely restricted, particularly around residential areas.
9. I have lived in Carthew Road since 1986. Since 'Secrets' opened - I have noticed fewer incidents of fights and scuffles in the street, vomit and blood on the pavement and noise in the later hours. The pubs which were on the site previously were rough pubs, with no doormen and much more hassling of women who passed by. I am much happier to pass Secrets, late at night, as it is well run (as far as I can see from the outside), the doormen are vigilant and the customers arrive and leave quietly (almost surrepticiously) getting into their waiting taxis or cars with drivers and leaving with no trouble. I have never been hassled as I pass by. When I have met the girls working there on the way to the tube (my occiasional very early morning on the way to work - their late night, on the way home from work) I have found them to be sober, educated and

probably good citizens. In fact a few have been students paying their way through medicine or legal degree courses. Perhaps we should look at this in a practical light before we rush into a 'not in my back yard' response. I am not troubled by Secrets - and if we can keep the same respect for the neighbours (signs asking for quiet leaving, no litter or vomit on the pavement, doormen who encourage quiet arrival and leaving etc) then I would not mind similar establishments in my area. Not too many, mind, but they have to go somewhere.

10. the main reason i am interested in this issue is that i live on edith road where the crescent club (has been renamed roots & kultured) exists right across the road. i am apalled that such a venue exists in this neighbourhood which is primarily residential. it brings the tone of the area right down. for such a centrally located place the license should be given to a gastro-pub (i saw a very good example of "the jam tree" not that far away) or a decent restaurant/coffee shop.

11. Hammersmith and Fulham Council must adopt the Sex Establishment Licensing Policy. Lap dancing clubs are degrading and objectify women. There is already one lap dancing club in the borough and this is one too many. Residents successfully fought against the last lap dancing application made in the borough and this shows that the people of Hammersmith & Fulham do not want this kind of venue in our area. I speak as a male resident and urge the council to join with the residents in opposing these establishments and keeping Hammersmith & Fulham a pleasant, family friendly area to live in and socialise in.

12. The licensing fee should be significantly higher than proposed, at least 40% of gross annual profits. If men wish to go to this sort of place, they can visit the Netherlands, where just about anything is tolerated, including really sick pornography. As for the Carthew Road resident's experience, probably ANY sort of business would have been a great improvement on the "rough pubs" that magnetised the scufflers and vomiters. There is no logic in saying that these sorts of places HAVE to go somewhere. Says who? The people who stand to make huge profits? Sex venues don't have a "right" to open just anywhere, and if ordinary people don't stand up for keeping their borough free from such businesses, then the atmosphere of our neighbourhoods will be determined not by decent families and businesses but by an ever-growing sleaze factor.

13. The license charge for sex establishments should be higher than the current £16,688.

14. the council should charge more than the current tariff to sex establishments

15. See hard-copy response to consultation.

16. Sexual entertainment businesses are NEVER of benefit to the local community and simply draw undesirable characters from other areas. The number of sexual entertainment establishments should be strictly limited. Their location should be restricted to city centres only. The establishments make huge profits: they should pay much higher council rates and should be subject to strict employment codes - as it is, the "girls" often have to pay to perform and are "self-employed".

17. The charge for an annual licence should be higher than £16,688. This type of entertainment has no place in or near residential areas, schools, parks or young people hang out. What influenced the recent case of two eleven year old

boys who attempted to rape a child of eight. True or false? But where did they even get the idea of trying in the first place? There is too much overt exposure of sex generally, and which also nenigrates the female section in our society.

18. The Sex Establishment Licensing Policy is unnecessary. It is further bureaucracy and will achieve nothing. Lap dancing clubs, or striptease venues are extremely rare. Where they do exist, then they provide entertainment. If a venue is not being run properly then its licence may be revoked. The power to do this already exists.

19. These establishments are degrading and exploitative to everyone involved, the council should not collude with this traffic. We should make the licence fee prohibitive and let Westminster keep this trade

20. Annual Licence fee for Sex Establishments should be much higher.

21. I can't understand that in today's modern Britain, we are still having to make law abiding decisions on the sex industry. These venues will have to go somewhere if not in H&F or at least in selective areas of the borough because as a modern society, everyone should have a choice of entertainment and sex being a natural thing shouldn't be chastised or singled out simply because we Brits don't want that kind of thing. Others such as the single lad, should not be deprived of such entertainment, it's a lucrative business and one of a few that continues to flourish in a recession. The girls that work in this industry often have hefty university loans to pay back and this short career takes the burden away. The industry has worked well in the Netherlands and so long as they comply within the laws and pay their way in taxes, we should embrace it and not go down the route of draconian measures.

22. This is a complete 'overkill' in terms of controlling this activity. It is a sad reflection of our society today that there cannot be a broad acceptance of a limited number of establishments, where they are well-run and do not conflict with good behaviour and social responsibility generally in our residential neighbourhoods. Rowdy pubs and drunken behaviour has far more 'cost' to our police service, NHS and society at large than any problems stemming from such so-called sex establishments. Please keep things in perspective.

23. Looking at the cost of a license for an 'establishment' and the funds taken, the fee should be a lot higher, almost to the point of crippling. I think the fees could be upped to at least £250k per annum and still they would not be enough. Hammersmith and Fulham does not need to support this industry, Campden and Westminster can keep their monopoly on the Establishments.

24. Licence Fees should be increased in proportion to the social impact of these venues.

25. I believe that the fees for Sexual Establishments should be much higher. I do not think these establishments should exist in residential areas and their activities should be closely monitored by the relevant licensing authority and the police. If the rules set down by the relevant authorities are found to be abused then the licence should be removed from the establishment with no recourse to appeal.

26. We have held a sex establishment license in Hammersmith for a number of years under the name of simply Pleasure. We have asked for a reduction of fees on numerous occasions and asked for a breakdown of how the money is spent as it is supposed to be a not-for-profit making fee !! The fee of over 16K is unacceptable and outrageous, we would like a reply to our inquiries and will be taking the matter further. The council should note that a great number of councils have reduced their fees. We would welcome the opportunity to put our

case to the licensing board , best regards T Hemming

27. Sexual activities must not be commercialised. It demoralise the public and encourage contempt, then crimes. The charge of £16K/year is far too low for a business to think that they can "buy" the license. Services are already commonly available in Soho and privately advertised in the media. It is not in the in interest of the general public to be served on sex locally.

28. I think the fees should be different for different types of establishment. Perhaps based on m2 size of the establishment, whether it is a sex shop or venue. I think that sex shops should be allowed to display the same items in it's windows as a lingerie / clothes shop would. This is believe s far better than having blacked out windows in our small community shops. For example the windows of the sex shop on Hammersmith Road is 99.9% of the time tastefully done. Or Anne Summers on Kensington High Street. I feel that these shops, although Anne Summers is out of our jurisdiction, would look far seedier if their windows had to be blacked out. Also the double electric door entry of smaller sex shops seems over the top to me too tho I appreciate that it is based on the good judgement of the proprietor as to what they place on the other side of the door. Perhaps sex toys, videos etc could not be allowed to be visible from outside the shop when the door is open? I would also like to ask about newsagents that display pornographic magazines. These are titillating and in my area regularly on the lower shelves, at the eye level of small children, displaying almost naked women in a range of poses on their front covers. I believe this practice should also be covered by this policy.