

Licensing Committee

Agenda



Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: The Council Chamber - City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

Distribution:

Councillors: Marley Bennett, Sarah Classick, Chris Davies, Richard Eddy, Emma Edwards, Paul Goggin, Katy Grant, Fi Hance, Jonathan Hucker, Philippa Hulme, Brenda Massey, Steve Pearce, Guy Poultney, Christine Townsend and Chris Windows

Issued by: Allison Taylor, Democratic Services

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Date: Wednesday, 20 July 2022



Agenda

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

(Pages 4 - 6)

2. Apologies for Absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

To note any declarations of interest from the Councillors. They are asked to indicate the relevant agenda item, the nature of the interest and in particular whether it is a **disclosable pecuniary interest**.

Please note that the Register of Interests is available at

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/councillors/members-interests-gifts-and-hospitality-register>

Any declarations of interest made at the meeting which is not on the register of interests should be notified to the Monitoring Officer for inclusion.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

To agree as a correct record

(Pages 7 - 13)

5. Public Forum

Any member of the public or Councillor may participate in Public Forum. The detailed arrangements for so doing are set out in the Public Information Sheet at the back of this agenda. Public Forum items should be emailed to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk and please note that the following deadlines will apply in relation to this meeting:-

Questions - Written questions must be received 3 clear working days prior to the meeting. For this meeting, this means that your question(s) must be received in this office at the latest by 5 pm on **22 July 2022**.

Petitions and Statements - Petitions and statements must be received on the working day prior to the meeting. For this meeting this means that your submission must be received in this office at the latest by 12.00 noon on **27 July 2022**.



Members of the Licensing Committee will not respond to queries in relation to the draft policy ahead of the committee meeting. The council's Newsdesk will respond to any media enquiries relating to the draft policy on behalf of the committee.

6. Sex Establishment Policy Review

(Pages 14 - 937)



Public Information Sheet

Inspection of Papers - Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

You can find papers for all our meetings on our website at www.bristol.gov.uk.

Public meetings

Public meetings including Cabinet, Full Council, regulatory meetings (where planning and licensing decisions are made) and scrutiny will now be held at City Hall.

Members of the press and public who plan to attend City Hall are advised that you may be asked to watch the meeting on a screen in another room should the numbers attending exceed the maximum occupancy of the meeting venue.

COVID-19 Prevention Measures at City Hall (June 2022)

When attending a meeting at City Hall, the following COVID-19 prevention guidance is advised:

- promotion of good hand hygiene: washing and disinfecting hands frequently
- while face coverings are no longer mandatory, we will continue to recommend their use in venues and workplaces with limited ventilation or large groups of people.
- although legal restrictions have been removed, we should continue to be mindful of others as we navigate this next phase of the pandemic.

COVID-19 Safety Measures for Attendance at Council Meetings (June 2022)

We request that no one attends a Council Meeting if they:

- are required to self-isolate from another country
- are suffering from symptoms of COVID-19 or
- have tested positive for COVID-19

Other formats and languages and assistance for those with hearing impairment

You can get committee papers in other formats (e.g. large print, audio tape, braille etc) or in community languages by contacting the Democratic Services Officer. Please give as much notice as possible. We cannot guarantee re-formatting or translation of papers before the date of a particular meeting.

Committee rooms are fitted with induction loops to assist people with hearing impairment. If you require any assistance with this please speak to the Democratic Services Officer.



Public Forum

Members of the public may make a written statement ask a question or present a petition to most meetings. Your statement or question will be sent to the Committee Members and will be published on the Council's website before the meeting. Please send it to democratic.services@bristol.gov.uk.

The following requirements apply:

- The statement is received no later than **12.00 noon on the working day before the meeting** and is about a matter which is the responsibility of the committee concerned.
- The question is received no later than **5pm three clear working days before the meeting**.

Any statement submitted should be no longer than one side of A4 paper. If the statement is longer than this, then for reasons of cost, it may be that only the first sheet will be copied and made available at the meeting. For copyright reasons, we are unable to reproduce or publish newspaper or magazine articles that may be attached to statements.

By participating in public forum business, we will assume that you have consented to your name and the details of your submission being recorded and circulated to the Committee and published within the minutes. Your statement or question will also be made available to the public via publication on the Council's website and may be provided upon request in response to Freedom of Information Act requests in the future.

We will try to remove personal and identifiable information. However, because of time constraints we cannot guarantee this, and you may therefore wish to consider if your statement contains information that you would prefer not to be in the public domain. Other committee papers may be placed on the council's website and information within them may be searchable on the internet.

During the meeting:

- Public Forum is normally one of the first items on the agenda, although statements and petitions that relate to specific items on the agenda may be taken just before the item concerned.
- There will be no debate on statements or petitions.
- The Chair will call each submission in turn. When you are invited to speak, please make sure that your presentation focuses on the key issues that you would like Members to consider. This will have the greatest impact.
- Your time allocation may have to be strictly limited if there are a lot of submissions. **This may be as short as one minute.**
- If there are a large number of submissions on one matter a representative may be requested to speak on the groups behalf.
- If you do not attend or speak at the meeting at which your public forum submission is being taken your statement will be noted by Members.
- Under our security arrangements, please note that members of the public (and bags) may be searched. This may apply in the interests of helping to ensure a safe meeting environment for all attending.

- As part of the drive to reduce single-use plastics in council-owned buildings, please bring your own water bottle in order to fill up from the water dispenser.

For further information about procedure rules please refer to our Constitution <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/how-council-decisions-are-made/constitution>

Webcasting/ Recording of meetings

Members of the public attending meetings or taking part in Public forum are advised that all Full Council and Cabinet meetings and some other committee meetings are now filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the council's [webcasting pages](#). The whole of the meeting is filmed (except where there are confidential or exempt items). If you ask a question or make a representation, then you are likely to be filmed and will be deemed to have given your consent to this. If you do not wish to be filmed you need to make yourself known to the webcasting staff. However, the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now means that persons attending meetings may take photographs, film and audio record the proceedings and report on the meeting (Oral commentary is not permitted during the meeting as it would be disruptive). Members of the public should therefore be aware that they may be filmed by others attending and that is not within the council's control.

The privacy notice for Democratic Services can be viewed at www.bristol.gov.uk/about-our-website/privacy-and-processing-notice-for-resource-services



**Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Licensing Committee**

16 June 2022 at 10.00 am



Members Present:-

Councillors: Marley Bennett (Chair), Sarah Classick, Christine Townsend (Vice-Chair), Chris Davies, Richard Eddy, Emma Edwards, Katy Grant, Jonathan Hucker, Philippa Hulme, Brenda Massey, Steve Pearce, Guy Poultney, and Chris Windows

Officers in Attendance:-

Carly Heath (Night Time Economy Adviser), Lynne Harvey (Legal Adviser), Abigail Holman (Licensing Policy Advisor), Jonathan Martin (Trading Standards and Private Housing Manager) and Jeremy Livitt (Democratic Services)

1. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

The Chair welcomed all parties to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chris Davies, Paul Goggin and Fi Hance.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting held on Monday 23rd August 2021.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 23rd August 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. Public Forum

There was no Public Forum for this meeting.



6. Annual Business Report

The Committee considered the Annual Business Report.

Membership, Chair and Vice-Chair

Members noted the membership of the Committee and that Councillor Marley Bennett had been elected as Chair and Councillor Christine Townsend as Vice-Chair for 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Terms of Reference and Meetings

The Committee also noted the Terms of Reference for the Committee and arrangements to meet as required throughout the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

Establishment of a Special Purposes Sub-Committee

The Committee then discussed the establishment of a Special Purposes Sub-Committee for 2022/23 with the Chair, Vice-Chair and one other Councillor to be appointed to it.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED - that a Special Purposes Sub-Committee is established to meet as required with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Councillor Eddy appointed to sit on it.

Establishment of other Sub-Committees

The Committee discussed arrangements for establishing a Sub-Committee to discuss applications through hearings throughout the 2022/23 Municipal Year. Following a brief discussion, it was

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the Licensing committee establish Licensing (Hearings) sub committees comprising any three members of the Licensing committee and that each member of the licensing committee be appointed to serve on any such Sub Committee which is convened so as to include him or her in its membership; and**
- (b) that each of the sub committees so established shall have the terms of reference as set out in Appendix A of the report**

Delegations to Sub-Committees and Officers

The Committee discussed arrangements for delegations to officers. In addition to the delegations listed, the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager referred to the Ashton Court Balloon Fiesta.



Members noted that for all events held at this venue (including the fiesta), North Somerset Council officers needed to be given the authority to act at the venue by Bristol City Council including on Bristol City council land if required.

It was also noted that all officers attending the Balloon Fiesta would be individually named in accordance with the delegation scheme. The Committee were advised that the number of events held at Ashton Court was likely to increase before the next Annual General Meeting.

In responding to members' questions, the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager advised that delegations needed to be made each year.

The Committee then

RESOLVED –

- (i) in respect of the functions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 of its Terms of Reference, the Committee makes the following arrangements: subject to the limitations set out in (a) and (b) below officers occupying the following posts:-

Regulatory Services Manager

Licensing & Trading Standards Manager

Licensing Team Leader

Senior Licensing Officer

Licensing Officer

Trading Standards Team Leader

Senior Trading Standards Officer

Trading Standards Officer

Annual Licensing Committee

Trading Standards Investigator

Senior Environmental Health Officer (Regulatory Services)

Environmental Health Officer (Regulatory Services)

Principal/Team Leader/Lead Environmental Health Officer (Regulatory Services) to include Lead Officers in each of the following specialisms:

Food Safety

Pollution Control and Pest Control

Port Health

Health and Safety

Food Safety and Infectious Disease control

Assistant Environmental Health Officer (Regulatory Services)

Senior Pollution Control Officer

Pollution Control Officer

Public Health Services Manager

Neighbourhood Enforcement and Street Scene Manager



**Team Leader Neighbourhood Enforcement
Senior Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer
Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer**

are authorised to discharge any function which in law may be discharged by an officer of the licensing authority.

Limitations

(a) The power to decide whether representations are frivolous or vexatious may only be made in respect of applications that officers would be empowered to proceed to determine themselves should it be decided that the representation under consideration is either frivolous or vexatious.

(b) An Officer may not decide whether to grant or refuse an application under the Licensing Act 2003 for a personal license in any case where there are unspent convictions. . In respect of the functions referred to in paragraphs 2 (a) and (b), 4(a) – (f) and 4(g) to (i) inclusive of the Committee’s Terms of Reference the committee notes the arrangements made by the full council and the delegated Director under which his subordinate officers assist him in discharging functions on behalf of the Council. The Committee approves the continuation of such arrangements as if they had been made directly and particularly by this committee

For the avoidance of doubt the Service Director - Legal Services and officers within his team who assist him in this task shall continue to be authorised to institute and defend legal proceedings of any kind falling within this Committee’s terms of reference.

The possession of delegated powers shall not prevent a delegated officer bringing a matter before an appropriate body of Members but this should only be done following consultation with the Chair of the Licensing committee.

Authorisations In Respect of Bristol International Balloon Fiesta 2022.

- (i) that all sub committees established by the Licensing Committee shall have delegated authority to discharge all functions falling within their Terms of Reference;
- (ii) that the Committee approves delegations to officers as recommended in paragraph H of this report (including North Somerset Officers) including on Bristol City Council land; and
- (iii) that for the avoidance of doubt any authority conferred upon a sub Committee or an officer in connection with the discharge of any function includes the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of the function concerned.



7. Night Time Economy - Verbal Update by Carly Heath (Night Time Economy Adviser)

Carly Heath, Night Time Economy Adviser, gave a verbal presentation on the Night Time Economy in Bristol and made the following points:

- During the last 6 months there had been patchy data on finance in relation to the night time Economy. However, the information received showed that for the period 6pm to 6am there had been £45.5 Billion received in BS1 mainly relating to restaurants and clubs, bars and entertainment. This was a very successful figure in view of the recovery from COVID and the cost of living crisis

Drink Spiking

- There had been a big increase in recorded spiking cases – from 39 in 2019 to nearly 200 in the last two years alone
- Bristol City Council was working in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police as part of a City centre Bid to tackle this issue
- There were 150 clubs in a Drink Spike scheme who had been provided with Testing Kits provided by the Police which were helping to identify perpetrators close to the time any offence was committed. In these instances, Police were able to come to a venue immediately and take action
- Devon and Cornwall were the only other places in the country which were operating a scheme like Bristol City Council
- There had been early successes with 15 arrests being made over the last 6 months, with the first policy having been made within 4 days of policy strategy following the monitoring of a man trying to get girls to taste drinks and who had ketamine on him. Whilst prior to the introduction of this scheme there had been very few prosecutions (none from over 500 cases), it was hoped that this scheme would significantly change that

Carly Heath and other Licensing officers then replied to members' questions as follows:

- It was acknowledged that there was a problem with people who smoked being asked to leave premises to do so and being required to leave their drinks behind in the process. This increased the risk of spiking. In some situations, Police advice was that drinks should not be taken outside and there was a need to balance risk. However, Bristol City Council staff were working collaboratively with clubs and bars to minimise this risk if it was possible to do so
- In relation to concerns that the Crown Prosecution Service needed to take this problem more seriously, the Committee noted the variety of different reasons why spiking occurred including those who thought it was funny, for malicious reasons as well as for sexual predation. They also noted the growing problem of needle pricking. The Home Office were considering this issue and the possibility of making spiking itself a criminal offence rather than it being recorded as poisoning (along with a separate offence of sexual assault if that is involved)



- It was important that the police developed a standard approach on this issue as practice frequently varied across the country
- It was noted that a greater focus on needle pricking was required as well as provision of more testing kits at the Accident and Emergency Service in the NHS
- Whilst the scheme was operating under the City Centre Bid, all organisations were being involved in this work. There was involvement with Universities in local bars. Whilst previously, very few people had come forward to report such incidents, there had been a significant increase in October and November 2021, although numbers were not starting to drop. It was not yet clear whether the introduction of the new scheme was having a significant effect
- It was not clear to what extent organised crime was involved, including abductions of individuals. Avon and Somerset Police would be able to confirm this. It was noted that there could be greater engagement on this between Councillors, Parliament and the Crown Prosecution Service.
- The Police could also provide evidence as to whether or not there was evidence of a displacement of offences to areas outside the City Centre as evidence grew of success in the City Centre **ACTION: Carly Heath to contact Avon and Somerset Police and provide an update to members on this issue**
- It was noted that these offences were now jointly listed as sexual offences, robbery and/or poisoning as required and not dealt with separately
- In addressing concerns that a family of conditions needed to be established which would be applied on a case by case basis, it was noted that a model of conditions already existed relating to existing legislation and needed to be considered by each Sub-Committee in determining each case
- It was not realistic to make a requirement for all establishments to have a testing kit since these were still not always available. The need for a shared approach was emphasised
- Needle Spiking – Very limited action was currently taking place in relation to this, such as blood or urine tests. It was noted that once a puncture wound was made on the skin, an individual could pass out after 20 minutes and could remain unconscious for up to 8 hours with the effects lasting up to 6 months. This appeared to be a growing problem starting in Liverpool, Nottingham and Berlin and now spreading to other cities
- The cost of kits was very reasonable at £3 each
- There was no evidence of venues refusing to sign up. There was increasing awareness from venues to the problem and the need to demonstrate they were tackling the problem through their policy, as well as people seeing posters put up by the Night economy team on this issue
- Work was taking place to ensure people knew where to seek help if they were victims of these crimes and for bouncers to show a more sympathetic approach
- There was a need to address concerns about the capacity of an overstretched NHS to tackle this problem through partnership working. The use of the term poisoned to describe the offence instead of spiking (which had negative connotations for some people), was important
- Training of Door Staff – this was important. The Women’s Safety Charter was being improved, particularly in instances where door staff were not regular but agency staff



- Women' Safety Charter – this was a tool kit for business to improve their policies in this area including anti-harassment training for workers. This also operated as an online guided course and adopted a 360 degrees approach with all parties involved

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled for 10am on Thursday 28th July 2022.

The meeting ended at 10.55 am

CHAIR _____



BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Licensing Committee

28 July 2022

Report of: Executive Director: Growth & Regeneration

Title: Sex Establishment Policy Review

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Abigail Holman

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 3574900

RECOMMENDATION

That the having consulted on its proposed policy the Licensing Committee resolve to:

- i) Adopt the amended Sex Establishment Policy annexed as Appendix 1 and Standard Conditions attached as Appendix 17 and approve their effect from 1 August 2022.
- ii) Determine what the number of premises of each type in the currently defined localities should be based on the two proposals at Appendix 2
- iii) direct that this policy be published on the Council's web pages before that date.

Summary

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 allows the Council, as the Licensing Authority, to develop and implement a policy in respect of exercising its functions under the Act. The Council adopted additional provisions in respect of Sexual Entertainment Venues in 2011.

There is no statutory requirement to review a Sex Establishment Policy however it is good practice to review policy on a periodic basis.

The significant issues in the report are:

- Sex Establishment policy context
 - Updates and amendments to policy wording
 - Proposed appropriate numbers for three localities: City Centre locality, Old Market/West Street locality, and Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley locality
 - Updated standard conditions for all types of sex establishments
- Responses:
 - Initial engagement and invitation for submissions to working group
 - Pre-consultation questionnaire
 - Consultation 1 and additional responses
 - Consultation 2 and additional responses
 - Other information for consideration outside of consultations
- Equalities impact assessment and consideration of public sector equality duty
- Legal obligations

Policy

1. The Sex Establishment Policy must comply with the requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (the Act). The Act defines the type of activity which can be regulated but does not specify a requirement for a policy or review of any such policy.
2. The Council adopted additional parts of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in 2011 which gave it the ability to control and regulate Sexual Entertainment Venues. A policy was developed at that time which resulted in three sexual entertainment venues becoming licensed under the legislation, along with the five existing sex shops already covered by the same Act. It had not been reviewed in full since this date.
3. There are now two licensed sexual entertainment venues and two licensed sex shops within Bristol City Council's administrative area. There are currently no licensed sex cinemas.

Context

4. Decisions in respect of this policy are not an executive function and are dealt with by the Licensing Committee.
5. A working group was set up in 2016 by the Licensing Committee to review the policy. The working group began by inviting submissions from relevant stakeholders and previous commenters. A wide range of information was submitted, and the working group met eight times

between October 2016 and November 2018.

6. During these sessions they considered a wide range of information and heard from various stakeholders including the Police & Crime Commissioner, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, a number of groups and individuals who oppose sexual entertainment venues, proprietors and performers and Destination Bristol. They had a range of views, often with competing interests, and opinions. They also heard from officers regarding the legal framework under which the policy is created and maintained, and about decisions of other local authorities with regard to their policies.
7. The working group initially invited written comments from a wide range of stakeholders and received seventeen responses. A copy of these responses is attached at **Appendix 3**. One response was requested to not be disclosed publicly and is attached at **Appendix 4** as a restricted document for the committee only to view. Four respondents did not provide permission to disclose their responses and therefore these are not included in the documents.
8. The working group invited these respondents to speak to them and nine attended. The working group additionally invited a performer and the Operations Director for the Bristol Improvement District to speak to them. A copy of the summary of the minutes from each respondent is attached at **Appendix 5**. A journal article entitled 'Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women' as well as a presentation relied upon in the verbal submissions are attached at **Appendix 6** and **Appendix 7** respectively. Two respondents did not provide permission to disclose the summaries and therefore these are not included in the documents.
9. The working group requested officers provide information relating to other cities policy positions in particular those which had been referenced in submissions as having a policy limiting numbers to nil, and other core cities. That information was collated at the time and has recently been updated in June 2022. It is attached at **Appendix 8**.
10. The working group also received a briefing note from the planning team on the status of sex establishments from a planning perspective, local planning policy and information about the current and expected changes in the uses of buildings within the city centre and old market areas. The information was correct at the time of submission in July 2017. This is attached at **Appendix 9**.

Consultations

11. There are no requirements as to who should be consulted in respect of a Sex Establishment Policy under the Act, however officers consulted with a broad range of persons and bodies including:
 - The Chief Officer of Police
 - The Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Avon Fire and Rescue
 - Other regulatory bodies such as BCC public health and pollution control
 - Members of the Public
 - Persons involved in the types of premises which are regulated
 - Equalities Groups
 - Neighbourhood and community groups
 - Interest groups
 - Business groups
 - Citizen Panel

12. The working group produced a questionnaire to seek the views of the wider public on the types of venues regulated under the Act. The questions related to whether people thought the venues were appropriate in particular types of areas, as well as giving examples of specific areas within Bristol. The questionnaire did not seek views on the draft or current policy.

13. The questionnaire received 1430 responses from a range of people. The majority of respondents were members of the public. The full results can be seen in the questionnaire report which is attached at **Appendix 10**.

14. In the questionnaire there were a number of questions where a large proportion of people neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement, indicating that there is not a definitive split between those who believe sex establishments should be permitted in Bristol and those who do not.

15. The questionnaire, information from other Licensing Authorities, and submissions from respondents assisted the working group in the formulation of the draft policy, EQIA and draft standard conditions which were then put out for consultation between 16 August 2019 and 10 November 2019. The consultation sought responses from the public to questions around the policy approach as well as specific areas of the policy.

16. The consultation was available online, and paper copies of the

questions and alternative accessible formats were available on request. The questionnaire was publicised through media, social media and communications with the public including relevant responsible authorities, equalities groups, and stakeholders. It was also sent to residents' groups and officers attended a Night Panel meeting to notify them of the consultation and answer questions.

17. The questions were also distributed to the Citizen Panel for response. The Citizen Panel was made up of a range of people who reflect the demographics of the City and regularly responded to consultations across a range of issues.
18. The consultation received 1046 responses with 809 (77%) of responses from members of the public. Separately 425 responses were received from the Citizen Panel, representing 35% of their membership. Additional submissions were received outside of the questionnaire from a range of groups, as well as comments made alongside the questions within the consultation.
19. The consultation report is attached at **Appendix 11**. Some of the information in the Appendices of the report is restricted as the contributors have not given permission for it or their details to be made available to the public but has been made available in full for the members of this committee.
20. In the results of the consultation, it can be seen that the majority of members of the public agreed with the proposed numbers for the localities in Old Market, City Centre, and Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley areas, between 59% and 66%. However, a significant proportion of people, between 21% and 33% did not agree with the proposed number. Strong representations were also received outside of the consultation questions from a number of groups who felt that to permit SEVs in particular undermined the public sector equality duty and the Council's commitment to ensuring the safety of women in public spaces.
21. A number of comments were made alongside consultation responses relating to the fear that some women experience when in proximity to these premises, whether objectively justified or not which is relevant when the committee consider whether to impose a particular policy.
22. The working group therefore considered the information provided and asked the Licensing Committee to approve a consultation on a policy with revised proposals for numbers within the currently defined localities. A policy with revised numbers of nil for SEVs in the three defined localities was put out for consultation between 28 September 2021 and 19 December 2021.

23. The consultation sought responses from the public to questions around the proposed revised numbers, feelings of safety and impact of existing SEVs on feelings of safety within the specified localities. The consultation was available online, and alternative formats were available on request. The questionnaire was publicised through media, social media and communications with the public including relevant responsible authorities, equalities groups, and stakeholders.
24. The consultation received 6273 responses with 90% of responses from members of the public. Additional submissions were received outside of the questionnaire from a range of groups, as well as comments made alongside the questions within the consultation.
25. The consultation report is attached at **Appendix 12**. Some of the information in the Appendices of the report is restricted as the contributors have not given permission for it or their details to be made available to the public but has been made available in full for the members of this committee.

Other information outside consultations

26. We are aware of a number of other submissions which have been made during the review process directly to the council, but outside of consultations, as well as a number of public documents such as open letters and statements being published.
27. In 2018 the Women and Equalities Select Committee heard from a range of experts and commenters in relation to the sexual harassment of women and girls in public places. Their report on the matter was published on 23 October 2018 and includes a section at paragraphs 135-142 on the licensing of sexual entertainment venues. The full report can be accessed on the [Parliament archive for this select committee](#).
28. A number of public forum statements were made in relation to the licensing committee on 8 March 2021. A copy of these is attached at **Appendix 13**. A public forum statement was made by Bristol Women's Commission to Full Council on 6 July 2021. A copy of this is attached at **Appendix 14**.
29. The Bristol Sex Workers Collective wrote an open letter to the Council after 8 March 2021. A copy of the letter was captured from the relevant webpage on 14 June 2022 and is attached at **Appendix 15**.
30. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Mark Shelford, made a statement in support of a nil cap, which is published on the [Avon and Somerset PCC website](#).

31. In March 2021 the Home Secretary commissioned a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Rescue Services in the wake of the murder of Sarah Everard. The report was about the police response to violence against women and girls and found a number of issues, including inconsistency of recording of offences both within and across forces. A full copy of the report can be accessed on the [HMICFRS website](#).

Updates to policy and conditions

32. Following the consultations officers updated the wording in both the policy and the standard conditions. A copy of the policy is attached at **Appendix 1**, along with options for numbers of premises in each currently defined locality at **Appendix 2**. A copy of the revised standard conditions can be found at **Appendix 17**. A summary of the changes in the policy and in the conditions can be found at **Appendix 18**.
33. Officers have also prepared a local area profile, which sits alongside the policy but is separate to it. This document is designed to assist applicants and members of the public in understanding and outlining the types of activities which take place in the council's administrative area, but which are not necessarily licensable under this legislation. A copy of this is attached at **Appendix 19**. This document is attached for information only.

Public Sector Equality Duty

34. The council must in its decision making have due regard to the requirements under the Equalities Act 2010. This is not to say that it must come to one conclusion or another, but that it must weigh the evidence and give equality considerations the weight which is proportionate in the circumstances, given the potential impact of the policy on equality.
35. Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following "protected characteristics": age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it.

This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --

- remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.

36. Officers have completed an Equalities Impact Assessment attached as **Appendix 20**.

Proposal

37. The committee is asked to:

- consider the information presented in this report and appendices
- adopt the proposed draft policy and standard conditions
- Determine what the number of premises of each type in the currently defined localities should be based on the two proposals provided at Appendix 2.

Other Options Considered

38. Do nothing: The policy could be left in place with no changes.

Risk Assessment

The risks associated with the implementation of the recommendations of the report

No.	RISK Threat to achievement of the key objectives of the report	INHERENT RISK (Before controls)		RISK CONTROL MEASURES Mitigation (i.e. controls) and Evaluation (i.e. effectiveness of mitigation).	CURRENT RISK (After controls)		RISK OWNER
		Impact	Probability		Impact	Probability	
1	Any policy decision is open to judicial challenge	Medium	High	Bristol City Council has followed a clear process in reviewing the policy, however this is a contentious issue and following a clear process may not be sufficient to mitigate against a judicial challenge	Medium	High	

The risks associated with <u>not</u> implementing the recommendations of the report							
No.	RISK Threat to achievement of the key objectives of the report	INHERENT RISK (Before controls)		RISK CONTROL MEASURES Mitigation (i.e. controls) and Evaluation (i.e. effectiveness of mitigation).	CURRENT RISK (After controls)		RISK OWNER
		Impact	Probability		Impact	Probability	
1	There could be reputational harm to the Council for not updating the policy and taking account of changes within the Council's administrative area. This would mean the policy would revert to the previous version which includes outdated aspects of the policy.	Medium	Medium	Review of policy and consideration of consultation results.	Medium	Medium	

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

Local Authorities are not bound to have a sex establishment policy but may have one if they wish to do so. Any policy must not prevent individual applications from being considered on their own merits at the time they are made.

A consultation process has been undertaken and case law guides on

what constitutes lawful consultation and from this some key guiding principles have been established, in summary that those being consulted must:

- a. be provided with material upon which a decision is likely to be made;
- b. be given enough time for intelligent consideration of that material and to respond to it;
- c. be given the opportunity to make considered representations;
- d. have their representations conscientiously considered.

It is therefore important that members are satisfied that the consultation process has allowed sufficient time to enable any person or body wishing to make representations to obtain relevant material, to consider it and to put their representations to the Council.

The outcomes of this consultation should be conscientiously taken into account by the committee when making decisions about the policy

The Equalities Impact Assessment is designed to assist the committee in paying due regard to the Public Sector Equalities Duty when formulating the policy. Members should not however, rely solely on the Equalities Impact Assessment provided when making their decision, but rather should take a considered and engaged approach in order to grasp the issues themselves.

Kate Burnham-Davies, Specialist Lawyer, Litigation, Regulatory and Community Team – 30th June 2022

Financial

The Licensing Service currently receives approximately £10,000 annually from the renewal of these existing licenses. This funds only part of the costs of administering the licenses, which is sensitive and complex, requiring legal implications and policy development work. There is a risk to resource allocation for this work in the future if funding is reduced or withdrawn. Further review is required to ensure the sustainability of the administrative demands of providing these licenses.

Kayode Olagundoye, Interim Finance Business Partner for Growth and Regeneration – 4th July 2022

Personnel

There are no HR implications evident

Celia Williams, HR Business Partner for Growth and Regeneration –
4th July 2022

Appendices:

Appendix 1	Draft proposed policy	Public
Appendix 2	Proposed options for numbers of sex establishments in defined localities	Public
Appendix 3	Initial written responses from stakeholders	Public
Appendix 4	Initial written responses from stakeholders - redacted	Restricted
Appendix 5	Summaries of responses	Public
Appendix 6	Journal article	Public
Appendix 7	Presentation in relation to verbal submissions	Restricted
Appendix 8	List of local authority policy decisions	Public
Appendix 9	Planning briefing note 2017	Public
Appendix 10	Questionnaire report 23-04-2019	Public
Appendix 11a	Consultation report 2020	Public
Appendix 11b	Consultation appendices 2020	Restricted
Appendix 12a	Consultation report – proposed nil numbers 2021	Public
Appendix 12b	Consultation appendices – proposed nil numbers 2021 – comments	Restricted
Appendix 12c	Consultation appendices – proposed nil numbers 2021 – additional responses	Restricted
Appendix 13	Public Forum 08-03-21	Public
Appendix 14	Public Forum 06-07-21	Public

Appendix 15	Open Letter Bristol Sex Workers Collective	Public
Appendix 16	Open Letter United Voices of the World Union	Public
Appendix 17	Standard conditions	Public
Appendix 18	Summary of changes	Public
Appendix 19	Local Area Profile	Public
Appendix 20	Equality Impact Assessment	Public

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985
Background Papers:

Appendix 1



BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
Control of Sex Establishments

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1. Introduction

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 introduced a regime for the control of sex establishments. The regime is adoptive, and Bristol City Council has for many years been able to control the provision of sex shops and sex cinemas within its administrative area. The provisions of the 1982 Act were extended in 2009, to include the control of “sexual entertainment venues”. The Council has adopted the amended

Schedule. This enables applicants to apply for licences for sex establishments.

The Act places a duty on the Council to refuse an application in certain cases (for example if an individual applicant is under the age of 18 years) and confers powers on the Council to refuse to grant or refuse to renew a licence by reference to matters such as the maximum number of sex establishments which the Council considers appropriate for the locality of the premises, the premises that are subject of the application, the character of the locality and the use of the premises within the vicinity.

The legislation may be viewed here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1982/30>

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Chapter 30

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/26/section/27>

Policing and Crime Act 2009 Part 2 Section 27 - Regulation of lap dancing and other sexual entertainment venues etc.

2. Scope of this policy

This policy will guide the Council when determining applications made in connection with sex establishments. It will assist it in achieving the purpose of the legislation in a manner that is consistent with the body of case law that has developed since the regime was first enacted.

This policy applies to every type of sex establishment (as defined in the Act) unless an exemption applies. Reference should be made to the legislation itself for a full understanding of what might fall within the definition and when exemptions may apply, but in summary the types of sex establishment have been detailed below:

1. A sexual entertainment venue is:

- (a) **premises** (which includes traditional premises as well as vehicles, vessels, and stalls etc. – but not private dwellings to which the public are not admitted) **at which**
- (b) **relevant entertainment** (i.e. either: (i) a live performance of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purposes of sexually stimulating any member of the audience whether by verbal or other means; or (ii) a live display of nudity of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purposes of sexually stimulating any member of the audience whether by verbal or other means.
- (c) **is provided** (i.e., provided or permitted to be provided by or on behalf of the organiser)
- (d) **before a live audience**
- (e) **for the financial gain of the organiser or entertainer** (this can be direct or indirect)
- (f) **unless an exemption applies** (exemptions are detailed in par 2A of the third schedule – see link above)

2. A sex cinema is:

- (a) **premises** (which includes traditional premises as well as vehicles, vessels, and stalls etc. – but not private dwellings to which the public are not admitted) **which**
 - (b) **are used to a significant degree for the exhibition of moving pictures**
 - (c) **which are concerned primarily** with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, or are intended to encourage, sexual activity, or acts of force or restraint associated with sexual activity
 - (d) **or are concerned primarily** with the portrayal of, or primarily deal with or relate to, genital organs or urinary or excretory functions
3. A sex shop is:
- (a) **premises** (which includes traditional premises as well as vehicles, vessels, and stalls etc. – but not private dwellings to which the public are not admitted) **which**
 - (b) is used for a business which consists to a **significant degree**
 - (c) of **selling, hiring, exchanging, lending, displaying, or demonstrating**
 - (d) **sex articles** (anything made for use in connection with, or for the purpose of stimulating or encouraging sexual activity; or acts of force or restraint which are associated with sexual activity, and any article to be read or looked at, and any recording of vision or sound which includes or is intended to encourage sexual activity; or acts of force or restraint which are associated with sexual activity)
 - (e) **or other things** intended for use in connection with, or for the purpose of stimulating or encouraging sexual activity; or acts of force or restraint which are associated with sexual activity

A glossary of terms is provided at the end of this document

3. Decision making responsibility

By law all functions of the local authority concerning this regime, including the making of this policy and determination of applications, are matters that cannot be the responsibility of its Executive. As such the Full Council is the body that controls the way decisions are made. The Full Council exercised its powers to arrange for the Licensing Committee (as constituted for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003) to also be responsible for the sex establishment licensing functions on behalf of the Council. Determinations in relation to sex establishments are made under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

Applications will normally be referred to a sub-committee for determination.

4. Determining applications

This policy is intended to be strictly applied but will not operate inflexibly; the Council will take all relevant factors into consideration when determining applications and each and every case will be decided on its merits.

In exercising its functions under this regime the authority will seek to ensure premises licensed by this Authority under this legislation do not contribute directly or indirectly to crime, disorder (including anti-social behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) or harm to individuals or groups within the community; whilst seeking

also not to be unduly restrictive of the rights of persons seeking to operate well-run premises in appropriate locations or those that work within such premises.

5. General obligations that apply to the discharge of all of the Council's powers and duties

There are a number of general obligations that apply whenever the Council is discharging any of its many functions. Those most likely to be relevant are highlighted in this part of the policy and must be borne in mind when considering any aspect of the regime including all of the things specifically addressed in the following paragraphs. For the avoidance of doubt, the Council has screened this policy statement to ensure it is compatible with those obligations and will, through its information gathering powers, seek to ensure that relevant information may come forward through the application process to enable all of its general obligations to be satisfied in the discharge of the function of determining applications for sex establishment licences. Material that is relevant to the achievement of these obligations will be properly taken into account.

These include:

- its fiduciary duties to the Council Tax and Rate payers of the City (protection of the public purse).
- its obligations to act compatibly with rights conferred under the European Convention of Human Rights. The European Convention on Human Rights makes it unlawful for a public authority to act in a way that is incompatible with a convention right.
 - Article 6 details that in determination of civil rights and obligations everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law;
 - Article 8 details that everyone has the right to respect for his home and private life;
 - Article 1 of the First Protocol details that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his or her possessions.
- its general and specific duties under Equalities Law – The Equality Act 2010 states that no one may discriminate, harass, or victimise another in respect of their protected characteristics. The Act itself includes a Public Sector Equality Duty which requires the Council to show “due regard” to:
 - eliminating discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
 - advancing equality of opportunity.
 - fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic
 - fostering good relations between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The Council is aware that the licensing of some types of sex establishments can cause controversy with the potential to polarise views, and these premises must not encourage discrimination against any groups with a protected characteristic. The Council will have due regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty in determining each application. An equality impact assessment has been undertaken in respect of this policy and is published alongside it.

- its obligations under Crime and Disorder legislation - In accordance with section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council is under a duty to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all it reasonably

can to prevent, crime and disorder in the City.

- The Regulators' Compliance Code (set out under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006) requires the Council not to impede economic progress by its regulations, and, particularly to consider their impact on small businesses
- The Provision of Services Regulations 2009 requires the Council to ensure that its exercising of powers are:
 - non-discriminatory;
 - justified by an overriding reason relating to the public interest;
 - proportionate to the public interest objective;
 - clear and unambiguous;
 - objective;
 - made public in advance;
 - transparent and accessible

6. Considering applications and representations

Applications have to be made in writing and must contain the particulars specified in paragraphs 10.2 to 10.5 of the third schedule (see hyperlink above) and such particulars as the appropriate authority may reasonably require in addition. The Council's application form will be designed to elicit information that enables its decision making to be guided by this policy, including information that is relevant to enabling it to meet all of its general obligations such as those referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Public notice must be given of all applications and that notice shall be in the form that the Council may prescribe. The Council has prescribed a form of application that facilitates public representations, including, for example, requiring applicants to identify the brand name under which the premises are intended to operate and other material information.

The council will record that applications have been received on its licensing web pages. In respect of applications for SEVs the council will also display additional notices in the area making use of street furniture and community notice boards. It also intends to notify local councillors about any applications within their wards.

The Council will undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment in respect of each new valid application; the Equalities Impact Assessment will be kept under review and updated at the time of any subsequent application.

Persons objecting to an application for the grant renewal or transfer of a licence must give notice in writing of their objection to the Council, stating in general terms the grounds of the objection not later than 28 days after the date of the application. Providing they comply with the statutory requirements their format of written objections is entirely a matter for the objector.

The Council must give an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a committee or sub-committee:

- (a) before refusing to grant a licence, to the applicant;
- (b) before refusing to renew a licence, to the holder; and

- (c) before refusing to transfer a licence, to the holder and the person to whom the applicant desires that it shall be transferred.

The Council will normally refer applications to the committee or sub-committee for determination.

The Council will also usually permit objectors to address the Committee or subcommittee in respect of the matters raised in their written objection (but no other matter) and in particular those matters that are relevant to the grounds of refusal. As the Act does not make objectors party to the hearing, this will normally take place at the opening of the meeting.

The Council has arranged for hearings to take place before committees and subcommittees whose members are accustomed to conducting such business in accordance with the rules of natural justice and other relevant obligations. Training has been made available to all Councillors concerned in the conduct of hearings and determination of such matters.

When considering applications the Councillors will usually enhance their existing local knowledge of the vicinity and locality by use of maps and site visits. Applicants are required to provide a location map and plan of the premises. The committee may question parties at the hearing.

7. Grounds for refusal

Mandatory grounds

A licence shall not be granted where one of the mandatory refusal grounds applies, that is:

- (a) to a person under the age of 18; or
- (b) to a person who is for the time being disqualified by virtue of revocation in the previous twelve months;
- (c) to an individual applicant who has not been resident in the UK for the previous six months;
- (d) to a body corporate which is not incorporated in an EEA state;
- (e) to an applicant who has, within a period of 12 months immediately preceding the date when the application was made, been refused the grant or renewal of a licence for the premises, vehicle, vessel, or stall in respect of which the application is made unless the refusal was reversed on appeal.

If the Council finds any of these grounds apply then it must refuse the application

Discretionary grounds for refusal

A licence may otherwise be refused on one or more of the following grounds.

- (a) That the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or any other reason

- (b) That if the licence were to be granted, renewed, or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal, or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself;
- (c) That the number of sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality. (Nil may be an appropriate number for these purposes)
- (d) That the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard -
- (i) to the character of the relevant locality; or
 - (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel, or stall in respect of which the application is made

If the Council finds any of these grounds apply then it may refuse the application

Factors for consideration

Discretionary grounds (a) and (b)

In considering the suitability of those persons referred to in (a) and (b) above the factors the Council may take into account includes:

- relevant experience;
- relevant criminal convictions;
- whether the person has committed relevant offences;
- relevant observations or findings by public authorities, including licensing authorities, in connection with the conduct of the person or their ability to manage and control premises;
- relevant findings by courts and tribunals in connection with the treatment of protected groups (within the meaning of the Equalities Act 2010)
- information germane to the person's ability to, among other things:
 - ensure the safety and wellbeing of performers;
 - ensure the proper protection of the public;
 - ensure the suitability of employees, performers and others using the venue;
 - prevent performance by or for those who may thereby be harmed, including minors;
 - understand and adhere to conditions imposed on any licence granted and ensure they are observed by others on the premises;
 - engage constructively with the Council and other relevant regulators

Discretionary ground (c)

The Council is mindful of its power to determine an appropriate maximum number of sex establishments, in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined. The Council will adopt a consistent approach to this issue when determining applications for a sex establishment. It will not seek to predetermine the localities that are comprised within the City of Bristol or predetermine the appropriate number for each such locality, but will

consider this issue on a case-by-case basis. That is to say, it will decide what the relevant locality is as a matter of fact in each particular application and not by drawing boundaries on a map or some other method.

Having established the relevant locality (see below ground d), in considering the issue in ground 'c' the Council will take into account all relevant considerations including:

- The character of the locality:
 - residential
 - leisure
 - educational establishments
 - culture and tourism
 - parks and outdoor spaces
 - transport infrastructure
- Other key uses in the locality:
 - faith / religious institutions
 - churches, mosques, temples, and other places of worship
 - family friendly facilities and the proximity of residential accommodation
- Impact on future development and regeneration
- Impact on tourism, including considerations of the perception of the City at gateway locations
- Impact on retail attraction
- Risk of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, and nuisance
- Whether the locality is subject of stress caused by a cumulative impact of premises authorised to provide licensable activities under the Licensing Act 2003;
- Impact on crime and disorder including levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, and the likely effects upon crime and disorder.
- Public perception of the safety of the locality and impact on that perception, e.g., typical footfall at material times, level of street lighting, use by lone females
- Existence of social problems in the locality and impact on any initiatives to tackle them, e.g., kerb crawling, prostitution.

The Council will determine the relevant locality and the character of the relevant locality at the time the application is determined. The Council will adopt a consistent approach to this issue when determining application for a sex establishment. To promote consistency the Council will have regard to previous determinations and the policy determinations. However, applicants should be aware that there will be a general presumption for refusal especially where the characteristic of the locality is made up of primarily:

- residential accommodation,
- parks and children's play areas,
- schools, nurseries, children centres, colleges, or university
- religious and communal buildings
- family tourist attractions
- family shopping or leisure areas
- transport infrastructure

On 23rd November 2011 the Licensing Committee determined three localities in Bristol and specified the maximum number of Sex Shops, Sex Cinemas and Sexual Entertainment Venue within each locality. Appendix A shall be maintained within this policy to record all decisions made to control the number of sex establishments under this provision. This

policy is maintained as a key guide to the expectations of the Council in these policy localities but does not undermine or detract from the legal responsibility to receive and consider applications nor the considerations of these applications on a case-by-case basis as set out in this policy.

Discretionary grounds (d)

For d(i)

Having regard to the character of the locality (see ground (c) above) the Council will consider whether the particular application is appropriate, taking into account:

- The size and appearance of the premises
- Their proximity to places where the public congregate for purposes other than use of the premises, such as bus stops and taxi ranks
- The nature and style of the relevant entertainment that is proposed
- The nature of the clientele it is likely to attract and their number
- The duration of the proposed licence/activity
- The manner in which the relevant entertainment is likely to be managed
- The risk of nuisance to others engaged in legitimate activity
- The proposed hours of operation.

For d(ii)

Whether premises in the vicinity are put to any of the following uses:

- residential, in particular homes occupied by families
- leisure
- educational establishments
- churches and other places of worship
- family friendly facilities
- other sex-oriented/adult premises (whether or not they are licensed/licensable)
- youth clubs
- women's refuges
- community centres
- parks and other open spaces
- swimming pools
- public transport

For d (iii)

In considering these factors the council will take into account information concerning:

- whether the premises are fit for the purpose proposed
- their planning status
- the general appearance to others using the locality
- whether premises are self-contained
- means of access and egress, whether shared with other building users (if any)
- accessibility
- sightlines
- 'hidden' areas and other places where effective monitoring may be hampered
- standard of decoration and "fit-out"
- visibility from the street
- facilities for smokers

- facilities for performers (changing, washing, WC, smoking areas etc) and whether they are adequately separated from those provided for customers

The Council recognises that the use of premises in the vicinity and the character of the locality may be subject to change from one year to the next.

8. Conditions

The council has set out standard conditions that will normally be applied to any sex establishment licence granted by it.

The conditions are intended to promote the safety and wellbeing of the public, employees, and customers, as well as reducing the impact of these types of premises by imposing certain restrictions.

An applicant may request to vary or be exempt from any of these conditions and will be afforded the opportunity to provide information as to why a variation or an exemption should be granted in that instance.

9. Reasons

The Council will usually make available the reasons for its Committee and subcommittee decisions on its web pages. Rarely publication of reasons may be deferred where there is good reason (for example where relevant information is sub judice or otherwise reasonably judged to be exempt from publication).

10. Waiver

In circumstances in which the Council reasonably judges that it would be unreasonable or inappropriate to require a licence for the sexual establishment concerned it may waive the requirement for a licence. An applicant for a waiver must submit the information prescribed in the legislation and such other information as the council may reasonably require. There are no advertising or publicity provisions governing waivers.

If an application for waiver is allowed a waiver notice is given which can be for a specific period or open ended. When it is open ended the council, by giving at least 28 days' notice, can bring it to an end.

The Council will consider each waiver application received on its own merits

Current Document			
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Officer	Abigail Holman		
Version History			
Date	Version	Author/Editor	Comments
19/01/12	1.2	Emma Lake	Amended in view of localities determined by Licensing Committee 23/11/11
26/09/18	1.3	Abigail Holman	Policy Review

Option A – nil SEVs within 3 currently defined localities

Old Market / West Street Locality

2 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, 0 Sexual Entertainment Venue

City Centre Locality

2 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, 0 Sexual Entertainment Venues

Bishopston / Redland / Cotham / Ashley Locality

0 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, 0 Sexual Entertainment Venues

Option B – 3 SEVs within 3 currently defined localities

Old Market / West Street Locality

2 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, 1 Sexual Entertainment Venue

City Centre Locality

2 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, 2 Sexual Entertainment Venues

Bishopston / Redland / Cotham / Ashley Locality

0 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, 0 Sexual Entertainment Venues

Wording to be inserted into policy upon confirmation of numbers

APPENDIX A

RECORD OF DECISIONS TAKEN TO CONTROL THE NUMBER OF SEX ESTABLISHMENTS IN LOCALITIES IN BRISTOL

These are the localities for which numbers have been set, any other localities would be determined on a fresh application.

On 23rd November 2011 the Licensing Committee determined three localities in Bristol and specified the maximum number of Sex Shops, Sex Cinemas and Sexual Entertainment Venue within each locality. The numbers for each locality were considered on review of the policy in 2021 and amended to the numbers below.

Old Market / West Street Locality

2 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, (insert number) Sexual Entertainment Venue

City Centre Locality (see map)

2 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, (insert number) Sexual Entertainment Venues

Bishopston / Redland / Cotham / Ashley Locality

0 Sex Shops, 0 Sex Cinemas, 0 Sexual Entertainment Venues

APPENDIX B

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Audience - includes an audience of only one person

Nudity - nudity is the exposure of the pubic area, genitals or anus and, in the case of women, their nipples

Organiser - the person who is responsible for the organisation or management of the entertainment itself or the premises

1. Response 1

Thank you for inviting me to respond to Bristol City Council's SEV policy review.

I urge the council in the strongest possible terms to implement a nil-cap on SEVs in all areas of Bristol with immediate effect. This would be in accordance with the council's repeated claims to be committed to gender equality.

Implementing a nil-cap would send a very strong message to all Bristol residents, and to other towns and cities across the UK, that SEVs have no place in contemporary societies that are moving with the times and recognising that sexism and violence against women is completely unacceptable, and absolutely should not be licensed and therefore endorsed by councils. Going into 2017, we should not be putting out the message that women's bodies are available to be bought on the high street by men with the money and power to do so.

As a journalist of 15+ years, I can appreciate that the council may be reluctant to incite the predictable, hyperbolic stories that the Bristol Post, Bristol 24/7 and other local media may sink to in response to you implementing a nil-cap. These news outlets are all edited by men whose businesses thrive not on the reporting of news but on generating website hits to keep their advertisers happy. And inevitably any story that can be illustrated with a photograph of a young woman in scant clothing will generate the hits these websites want.

These news outlets also have a long history of pitting one type of woman against another (eg women who campaign for gender equality against SEV workers). And despite the scuffles generated by the local papers, these stories also blow over very quickly to be replaced by tomorrow's news stories. So any negativity the council might experience from the local media in response to you implementing the nil-cap Bristol needs would be very short-lived, and the benefits to Bristol and to the council would be seen for decades to come and would be much more far-reaching and influential.

Additionally, Bristol would be cited as a good example of a city that took the brave and courageous step of standing up to pressure, and implemented a nil-cap. This has been evidenced in other local authorities where nil-caps are already in effect and the cities and councils are already enjoying the plentiful benefits.

2. Response 2

Thank you for your letter regarding the above review. I welcome your asking for feedback at this early stage in preparing a draft policy for consultation and am pleased to offer my thoughts.

I have general rather than specific comments on sections of the policy as my view is that the policy should be completely revised to state that there should be no SEVs in Bristol. There should not be any SEVs and those that currently operate should no longer be granted a licence so that none remain.

My main reason for proposing that there be no SEVs in Bristol is that having SEVs in the city runs directly counter to promoting equality between men and women. SEVs reinforce in men (and also in women) the attitude that women and men are unequal in that access to women can be bought by men and that men are entitled to treat women as they wish. Women are thus treated as objects, dehumanised and seen as lesser to men. This extends to women as a group and not just the specific women that men meet in the SEVs.

The Council must consider the aims of the public sector equality duty (PSED) when formulating the new policy on sexual establishments. Where the aims of the PSED are to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between men and women then there can be no other conclusion than to have a policy of no SEVs in Bristol.

The Council must seek views from experts in the field of gender equality such as academics and public health specialists and must understand the evidence for the negative impacts of SEVs on gender equality in order to properly research the PSED implications of this policy review. I hope that you will now do this next step in developing your thinking on the new draft policy.

A further reason for revising the policy at this time to not have any SEVs in Bristol is the distinct change in the character of the city centre this year since the conversion of so many city centre buildings to residential property. There are several thousand more residents in new building conversions such as Electricity House and the nearby new student accommodation. SEVs have never been seen as appropriate in residential areas and as the city centre has now become very much a residential area it is no longer appropriate for SEVs to be present there.

3. Response 3

Thank you for the opportunity to comment at an early stage as you prepare a draft policy for approval by the Licensing Committee.

About me and my work

My name is (redacted), I am a Bristolian and a gender equality consultant. I have a PhD in Psychology from the University of Bristol, on how and why sexual harassment happens to women. I work in the fields of gender equality, and the psychology of social change. I have worked at the Universities of Bristol, Lancaster and most recently UWE where I spent two years developing an evidence-based programme to change social norms at English universities, in order to prevent rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment. My work on the programme was commissioned by Public Health England. I am a member of the national End Violence Against Women Coalition and was appointed in 2015 to the national High-Level Task Force on violence against women in universities commissioned by Sajid Javid MP and Jo Johnson MP. For 6 years I was on the board of directors of The Fawcett Society, the UK's national campaign for equality between women and men. My most recent publication, with colleagues, was an evaluation of how the UK nations are performing in legislation, policy and practice, against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal for gender equality. In that comprehensive [report](#), available from the British Council website, over 30 gender equality specialists and experts were interviewed in depth and over 400 research reports were digested by the research team. A headline conclusion was: "Like all countries, there is still more work to do in the UK: for example, to change sexist cultural norms about gender that demean women, that are supportive of male violence and that act to limit the horizons of women and girls" (p5).

My response to the policy review

I advise the working group to set a cap of zero in each locality of Bristol for Sexual Entertainment Venues. This will promote equality between women and men in the city and

it will contribute to a change in culture – a culture that is currently supportive of discrimination, harassment and violence against women and girls as data show. Such violence is currently the largest human rights abuse worldwide, and it is not inevitable. It is preventable. The culture is not solely influenced by what goes on inside SEVs but also by the message sent by the local authority that until now has permitted the licensing of SEVs and their presence on the high street.

It seems obvious but it is a distinction worth repeating that:

- inequality between men and women is not fuelled by sex difference, sexual attraction or sexual activity engaged in by individual, consenting, equal adults for the purpose of pleasure for both parties

But:

- inequality between men and women, that includes men's social norms of disrespect, harassment and violence towards women as a group, **is** fuelled by sexual activity that is in the public domain of society, involving (almost always) men paying to have access to, objectify and dictate the performance of the bodies of (almost always) young women where the customer alone is expected and entitled to obtain pleasure.

The history of Bristol's policy is not an impressive one. At the time the last policy was written, gender equality stakeholders (including but not limited to people whose work is to understand how and why violence against women is so common in our culture) contacted the chair of the Licensing Committee with requests to **set a nil cap for SEVs**, as is perfectly allowable under the law. The University of Bristol's Centre for Gender and Violence Research very kindly arranged an information seminar at which several such knowledgeable persons gave presentations explaining how the existence of SEVs in itself is a powerful cultural signal in support of sexism. In this short submission I will not attempt to give a long description of how and why this is judged to be the case but I will be glad to do this if the working group would find it helpful. I refer you also to the longer submission by Bristol Fawcett which provides some research references and which should be useful in drawing up an Equality Impact Assessment. At the time of the last review, one single member of the Committee (who then supported a nil cap) attended the information seminar. No other members, nor the chair, nor any officers, attended - although the chair had been offered three alternative dates - and an opportunity was lost. Members of the Public Health team in Bristol, whose role was to help prevent violence against women, were told they were unable to offer their view as trained specialists in prevention *because of* their role as public servants. Later, the policy was decided and a cap was set at 3 SEVs. At the meeting in November 2011 where this policy was decided, there were concerning comments made, resulting in a letter to the then chair of the Committee, from the Chair of Bristol's Strategic Partnership for the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (a copy of this letter is attached for information).

It is therefore with great feeling that I welcome the opportunity to advise the working group at this stage, in the 2016/17 policy review. In short:

- The working group may set policy taking into account representations from local residents and representative groups

- The working group may take advice on the potential adverse or positive impact of policy upon specific groups (in this case, a particularly large group – women and girls) from those who are most familiar with the challenges faced by that group.
- The working group may reflect on the degree of care taken by numbers of experts in the area to contribute to its deliberation on this particular policy area: care taken because it is judged in their view to be a meaningful, important issue in the field and whose resolution represents a significant shift in promoting equality and preventing violence.
- I hope that the working group will decide that a weight of objective, credible, authoritative information (as opposed to simply ‘opinion’) has been provided, which explains that SEVs make a negative impact upon the chances that Bristol’s women and girls have for making progress towards equality with men and boys, equal enjoyment of the city and safer lives.
- I hope that the working group and the Licensing Committee share the vision for a 21st-century city where women and girls are the equal of men and boys in every way and that they seek to prioritise this vision.
- I trust that the working group will therefore produce a draft policy reflecting this process, that will set a cap of zero SEVs in each locality.
- I will be pleased to assist with providing evidence, for example from peer-reviewed academic journals, to assist in any decision making and in any Equality Impact Assessment. The Equality Impact Assessment from 2011/12 appears to indicate that further Equality Impact Assessments would be made with each application but this has not happened in practice.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information.

“The right to equality is not subject to progressive realization, it is an immediate obligation ... to ensure that women are able to enjoy their right to equality” Mayra Gómez, Co-Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

4. Response 4

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to respond to the preliminary consultation on the Sex Establishment Policy Review, 2016-17. As someone who has been concerned about SEVs for many years, I am grateful for the invitation to comment on what might be included in the new policy.

It is my hope that the Licensing Committee will take this opportunity to include a nil cap in its revised SEV policy. Bristol City Council, along with many other cities, now has the chance to bring its SEV policy in line with its obligations under the White Ribbon Status which it was awarded in 2013. The White Ribbon Status marks a commitment to ending violence against women.

There are numerous reasons why a nil cap is desirable, many of which no doubt will be covered in other consultation responses. In my response, I would like to concentrate on the benefits to the local economy of refusing SEV licences.

During licence applications and policy reviews, it is posited by those with a vested interest that SEVs contribute to the local economy and that the performers will lose their employment if a licence is refused. I would suggest the opposite; that a different kind of establishment would contribute more to the local economy and that a performer would arguably have better employment opportunities and rights if a premises and alcohol licence alone were granted.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- The performers are not employed by the club, but are self-employed. Work is ad-hoc and performers pay a house fee to work in the club.
- If refused a SEV licence, a club would still retain its alcohol/premises licence. It could therefore operate as a restaurant and/or bar and offer the performers more regular employment with associated rights that they do not currently enjoy. The argument that performers would automatically lose their jobs is therefore false. The loss of one type of ad-hoc, often inadequately recompensed work could be substituted for more regular employment.
- Because the premises licence is retained, a new business could open that doesn't effectively exclude 50% of the population. Pata Negra on Corn Street is a highly successful tapas bar that was once Lounge@30, a sex entertainment venue. It is no doubt more lucrative and contributes more to the local economy than a SEV which caters for a very niche market.
- Market trends are showing that the demand for lap dancing clubs is decreasing. Despite many clubs' attempt to normalise their existence and market themselves to couples, their main clientele are men. Research is showing that members of stag parties – the staple market for lap dancing clubs - are moving away from spending time in lap dancing clubs to other doing other less “seedy” activities . It has also become unacceptable for most companies to use lap dancing clubs for corporate entertainment because it is seen as unethical and discriminatory.
- Policing SEVs consumes police resources. Even if the clubs claim to be 'well run', they have to be monitored on a regular basis for licence breaches, links to people trafficking, drugs etc. In 2012, Newquay Town Council reported that one reason why crime in the town had reduced by a quarter was that a lap dancing club which had continually breached its licence conditions had had its licence revoked . It must be weighed up as to whether the little that the clubs contribute to the local economy offsets the disproportionate amount of policing required to ensure compliance with licence conditions. Research in America has shown that sexually oriented businesses (strip clubs and sex shops) are clearly associated with increased rates of all types of crime in their immediate vicinity.

In 2011, to a huge outcry, the Licensing Committee missed the opportunity to turn down a premises licence applied for by 'Hooters', a 'sports bar'. This semi-SEV thankfully did not last very long in the city and, like Pata Negra, is now also a popular restaurant and bar (The Cuban). It is unthinkable now that such a licence would be granted again and it is hoped that the city has moved on from endorsing this type of establishment. The Committee will

remember receiving a letter from the Chair of the Safeguarding Children Board in Bristol about "sexy schoolgirl" promotions in Urban Tiger recently. Years ago, this type of sexualisation was a routine part of our culture and may not have even raised an eyebrow but it is now recognised as wrong and harmful. I think Bristol is now ready to recognise that endorsing SEVs is also wrong and harmful, and that our city does not want to be associated with practices that were once accepted as normal even though they demeaned women and men.

5. Response 5

In the last review of this policy in 2010/2011 I made a personal representation and the Centre which I currently head, also made written representations to the council to have a policy that the appropriate number of sexual entertainment venue's in each locality of Bristol is zero.

I hope that my own personal expertise on the prevention of violence against women, as well as the considerable expertise of my colleagues in the Centre for Gender and Violence Research might be of assistance to you as you fulfil your Council obligations to consult under the Equalities Act 2010.

We believe that in order for the city of Bristol to address inequality and violence against women, that the working group draft a policy setting a cap of zero SEVs as an appropriate number for each locality of Bristol.

6. Response 6

I am a Bristol GP and gender violence researcher based in the School of Social and Community Medicine at the University of Bristol. I chaired the NICE DVA and the WHO intimate partner and sexual violence guidelines.

During your last review (2010/11) I supported a policy of zero sexual "entertainment" venues in Bristol.

As a locally based expert on gender violence (with an international research and policy profile), I would like to make the case that a policy of 0 SEVs would make a substantial contribution to Bristol Council's duty to reduce inequality and violence against women.

7. Response 7

Thank you for the opportunity to be consulted on the review. I have written to you previously of my objections to the granting of a SEV licence to Urban Tiger.

I urge the council to set a cap of zero as the appropriate number of SEVs in each locality of Bristol, in order to promote gender equality and to do everything in its power to change the sadly dominant culture of men's violence against women in Bristol, which is fuelled by SEVs.

I am aware that during the history of many of the SEVs in Bristol, breaches of licence policy and poor practice have repeatedly been identified. For example, advertisements for "sexy schoolgirl" nights sexualising children, advertisements encouraging men to lie to their wives about going to SEVs, constructing and permitting private booths, failing to ensure appropriate levels of CCTV coverage, failing to stop touching between dancers and customers during dances, failing to ensure privacy for performers. During hearings, lawyers for the clubs routinely apologise on their behalf and promise that this kind of thing will not happen again. However, this is a pattern. It shows that as long as the council continues to issue licenses, it is likely that there will continue to be breaches and poor risk management. This is the nature of the SEV trade and our city will be much better off replacing the SEVs with businesses that do not trade on men's use of women's bodies for paid entertainment.

Briefing for Bristol City Council's Sex Establishment Policy Review 2016/2017, presented by Bristol Women's Voice

Introduction

Bristol Women's Voice (BWV) welcomes this opportunity to respond to the council's review of Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) and we are pleased to be able to share our specialist expertise. We call unequivocally for a nil-cap on SEVs in Bristol.

Bristol Women's Voice was established in 2011 to represent the women of Bristol, to promote women's equality and to work with Bristol City Council to support it in its mission for gender equality.

The inequality between women and men, boys and girls, in Bristol has many aspects that are all related to one another. As gender specialists in Bristol, it is our view that the women of this city stand no chance of gaining equality with men while the council continues to licence sexism via SEVs. We recognise this policy review also covers sex cinemas and sex shops, but due to time constraints we are restricting our response to SEVs (business which promote the financial and social inequality between women and men, and the assumption that women's bodies are objects which men can buy).

In the past 12 months, Bristol City Council has consulted us on numerous policies with regards to the impact of those policies on women. We now present our views on the impact for women as a consequence of SEVs existing in Bristol: a topic that is 100% about women.

BWV is pleased to read that Bristol City Council's website states that the council is committed to advancing gender equality in the city, specifically stating that: "We will improve the safety of women and men by measuring street sexual harassment and follow up action and we will increase the uptake of specialist sexual violence services."¹

We highlight the facts that Bristol:

1. was the first city to sign up to the European Convention against Trafficking,
2. was the first UK city to sign up to the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life,
3. was the first city to create a mayoral Women's Commission,
4. was one of the first UK cities to have a violence against women strategy,
5. was awarded White Ribbon status, showing the city's commitment to eliminating violence against women and girls,

¹ <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/gender-equality>

6. has the 'This Is Not An Excuse' programme of public advertising across the city to challenge ideas of sexual entitlement,
7. has a programme of education available to all of Bristol's early years, primary and secondary schools via the Bristol Ideal,
8. offers workplace DV training sessions being developed by Public Health Bristol; and
9. Bristol is host to the widely acclaimed Zero Tolerance initiative, working towards a city that is free from gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation.

Given all of this, it is incomprehensible that Bristol City Council should still licence SEVs to operate in the city. Bristol more than any other city should be nil-cap and should be proud to be so.

However, the very existence of SEVs licensed by the Council poses a risk to the wider society in Bristol and has a detrimental impact on the vast majority of people in Bristol who choose not to work in or frequent these establishments. Indeed, the existence of SEVs is the polar opposite of a city that celebrates equality and offers a sanctuary for all who need it. This is why we strongly call for Bristol to have a nil-cap on all SEVs with no exceptions.

Since the austerity cuts that began in 2010, BWV has seen an unacceptable number of women lose their jobs from specialist services working to prevent men's violence against women. These job losses are a direct result of funding cuts and the impact of their work has been felt acutely as the city struggles with increasing levels of violence towards women and decreased capacity to respond to these women. These job losses significantly outweigh the number of women who are self-employed in SEVs and who may lose their temporary, un-contracted zero-hours work when you implement a nil-cap.

Questions for the Council

Can Bristol City Council definitively say with 100% certainty that no SEV workers in Bristol are trafficked, have complex needs or are controlled and pimped by men?

Can Bristol City Council ensure the safety of all women and girls in the vicinity of these establishments and in the wider city?

How can Bristol City Council square its support for the Bristol Ideal school programme while supporting the objectification of women for the purpose of male gratification in SEVs?

How can boys in the city grow up to respect women as their equals, and how can girls grow up to have equal aspirations? Clear evidence exists that this equality does not extend to the adult world given that outdated performances of outdated sex roles persist. Bristol City Council has the opportunity to change this right now.

Existing Examples of Successful Nil-Cap Cities

There is already evidence of a nil-cap being successful elsewhere in the UK and we call on Bristol City Council to join other cities and be clear about your commitment to gender equality. Nil caps exist in similar forward-thinking university cities such as Swansea, Exeter, Coventry, North Tyneside and Warwick. Bristol must be next.

We invite Bristol City Council to make the links between its numerous pledges to gender equality and its licensing of establishments that exploit women, and to implement a nil-cap on all SEVs.

Impact on Bristol

Bristol city centre is rapidly changing, and since the council's last SEV policy review there has been a dramatic rise in residential housing in the city centre, particularly around Old Market and the Hippodrome where two of the city's current SEVs operate. As such, it is even less appropriate now than it ever was for SEVs to remain in these residential areas.

With this in mind, we invite the council to consider how two former Bristol SEVs have seen their premises become much more inclusive businesses.

1. Pata Negra (formerly Lounge @ 33) is now a thriving and respected tapas restaurant in the city centre. With rave reviews from more than 210 happy customers on TripAdvisor, the restaurant is rated the 92nd best in the city (out of 1,219)².
2. The Platinum Club on Denmark Street was more recently the Kush nightclub, and is now planned to be a café opening in January 2017³.

Both of these examples show that there is no shortage of entrepreneurs in Bristol who would welcome these central sites that SEVs currently occupy in which to set up successful, gender inclusive and popular businesses, and which would offer employment to many.

Conclusions

We ask that Bristol City Council takes heed of the points raised in this response and instils a nil-cap in Bristol, ensuring that this city truly is a safe and welcoming space for all women and girls, and demonstrating that sexism and gender inequality will not be tolerated any longer in Bristol.

² https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Restaurant_Review-g186220-d7147357-Reviews-Pata_Negra-Bristol_England.html

³ <http://www.bristol247.com/channel/news-comment/daily/animals/bristol-cat-cafe-to-open-in-january>

Bristol City Council has been claiming for many years that it is a city striving for gender equality, we urge it to take action to ensure this becomes a reality.

A nil-cap is the only option.

Bristol Women’s Commission and Bristol Zero Tolerance Initiative response to preliminary consultation on the Bristol City Council Sex Establishment Policy Review 2016/17

January 2017

Bristol Women’s Commission supports a nil cap policy on Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) within the local authority of Bristol. The Commission believes that the granting of licences to these establishments contradicts the policies and obligations the City Council has in tackling exploitation and violence against women. The Commission trusts that the Licensing Committee will adopt a policy that no SEV licenses will be granted within the local authority area in the future. This will enable the Council to meet many of its obligations and legal objectives in terms of equality and human rights and wider government policy.

Our focus is on supporting a nil cap on SEVs in Bristol because of the incompatibility of the current policy with a city that is equal and safe for all.

As a key signatory to the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life¹ Bristol City Council must recognise that “*gender-based violence arises from the idea, on the part of the perpetrator, of the superiority of one sex over the other in... an unequal relationship of power*” (Article 22.2). SEVs can be seen to contribute to a popular culture whereby women’s bodies are objectified. This culture perpetuates the notion of “*the superiority of one sex over the other*” as identified in the Charter.² The Council’s duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) includes the need to have ‘due regard’ to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment of women and advance equality of opportunity for women, as well as foster good relations between men and women which arguably the presence of SEVs does not do. In fact, research³ demonstrates that the sexual objectification of women, which can be seen to be encouraged and practiced within SEVs, acts to reinforce gender inequality.

¹ Council of European Municipalities and Regions, The European Charter of Equality for Women and Men in Local Life http://www.ccre.org/docs/charte_egalite_en.pdf

² Bristol Women’s Commission, Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy Statement, Licensing Special Purposes Sub Committee, 6th November 2014

³ See for example Home Office Sexualisation Review 2010 <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100418065544/http://homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexualisation-of-young-people.html>

Therefore, continued licensing of SEVs by Bristol City Council fails to meet obligations under the Charter and national equalities legislation and diminishes the status of Bristol as a modern European City where both women and men can lead fulfilled lives in a safe and fair society.

Bristol as a city is committed to the eradication of violence and abuse of women and girls. In 2012 the city was awarded White Ribbon City status which requires cities to work towards a status of zero SEVs.

Bristol City Council has taken on and is supportive of the Women's Commission's Bristol Zero Tolerance initiative and both previous and current Mayors have pledged their support.⁴ The Bristol Zero Tolerance initiative⁵ seeks to address all forms of gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation in the city and a nil cap policy on SEVs is a part of this work. So far over 40 high profile organisations and businesses in Bristol have signed up to the Bristol Zero Tolerance pledge and are taking action on gender-based violence in the city.⁶

Other current approaches to addressing violence and abuse in the city include:

- www.thisisnotanexcuse.org
- www.bristolideal.org.uk
- UWE Intervention Initiative⁷
- Bristol Against Violence and Abuse Strategy 2015-2020⁸ includes an aim to challenge the sexualisation and subordination of women and children.

These projects are supported by or run by Bristol City Council therefore the Commission believes that the continued licensing of SEVs directly undermines the council's own work and is not compatible with the wider outcomes and aims that the city hopes to achieve in terms of gender equality and the eradication of gender-based violence. These local policies and strategies highlight the importance of equality, safety and addressing gender-based violence, however, there are no local policies which see the presence of SEVs in the city as positive.

Research published in 2014 shows that sexual objectification has a key role in the link between men's alcohol use and sexual violence perpetration.⁹

⁴ <http://www.bristolzerotolerance.com/our-partners-2/bristol-city-council-2/>

⁵ <http://www.bristolzerotolerance.com/>

⁶ <http://www.bristolzerotolerance.com/our-partners-2/>

⁷ <http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/bl/research/interventioninitiative.aspx>

⁸ <http://www.bava.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Bristol-Against-Violence-and-Abuse-Strategy-2015-2020.pdf>

Therefore, the presence of SEVs in Bristol can be seen to impact on the safety of women and girls and a local authority policy which permits the licensing of SEVs contributes to the normalisation of exploitation and gender-based violence which initiatives such as Bristol Zero Tolerance are trying to combat.

Good practice on SEVs:

An increasing number of local authorities in the UK are now taking a nil policy approach to SEV licensing and have implemented policy approaches that acknowledge the links between SEVs and gender-based violence and inequality.

The Commission understands that the following local authorities have taken a nil cap approach:

- Coventry
- London – (different licensing regime) Bromley Town, City of London, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, Hounslow, Richmond, Havering, Camden, Merton
- North Tyneside
- Slough
- Exeter
- Swansea
- Warwick
- Winchester

Others are under consideration. Swansea, Coventry and Winchester local authorities have also developed appropriate wording for their nil cap policies.¹⁰

Home Office Guidance 2010¹¹ states that nil may be an appropriate number of SEVs for a local authority and that licensing authorities may refuse to renew a license even if there is no change in circumstances.

⁹ Gervais et al (2014) Understanding the Link Between Men’s Alcohol Use and Sexual Violence Perpetration: The Mediating Role of Sexual Objectification. Psychology of Violence.

¹⁰ See http://www.swansea.gov.uk/media/4651/Sex-Establishment-Policy/pdf/Licensing_of_Sex_Establishments_Policy_2013.pdf ; http://www.coventry.gov.uk/downloads/file/8505/sexual_entertainment_venue_policy and <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/licensing/sex-establishment-licence/>

¹¹

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100413151441/http://crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/crimereduction057a.pdf>

The Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015¹² also includes ‘reducing violence against women’ as a consideration for local authorities when preparing an SEV policy statement and considering the local impact. The Commission would urge Bristol City Council to adopt a similar position.

The Commission is also concerned about some areas of the existing policy and issues these raise for those working within SEVs as well as the general public. These issues would be resolved if a nil cap were to be put in place. The Commission is also concerned about the ability of the general public to respond to the Licensing Committee processes as outlined below.

Concerns with the Regulations prescribing standard conditions applicable to licenses for sexual entertainment venues:

Section D - Code of Conduct

There is currently no standard Code of Conduct that performers or audience members should comply with to protect the rights and safety of performers and enforce a Zero Tolerance approach to any form of violence or harassment.

Section F (a) – contact between performers and customers

The Commission is concerned that there is evidence that this aspect of the policy has not been complied with¹³ and is another reason for a nil cap on SEVs.

Section O – facilities for performers

Given the strong anecdotal evidence that even with current cap levels in the city the most basic provision of separate toilets, changing facilities, and free information on local gender-based violence services and other support for performers in existing establishments is lacking, it is clear that with stretched resources enforcement visits cannot be made often enough or do not have the effect of eliminating unsafe practices or licence breaches.

The specific reference to literature on sexual problems, family planning and sexually transmitted diseases (i - iii) suggests that performers engage in prostitution, whereas gender-based violence is a more likely occurrence during their work. No establishments in the city should exist which could encourage and enable either prostitution or gender-based violence. The idea that the City

¹² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/10/section/76/enacted>

¹³ see <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/bristol-club-fined-lap-dancers-far/story-19690487-detail/story.html>

Council is licensing establishments where these are likely to occur is extraordinary.

Section T (ii) – performers’ documents

There is a constant concern that trafficked or exploited women could end up working in SEVs and that clubs themselves have responsibility for checking documents. Again, the Commission believes that a nil cap policy on SEVs is another way to ensure that human trafficking and other forms of exploitation are eliminated from the city.

Concerns with Bristol City Council Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Control of Sexual Entertainment Venues:

Section 6 – general obligations that apply to the discharge of all the Council’s powers and duties

Council obligations under Equalities Law are outlined above and the Commission believes that the continued licensing of SEVs will not enable the Council to meet these.

Research has also shown that women who work in SEVs can be subject to high levels of abusive behaviour from customers - in a UK study published in 2011 almost half reported frequent verbal harassment and unwanted touching from customers.¹⁴ Again, the Commission believes the council should not be complicit in this type of activity by agreeing licenses when professing to seek a society where women are equal to men.

Section 7 – considering applications and representations

The Commission appreciate being involved in the preliminary consultation process for the policy review and are pleased that other organisations who have made representations in the past have also been invited to be involved in this process. However, the Commission believes that the application process for SEVs and consultation around this lacks transparency and that the information and timetables for these processes must be made more clearly available to members of the public who may wish to comment. The relevant web pages on the Council website cannot be found through searches and the application process and information about this is not clearly available. The timetable for establishments to make an application, representations to be

¹⁴ University of Leeds Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law, The Regulatory Dance <http://www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/research/projects/regulatory-dance>

submitted and dates of hearings should be available to ensure accessibility and participation. This process should also be more focused, for example, hearings taking place within a time limit such as 3 weeks after the end of the application and consultation process.

The Commission is also not aware of information on applications being available on street furniture and community notice boards and being made available to Ward Members and Neighbourhood Forum Coordinators as the policy states. The Commission would therefore like to see a more robust consultation process built into the policy and included in future application cycles. This process should also be accessible including the consultation and papers being advertised clearly online as well as being available in different languages and formats if requested. Responses should also be able to be made online or through electronic and paper copies. A draft Equality Impact Assessment of any draft Council policies should also be made available.

For example, the change in conditions applied for by one of Bristol's SEVs directly contravenes section F (b) of the Regulations prescribing standard conditions applicable to licenses for sexual entertainment venues.¹⁵ However, the application for a proposed change in conditions was not advertised and so local people who it may impact on did not make objections.

Section 8 – discretionary grounds for refusal

The Commission broadly support the grounds for refusal outlined by the policy. However, the Commission believes that the policy has not been followed in terms of the appropriateness of venues considering the character and use of the locality. The proximity to bus stops, residences and public spaces as well as public perception has not been taken into consideration with the current SEVs in Bristol City Centre.

The Council have received a number of objections in the past to the renewal of SEV licenses including details of sexual harassment that some women have experienced in the vicinity of SEVs. Women also report feeling unsafe, unwelcome and intimidated when near these establishments. As Philip Kolvin QC notes¹⁶ “the fears of women using the vicinity of premises may be reflected in decisions as to the location of such facilities... These concerns are directly reflected in the Royal Town Planning Institute’s Gender and Spatial Planning

¹⁵ see <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/reaction-your-views-on-bristol-s-first-topless-bar/story-29776106-detail/story.html>

¹⁶ Sex Licensing p86-87 <http://kolvin.co.uk/areas-of-licensing-law/sex-licensing/>

Good Practice Note, which states: ‘...ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable.’” When will the Licensing Committee have due and demonstrable regard to these concerns?

Bristol is at the forefront of national thinking in promoting women’s equality and addressing gender-based violence by signing the European Charter of Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, setting up Bristol Women’s Commission and supporting the Commission’s Bristol Zero Tolerance initiative to drive the agenda forward. The Commission now urges Bristol City Council Licensing Committee to give utmost consideration to the issues raised in our response when reviewing the overall policy of whether the presence of SEVs within the city of Bristol is appropriate or desirable and that the outcome of the updated policy will be for a nil cap.

Signed by Bristol Women’s Commission members:

(Redacted)



Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner Response (January 2017)

**Preliminary consultation on the Bristol City Council Sex Establishment Policy Review
2016/17**

Submitted by email by Inspector Martin Rowlands on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Contact email: PCC@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Introduction

The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Avon and Somerset, Sue Mountstevens supports a nil cap policy on Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) within the local authority of Bristol. This view is based on the PCC's commitment to *Protect the Most Vulnerable From Harm* as set out in the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Plan.¹ As PCC, Sue Mountstevens is determined to take up every opportunity to reduce and tackle crime in Avon and Somerset. In terms of protecting the most vulnerable from harm, this is relevant to SEVs when it comes to tackling in particular, violence against women and girls (VAWG).

Prevention

The Police and Crime Plan sets out the PCC's ambition to *Protect the Most Vulnerable From Harm* which covers a range of crime types including domestic and sexual abuse and exploitation. This priority includes the objective to 'take a preventative approach and raise awareness of these crimes to challenge perpetrators and give victims confidence to report'.² The Constabulary and other agencies are seeing significant increases in reporting both in Bristol and Avon and Somerset. While this is positive, showing increased confidence in statutory and support agencies, we must not be complacent in our ambition to prevent future harm.

This focus on prevention is in line with the Home Office 2016 VAWG Strategy which states:

¹ <http://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/Your-PCC/Police-Crime-Plan-2016.aspx> p.8

² *ibid* p.10

Preventing violence and abuse from happening in the first place will make a significant difference to overall prevalence of these crimes. We will continue to challenge the **deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and limit women and girls** across all communities. [emphasis added]³

This is of significance when looking at SEV policy as it is the PCC's view that SEVs, by offering paid performances by women contribute to social norms, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against women and girls by objectifying them and placing them as a commodity. Indeed, the Home Office states that violence against women and girls is 'both a cause and consequence of gender inequality' which is an important statement to consider when the Licensing Committee is reviewing its policy on SEVs.⁴

Bristol's commitments

As a signatory to the **European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life**, Bristol City Council recognises that "*gender-based violence arises from the idea, on the part of the perpetrator, of the superiority of one sex over the other in... an unequal relationship of power*".⁵ SEVs can be seen to contribute to a popular culture whereby women's bodies are objectified. This culture perpetuates the notion of "*the superiority of one sex over the other*" as identified in the Charter.⁶ Similarly, the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty includes the need to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and harassment of women and advance equality of opportunity for women, as well as foster good relations between men and women which arguably the presence of SEVs does not do. In fact, research demonstrates that the sexual objectification of women, which can be seen to be encouraged and practiced within SEVs, acts to reinforce gender inequality.⁷

The PCC is proud of the **Bristol Zero Tolerance** initiative and is a signatory.⁸ This is important in the context of SEVs given that research published in 2014 shows that sexual objectification has a key role in the link between men's alcohol use and perpetration of sexual violence.⁹ Therefore, the presence of SEVs in Bristol can be seen to impact on the safety of women and girls. The licensing of SEVs contributes to the normalisation of exploitation and gender-based violence which initiatives such as Bristol Zero Tolerance are trying to combat.

³https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF p.9

⁴ *ibid* p.16

⁵ Council of European Municipalities and Regions, The European Charter of Equality for Women and Men in Local Life http://www.ccre.org/docs/charte_egalite_en.pdf Article 22.2

⁶ Bristol Women's Commission, Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy Statement, Licensing Special Purposes Sub Committee, 6th November 2014

⁷ See for example Home Office Sexualisation Review 2010 <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100418065544/http://homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexualisation-of-young-people.html>

⁸ <http://www.bristolzerotolerance.com/our-partners-2/police-and-crime-commissioner/>

⁹ Gervais et al (2014) Understanding the Link Between Men's Alcohol Use and Sexual Violence Perpetration: The Mediating Role of Sexual Objectification. *Psychology of Violence*.

The PCC has also been pleased to work jointly with **Safer Bristol** and **Bristol Public Health** on campaigns, services and initiatives aimed at tackling domestic and sexual abuse during her time in office. As such, the PCC cannot support the continuation of a licensing position which contravenes these efforts.

Concluding Remarks

Both in terms of the safety of performers at the venues and more globally in terms of preventing violence against women and girls, it is clear that Bristol has an opportunity to support the ambitions in the PCC's Police and Crime Plan in considering its policy on SEVs.

If Bristol is to take its commitment to tackling these crimes and gender equality seriously, then it should take the bold step of setting a nil cap for SEVs in Bristol.

Nice'n'Naughty

Bangor | Bolton | Brighton | Bristol | Chester | Leeds | Liverpool | Newcastle | Southport | Warrington | Wigan

Nick Carter
Regulatory Services Manager
Licensing Team (Temple Street)
PO Box 3176
Bristol
BS3 9FS



16th December 2016

Dear Mr Carter,

RE: SEX ESTABLISHMENT POLICY REVIEW 2016/2017

Thank you for your letter of the 11th November 2016 requesting comments on the sex establishment policy review 2016/2017

I would like to refer to the many letters I have sent to Bristol Council questioning the policy and charges associated with the sex establishment licensing (please find enclosed)

Many of these letters have gone unanswered and to date I do not feel that the fees charged are justified.

I have requested meetings to discuss this further in person all of which have been ignored.

I wish to be able to make full representation to any committee that will be reviewing the Sex Establishment policy 2016/2017

I request that this review include the fees associated with the licensing reviews for sex shops.

Bristol Council is one of the highest in the UK and has not justified the fees although we have continually requested this.

Other councils that Nice 'n' Naughty deal with charge the following:

Liverpool	£190.96
Warrington	£457.00
Wigan	£610.00
Southport	£600.00

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Trish Murray

Trish Murray
Operations Manager
T: 0844 88 44 784
E: operations@nicennaughty.co.uk



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Bangor | Bolton | Brighton | Bristol | Chester | Leeds | Liverpool | Newcastle | Southport | Warrington | Wigan

Licensing Team (Temple Street)
PO Box 3176
Bristol
BS3 9FS

13th September 2016

Dear Sirs,

RE: LICENCE RENEWAL – NICE 'N' NAUGHTY, 45 COLSTON STREET, BRISTOL, BS1 5AX

With reference to the above, we have written to you on the following dates with no response:

5th July 2016
16th June 2016
16th May 2016

The letter from the 16th May 2016 enclosed our Licence renewal application without the fee as we advised that we were awaiting a response from Jonathan Martin regarding fees.

We have had no response from Mr. Martin or any of the licensing team regarding the fees or our licence renewal.

I would be grateful therefore if a member of the licensing team would acknowledge receipt of this letter and advise on the situation of the fees at this time.

Yours sincerely

Emma Humphreys
Nice N Naughty
Senior Executive Administrator
T: 0844 88 44 784
E: accounts2@nicennaughty.co.uk



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Nice'n'Naughty

Bangor | Bolton | Brighton | Bristol | Chester | Leeds | Liverpool | Newcastle | Southport | Warrington | Wigan

Licensing Team (Temple Street)
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5th July 2016

Dear Sirs,

RE: LICENCE RENEWAL – NICE 'N' NAUGHTY, 45 COLSTON STREET, BRISTOL, BS1 5AX

With reference to the above, we sent our licence renewal paperwork to you on the 16th May 2016 and subsequently sent copies of the public notice published in the Western Daily Press on the 18th May 2016 and the Window notice following the 21 day period.

No fee was sent with the renewal as we had written to Jonathan Martin under the Freedom Of Information act asking for information regarding how the fees were set to which he responded on the 13th June 2016.

We sent a further letter which I have attached regarding the fees for 2016/2017 as Mr Martin advised that the last time the fees were set was 2013/2014.

There was no response received from this letter so I would be grateful if you could please arrange for this to be responded too as I am conscious that we have not made payment for the licence or received the licence renewal documents.

Yours sincerely

Emma Humphreys

Nice N Naughty

Senior Executive Administrator

T: 0844 88 44 784

E: accounts2@nicennaughty.co.uk



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Licensing Team (Temple Street)
PO Box 3176
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16th May 2016

Dear Sirs,

RE: LICENCE RENEWAL – NICE 'N' NAUGHTY, 45 COLSTON STREET, BRISTOL, BS1 5AX

With reference to the above, please find enclosed the completed paperwork for the renewal of our licence at Nice N Naughty Leisurewear Ltd, 45 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5AX.

Further to our letter to Jonathan Martin regarding fees and our FOI request, once we have had a response to these, the fee for the licence will be sent separately.

A copy of the completed documentation has also been sent to Chief Constable, Avon & Somerset Constabulary, New Bridewell (6th Floor), Bristol, BS1 2QH.

If you have any queries regarding the application, please do not hesitate to contact me

Yours sincerely

Emma Humphreys
Nice N Naughty
Senior Executive Administrator
T: 0844 88 44 784
E: accounts2@nicennaughty.co.uk



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Jonathan Martin
Trading Standards & Licensing Manager
Trading Standards Section
Brunel House
St Georges Road
Bristol
BS1 5UY

RECORDED DELIVERY

12th May 2016

Dear Jonathan,

RE: Nice 'n' Naughty, 45 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5AX

Please find enclosed a copy of my letter to you dated the 10th November 2015, which was signed for on the 13th November 2015 (copy of the proof of delivery is also enclosed) to which I have had no response.

We have also received no final response to our Freedom of Information request that was sent to Bristol City Council on the 2nd February 2016.

You did respond to the FOI with a query on the 4th March 2016 which was received by us on the 10th March 2016.

We responded to you on the 11th March 2016 providing the further details you had requested, again copies of this correspondence is enclosed, but we have received no further details from you regarding this request.

As we are about to start the 2016/2017 licence renewal process I would be grateful if you could provide the information requested by return.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Trish Murray
Operation Manager
Nice n Naughty Ltd
07890758627



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T: 0844 88 44 784

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Jonathan Martin
Regulatory Compliance Unit Manager
Bristol City Council
Licensing Services
Princes House
Princess Street
Bedminster
Bristol
BS3 4AG

RECORDED DELIVERY

10th November 2015

Dear Jonathan,

RE: Nice 'n' Naughty, 45 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5AX

Thank you for your time on the telephone today and the chance to discuss my issues with the current renewal fee for a Sex Establishment Licence in Bristol.

As I am sure you are aware, I have been campaigning for a fair and reasonable licensing renewal fee for all the Nice 'n' Naughty shops across the UK and Bristol in particular due to its high fees when we took the store from Clonezone in 2009. This was prior to the Hemming vs. Westminster Council court case.

Although we have seen a significant drop in the fees since 2009, we find it difficult to understand how Bristol fees are so much higher than other local councils we deal with, when the process is identical across the country. Having looked at other Councils near to Bristol City, Bath is £1,680, Newport £378, Cardiff is £804 and although these are higher than some of our other stores, they are a lot less than Bristol City Council.

Below are six examples of councils that Nice 'n' Naughty have applied for licenses with that have applied significant reductions to their licence fees.

Chester reduced fees from £3,800 to £900
Warrington reduced fees over a period of 3 years from £3,800 to £451
Liverpool city council reduced fees from £1,600 to £192
Wigan Borough Council reduced fees over 3 years from £3,600 to £571
Manchester Council reduced fees from £5,412 to £398
Leeds Council reduced fees from £8,000 to £700

The reductions were a result of the Councils actual costing of the renewal process for a sex establishment many of which supplied a breakdown of the cost and how they arrived at the new fees. We understand every council sets fees independently but I am sure you can appreciate the £5,000 we pay Bristol Council seems excessive when looking at other councils.





I would be grateful if you could send me the cost breakdown for Bristol City Council sex shop renewal process and would like the opportunity to meet to discuss when I visit Bristol in December.

We have worked very closely with other councils to help reduce costs of the renewal process and would like to think this is possible with yourselves over the coming months.

Thank you again for your time on the phone today and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely

Trish Murray
Operation Manager
Nice n Naughty Ltd
07890758627



Nice'n'Naughty

Bangor | Bolton | Brighton | Bristol | Chester | Leeds | Liverpool | Newcastle | Southport | Warrington | Wigan

Sarah Flower
Licensing Services
Princes House
Princess Street
Bedminster
Bristol
BS3 4AG

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

18th February 2015

Dear Sarah,

RE: Nice 'n' Naughty, 45 Colston Street, Bristol, Avon, BS1 5AX

Further to our telephone conversation today, Nice 'N' Naughty has been kept aware of Westminster Council being granted leave to appeal to the Supreme Court from Philip Kolvin and Tim Hemming. Whilst we understand the basis of this decision, we are advised that it is unlikely the Supreme Court will arrive at a different verdict and as a result several councils we work with are offering a full and final settlement to prevent larger sums being claimed at a later date.

Since 2009, we have paid £33,767.00, based on an approximate renewal fee of £500.00 going forward based on other local Councils we have finalised this issue with, we calculate a refund request of £27,119.00, our workings out are detailed below. This figure does not include any element of interest to date.

The figures for 2009/2010 have been worked out as a pro rata figure for January to June 2010 due to the EU Directive coming into place in December 2009 and what we believe to be a fair transfer fee.

Transfer Fee	£150.00
2009/2010	£250.00
2011/2010	£500.00
2012/2011	£500.00
2013/2012	£500.00
2013/2014	£500.00
2014/2015	£500.00
	<u>£2,900.00</u>



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Nice'n'Naughty

If we are unable to resolve the issue now it is likely the future figure would be significantly higher, including interest charges as specified by the courts going back to 2009. In addition the legal team have estimated additional costs of up to £10,000.00 per sex shop which will be charged to the relevant Council as I mentioned on the phone I would like to avoid involving Lawyers if at all possible.

As with other Councils I have agreed full and final settlements with we will sign a confidentiality agreement and will not make any future claims against the Council irrelevant of the ruling outcome and additional interest that will accrue.

Having spent 6 years working with Bristol City Council arguing the fees I am sure you appreciate that the fact it was only ever addressed was when the Westminster case came to Court is frustration for me personally as I feel I was ignored for many years by the licensing team.

If in the very unlikely event the Supreme Court go against the ruling of the Court of Appeal Nice n Naughty would reimburse the £27,119.00 and this can be written into any confidentiality agreement or contract you wish for us to sign.

I appreciate the time and effort from yourself in trying to resolve this issue and would appreciate a further chance to meet and finalise the matter as I know that you have much more pressing issues to deal with and I would like to finalise this matter as I am sure you would, rather than us to proceed with an information access request to submit to our legal team as this will only add to costs and more importantly time taken up in gathering the information, I would like to think having worked closely with the Council to get to this stage we can agree to finalise the matter without legal involvement.

The Lawyers dealing with this have now requested a list of councils that we currently deal with that a final settlement has not been agreed so that they can prepare the legal papers, I would therefore appreciate a response by return so I can take the necessary action.

I can be contacted on 07890 758 627 to discuss further or arrange a meeting at your convenience

Yours Sincerely

Trish Murray
Nice n Naughty Ltd



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Nice 'n' Naughty

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Jonathan Martin
Regulatory Compliance Unit Manager
Bristol City Council
Licensing Services
Princes House
Princess Street
Bedminster
Bristol
BS3 4AG

RECORDED DELIVERY

13th January 2015

Dear Mr Martin,

RE: Nice 'n' Naughty, 45 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5AX
Your Ref: JPM/Licensing/Sex Shop

Further to our letter of the 17th March 2014 and your response letter of the 31st March 2014, copies of which I enclose, we have received no further correspondence regarding the issues raised.

Our original letter to you regarding the fees for Sex Shop Licence renewals was sent back in April 2013, since this time all the Councils that Nice 'n' Naughty deal with have reduced their fees and in most cases refunded the overpayment paid by Nice 'n' Naughty.

Councils' such as Manchester City Council have reduced their fees to £348, Warrington Borough Council have reduced their fee to £457.00 and Wigan Council have reduced their fees to £591. Liverpool City Council has also confirmed by phone that they will be reducing their fees to less than £300.

In your last letter, you advised that the fee setting process was being dealt with during the months of April and May with a view to being implemented from July. However, your website shows that the fee still appears to be set at £5,000.00 and we have had no correspondence to detail any further changes from you.

I will be visiting our Bristol store on the 20th and 21st January, if you would like to arrange a meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course but should you need to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Yours sincerely

Trish Murray
Nice 'n' Naughty Ltd
07890 758627



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Jonathan Martin
Regulatory Compliance Unit Manager
Bristol City Council
Licensing Services
Princes House
Princess Street
Bedminster
Bristol
BS3 4AG

17th March 2014

Dear Mr Martin,

RE: Nice 'n' Naughty, 45 Colston Street, Bristol, BS1 5AX
Your Ref: JPM/Licensing/Sex Shop

Thank you for your letter of 8th January regarding the proposed license fee for the current year. As you are aware Nice 'n' Naughty have been paying £5,050 in previous years and are looking to see a substantial reduction in the light of the Westminster ruling.

Your letter states that you will revert back to us at the earliest opportunity but more than two months have elapsed since that communication. You will appreciate that we operate in a difficult market due to increased internet competition, and an even more difficult economy. It is vital that all costs are controlled and monitored in order that detailed financial planning can be effective but in the absence of clarification of such a key cost to the business, financial prudence is proving difficult.

I would be grateful if you would please clarify both the proposed level of fee and the justification behind it within the next twenty eight days. To be clear we are expecting a material reduction in license fees since virtually every other Council with whom we interact, have reduced fees to less than £1,000, by way of example Manchester Council is £348.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course but should you need to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Yours sincerely

Trish Murray
Nice 'n' Naughty Ltd
07890 758627

Jonathon Martin
Licensing Services
Princes House
Princess Street
Bedminster
Bristol
BS3 4AG

6th January 2014

Dear Mr Martin,

RE: NICE N NAUGHTY, 45 COLSTON STREET, BRISTOL

Further to the letter sent to you dated 22nd November 2013, to which I haven't received a reply, I am currently working with all my local councils regarding the licensing renewal fees.

As you indicated in your letter dated 6th November 2013, Bristol City Council believe the fees charged are justified and not inflated to cover any cost other than those directly associated with the administration and enforcement of the licensed sex shop I request a breakdown of how the fee of £5,000.00 is calculated.

Many of the councils I am working with have carried out a detailed analysis of direct costs and the licensing renewal fees have been reduced to less than £600 in several cases.

It is Nice 'n' Naughty's intention to work directly with the councils to reach a satisfactory resolution on the issue where possible. However, as you are aware Darker Enterprises have two stores in Bristol and I am unable to accept any offer without liaising with them.

Please provide details of the costings, to enable us to determine the next course of action in this matter.

Yours Sincerely

Patricia Murray



JOHN MORSE

— SOLICITORS —

Licensing Team (Temple Street)
Bristol City Council
P O Box 3176
Bristol
BS3 9FS

Our Ref: AS/MB/HAL012/0009
Your Ref:
Date: 21st December 2016

licensing@bristol.gov.uk

Dear Mr Carter

Sex Establishment Policy Review 2016/2017

We act on behalf of Reedbed Limited and Nightlife Bristol Limited who operate, respectively, Central Chambers at 9-11 St Stephens Street and Urban Tiger at 4 Broad Quay.

We are grateful to be given an opportunity to make a contribution, and hope that the following, brief, remarks assist the Council in its initial work on this topic.

The regulation of sexual entertainment

As the Council will know, prior to 2009 sexual entertainment was governed by the Licensing Act 2003, and therefore by the licensing objectives under that legislation. There was concern that those objectives did not cover the field in terms of the issues which have to be considered in relation to sex establishments. The resolution adopted by Parliament was to bring sexual entertainment venues within the same regime as applied to sex shops and sex cinemas. This has been a positive solution for local communities for reasons we set out below.

It is, perhaps, important to emphasise that the Act does not permit refusal on moral grounds or values. In legislating for the licensing of sexual entertainment venues, Parliament has made it

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Directors: John F. Morse, Andrew P. Sivertsen LLB (Hons), Laura Johnson LLB (Hons), Michelle Valerio BA Hons, Sonia McGarrigle LLB (Hons)



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abundantly clear that sexual entertainment is a lawful activity. This is further borne out by paragraph 3.23 of the Home Office Guidance on sexual entertainment venues.

It is fair to say that, in Bristol, there have been objections to our clients' licences and renewals which are, when properly understood, inadmissible objections to the nature of the activity.

It would certainly assist the efficient determination of applications for licence renewals if licensing officers could consider objections to renewal and advise whether individual objections are in fact relevant to the objectives of the legislation. Where they are not relevant, they ought to be discounted. In those cases where the only objections are on the basis of grounds which are not relevant to the legislation, there ought to be no need for a public hearing of the application for renewal. If this approach is taken, it will save legal costs for our clients and administrative costs for the Council.

The Council is also asked to make it clear in the policy that objections cannot be made on moral grounds and that any such objections will be discounted.

Standards for sexual entertainment

The regulation of sex establishments through the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 has brought about a series of benefits for communities, as well as performers and customers. Each of these benefits can and, it is submitted, should, be reflected in a modern sexual entertainment venue policy.

The suitability test for licensees, owners and managers creates the opportunity to establish protective policies, since having such policies may be considered an incident or indicator of propriety:

- Codes of conduct for dancers. These may include rules such as no touching policies, standards of dress, exchanging details, reporting of misconduct and so forth.
- Codes of conduct for customers. These are generally the correlative of codes of conduct for dancers and ensure that customers know exactly what conduct is and is not permitted in the venue.
- Welfare policies for dancers. These may include the privacy of dressing rooms, private toilet facilities, the employment of a "house mother", protection of performers, accompanied exit arrangements and so forth.

The test for suitability of premises enables standards to be laid down in the Council's policy concerning CCTV coverage, ability to supervise premises (e.g. prevention of wholly enclosed booths), provision of proper facilities for performers, standard of toilet facilities etc.

The "locality" grounds in the Act enable Council's to impose a series of controls which minimise or even obviate any impact of the sexual entertainment use on the locality. These controls may include:

- A ban on logoed limousines.
- A ban on leafleting, advertising or other forms of touting in the public realm.
- Prevention of use of sexual imagery or language outside the premises.
- Controls on the nature of lighting to ensure that it is discrete and unobtrusive.
- Prevention of views inside the premises.
- Control of smoking areas, including supervision of smoking areas used by customers and, if performers smoke at the front of the venue, ensuring that they are segregated, discreetly dressed, and in strictly limited numbers.

The appropriate number of SEVS

The Council's current policy suggests that the appropriate number of SEVs for the city centre is two. It is submitted that there is no good ground to decrease that number. The following points are made:

1. The fact that the Council's Licensing Committee has repeatedly renewed the licences of our clients' venues demonstrates that they are not considered to have a detrimental impact on the city centre.
2. After many years of these venues trading in Bristol, the numbers of people actually objecting to renewal is extremely modest, particularly in comparison with the size of the Bristol population. Even then, a significant portion of the objections are based on moral grounds.
3. Moreover, to provide for two SEVs is certainly not excessive for a city with a population of 450,000. It cannot be said that there is over-provision.

4. The two venues provide jobs for 20 staff, 14 SIA-licensed security operatives and 40 performers, nearly all of whom are local to Bristol.

5. The venues contribute significantly to the local economy. For example:

- They pay £32,496.80 in rates.
- They pay £146,969.03 in VAT.
- They pay £60,491.38 in PAYE & NI.
- They pay £82,180.10 in corporation tax.

NB the above figures are commercially confidential and should not be publicly disclosed.

6. Moreover, the venues are subject to large investments which are dependent on the continuation of their licences. For example:

- The lease for Urban Tiger is for 10 years at an annual rent of £60,000 and the lease for Central Chambers is for 10 years at an annual rent of £42,000.
- In addition £25,000 has recently been spent at Urban Tiger upgrading the front of house facilities and a further £20,000 will be spent on the back of house facilities including toilet areas and changing rooms for the dancers and also putting in a shower for the dancers' sole use.
- £32,000 has also been spent at Central Chambers on new seating areas, upgrading the dancing facilities and installing new fire doors, windows and mirrors.

NB the above investments are commercially confidential and should not be publicly disclosed.

7. The businesses are entitled to protection under Article 1 of the First Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights.

8. Further, the performers themselves are entitled to protection under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Closure of SEVs in Bristol would involve them losing their livelihoods as sexual entertainment performers in the city.

For the above reasons, it is suggested that there are strong, positive grounds not to remove the right of our client's businesses to continue to operate.

If, however, the Council has it in mind to make a provision in its policy to reduce the appropriate number of SEVs in the city centre, it may be aware that, in some other council

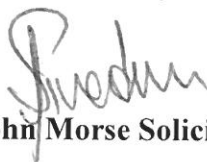
areas, policy provision is made for the preservation of existing business as an exception to the policy provided they are well-run, so as to avoid arguments that their closure involves a breach of Convention and legal rights. A form of wording which has been used elsewhere is:

“The Council recognises that there are established operators who have traded for a long period of time. In deciding whether to make an exception to any provision within this Sex Establishment policy, including the nil policy and any other policy consideration within this policy, the Council will give due weight to the fact, if proved, that the applicant is an established operator whose establishment is a long-standing, well-run sex establishment which has not generated significant levels of concern among the community or statutory authorities.”

In this way, while existing rights are preserved, the Council is enabled to make a policy which indicates that no further licences are likely to be granted and that closure of the existing premises will not be treated as making way for a newcomer to take its place.

It is hoped that these observations are found to be of assistance.

Yours faithfully



John Morse Solicitors

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

1. John Morse solicitors representing Urban Tiger (Nightlife Bristol Ltd) and Central Chambers (Reedbed)

In attendance: Andrew Sivertsen (John Morse solicitors) plus Carrie Hale and Robert Hale (proprietors).

Summary of points raised (written submission referred to):

- The policy review should take account of the framework for the regulation of sexual entertainment. Objections to SEVs should be relevant to the regulation of sexual entertainment and this should be made clear in terms of any consultation. In particular, it should be made clear that moral objections are not relevant. The local authority should be pro-active in stressing this point as part of any consultation.
- In legislating for the licensing of SEVs, Parliament has made it clear that sexual entertainment is a lawful activity. This is further borne out by para. 3.23 of the Home Office guidance on SEVs.
- The 2 current SEVs were well managed by experienced staff, with clear “house” rules and appropriate measures in place to protect the safety of staff. This should be taken into account in reaching a balanced and proportionate view of whether a limited number of SEVs should be permitted.
- Bristol has a robust approach to the renewal of SEV licences. On average, at the time of licence renewal, there have been only 8 objections.
- 75 people are employed in the 2 current SEVs – this accordingly results in a contribution to the local economy.
- Suggested that a balanced view of the situation in Bristol should be taken. Given the level of demand, the population of Bristol, and that the current premises are well run and only a small number of objections have been received when licences are renewed, a total of 2 SEVs seems to be an appropriate level for Bristol.
- Feels that the current rules regarding staff safety are appropriate and are committed to maintaining a robust approach to this. Facilities are kept under constant review. Feels that one operator running the 2 venues is beneficial in terms of maintaining credible and effective operation of premises, and consequently is of benefit to the local licensing authority in this regard.

2. Bristol Women’s Voice (BWV)

Summary of points raised (written submission referred to):

Note – a Powerpoint presentation was displayed and referred to in support of the points raised.

- BWV was a representative body for women in Bristol, working to promote women’s equality and to work with the Council to support its mission for gender equality.
- BWV’s view on SEVs was based on the fundamental principle of equality – SEVs were businesses that promoted the financial and social inequality between women and

men, and also promoted the assumption that women's bodies were objects which men can buy.

- The objections were based fundamentally on the grounds of gender equality rather than morality.
- BWB therefore supported a nil cap on SEVs in Bristol.
- As a city, Bristol generally has a good record and reputation in relation to gender equality. Permitting SEVs was the opposite of a city that strives for equality and "lets the city down".
- There were important issues raised by permitting SEVs in the city, including the issue of how to ensure the safety of women working in SEVs and the safety of all women in the vicinity of SEVs and the wider city.
- There were examples of other cities with nil caps on SEVs. Bristol should be next.
- There has been a dramatic rise in residential housing in the city centre, including the areas around the 2 current SEVs.
- A document was circulated – copy of an article from GRAZIA magazine relating the experiences of a Bristol student who paid for her degree though working as a lap dancer.
- BWV was also opposed to sex cinemas on the grounds that they also promoted the objectification of women's bodies and acted against the principles of gender equality. Indicated that they would wish to conduct research before submitting comments about sex shops.
- BWV felt that a nil cap on SEVs was the only acceptable policy for a diverse city like Bristol that promotes equality. Permitting any SEVs meant the continuation of tolerating the objectification of women's bodies for the gratification of men.
- BWV requested that in carrying out this policy review, the group should follow up on the research that they had drawn attention to in their written submission.

3. Bristol Women's Commission and Bristol Zero Tolerance Initiative

Summary of points raised (written submission referred to):

- This response was supported by a wide range of organisations made up of key agencies.
- A nil cap for SEVs was supported.
- The commission believes that the granting of licences to these establishments contradicts the policies and obligations the Council has in tackling exploitation and violence against women.
- A nil cap on SEVs in Bristol should be introduced because of the incompatibility of the current policy with a city that is equal and safe for all. SEVs reinforce gender inequality and contribute to women's bodies being sexually objectified.
- The Council's policies should reflect zero tolerance to gender based violence.
- In terms of safety, it was understood more than 50% of lap dancers / performers had reported unwanted touching in spite of any house rules that may be in place. In response to this particular point, the Chair advised that all relevant evidence of this kind should be forwarded to the group for consideration.

- In response to a question, the view was expressed that even in highly regulated venues, high levels of enforcement-related activity would be required to ensure compliance. The fundamental point remained, however, that within SEVs, women's bodies were the subject of sexual objectification, and undermined the principle of equality between women and men.
- The commission had not specifically discussed the issues around sex cinemas (noting there that were currently no sex cinemas in Bristol).
- Whilst individual organisations had been consulted on the commission's submission, the commission had not had the resources to engage in wider public consultation.

4. Bristol Fawcett

Summary of points raised (written submission referred to):

- A nil cap on SEVs in Bristol was supported.
- SEVs were not appropriate for a city that actively promoted equality.
- Nil cap policies have been introduced by other cities.
- SEVs promote harmful attitudes to women and run counter to promoting equality between women and men.
- There is evidence of harm to women who worked in SEVs.
- Evidence based research has now resulted in recommendations that the most effective way to bring down the prevalence of men's violence against women is to refocus on community-level prevention - to change the cultural conditions that facilitate men's belief that they are entitled to harass, abuse and violate women. This new focus is beginning to be reflected in policy and legislation. Last year, as part of the revision to Scottish licensing law, an amendment to legislation was passed and enacted (the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015) - S76 recognised the relevance of SEVs to violence against women.
- It was important to recognise that the case for a nil cap was based on the principles of equality rather than morality.
- Drew attention to the extensive legal issues highlighted in part 2 of the written submission and urged the group to be fully mindful of the information supplied, including the views of Philip Kolvin QC.
- Also drew attention to and asked the group to be fully mindful of part 3 of the written submission – specific observations and suggestions for consultation on the draft policy.
- In response to a question about links between SEVs and harm to women in the vicinity of SEVs, referred to a 2011 police mapping exercise that suggested a statistical increase in reported acts of violence against women in the immediate zone around Bristol's SEVs.
- The submission was in relation to policy on SEVs; not commenting on sex cinemas and sex shops.

5. Respondent 5

Summary of points raised (written submission referred to):

- Supports a nil cap on SEVs. Having SEVs in Bristol runs counter to promoting equalities in the city.
- SEVs promote the sexual objectification of women's bodies, whereby women's bodies are seen as objects paid for by men.
- In reviewing the SEV policy, the Council must take into account the public sector equalities duty, and ensure it takes account of all relevant research.
- Also need to note a material change in the character of the city centre, with the recent large increase in residential accommodation set to continue. More young people and students are living in this area. This further adds to the inappropriateness of SEVs being located in this area.
- It will be important to effectively publicise consultation on a revised policy, to help maximise consultation responses.

6. Respondent 6

Summary of points raised (written submission referred to):

- Advises the adoption of a policy setting a cap of zero in each locality of Bristol for SEVs.
- This will promote equality between women and men in the city and will contribute to a change in culture – a culture that is currently supportive of discrimination, harassment and violence against women and girls as data shows.
- Important for the local authority to send a clear message on this issue. It is not appropriate for men's social norms to be influenced by being able to pay to access and dictate what women do with their bodies.
- Recommends the group should take into account representations from local residents and representative groups.
- The group should also reflect on the available research from experts in this policy area.
- This is a strategic, equalities issue.

7. Sue Mountstevens, Police and Crime Commissioner (P&CC), Avon and Somerset Constabulary (A&SC). Inspector Martin Rowland was in attendance representing Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

- The Police and Crime Commissioner made an initial presentation – the following points reflect this:-
- She was pleased that the Council was reviewing the policy as she believed it was damaging to Bristol;
- A core principle of the A&SC was to protect the most vulnerable from harm. Safer Bristol which was a joint plan with the Police and the Council shared this principle;
- There were nationally 473,000 survivors of sex abuse and 40,000 survivors of sexual violence last year;
- There was a need to challenge the deep rooted norms and behaviours linked to this. By allowing SEV's the Council endorsed and normalised the continuation of deep rooted attitudes that women were the object of men's titillation;
- Healthy and equal attitudes were undermined by SEV's;

- Men who used SEV's believed they had a sense of entitlement to access women's bodies;
- She had worked hard with the Mayor to make PHSE mandatory in schools so that children understood what a healthy relationship was. She had heard children of 13/14 talk of their unhealthy relationships;
- The Council endorsed healthy relationships and the importance of equality;
- In Bristol there had been 1600 sexual offences against women by men last year.
- The following points arose from the discussion with the Working Group:-
- The P&CC clarified that that these points were her personal view and therefore the office of the P&CC. She added that the A&SC core principle was to protect the vulnerable from harm and this was what she was arguing for;
- She was asked if there was evidence that that this attitude perpetrated down to schools and replied that there was very little direct evidence of this. The Inspector added that there was a plethora of evidence-based academic information that such attitudes were reinforced in children;
- Many of the women working in SEVs were self- employed or on zero hours contracts and could sometimes be linked to modern slavery. It was noted that the Police would be undertaking an Operations Exercise on modern slavery in the City Centre next week;
- Councillor Langley observed that closing down SEVs would be considered illegal. The Inspector replied that Bristol would not be the first to make such a decision and such venues had successfully transitioned to restaurants elsewhere;
- It was noted that the demographic in the City Centre had changed as there was far more student accommodation. Also one of the SEVs was located opposite the Hippodrome which concerned the P&CC;
- The Inspector observed that there were many more residential premises within Old Market although this was increasing in the City Centre. For operational purposes, Old Market was not part of the late Friday/Saturday night Operation BRIO. He added that neither one of the SEVs were considered poorly run. Academic research stated that the impact of these premises was more around their location as customers went away and committed offences on the way home or at home. He stated that in the last 12 months there had been 471 offences, 16 sexual offences, 9 sexual assaults on females, 5 rapes, 1 of a man and 1 indecent exposure in the areas around the two SEVs. Around a previously licenced SEV there had been 184 offences, 128 of them violent and 11 sexual offences;
- Councillor Abraham asked for clear evidence of other cities that had closed their SEVs and was informed the picture nationally was mixed. In Swansea there was a nil policy. There was 1 SEV licenced but owned by the Council so it never opened. Leeds had reduced their numbers and a number of other Councils had a nil cap but had allowed those in SEVs operating before the policy to stay open;
- The Inspector confirmed that he believed the presence of an SEV in an area made it more challenging. Rapes were not directly linked to an SEV but any venue likely to increase sexual offences against women was a problem. He noted that there was no formal statistics on the sort of crimes around an SEV and a random sample would not produce the same results. He
- believed that there would be a reduction in sexual offences if SEVs were not in place. He added that if opportunity was removed, demand would also go noting that all licenced premises could currently operate sexual entertainment evenings under the TENs regime but there did not appear to be the demand for this;
- Councillor O'Rourke asked if there were SEVs in more remote area that caused difficulties to the police and whether it was possible to run such premises in a more subversive way so that it did not cause difficulties. The P&CC replied that she was unaware of more remote premises but would research this;
- Nick Carter questioned whether the presence of such establishments encouraged certain behaviours and cited as an example the two sex shops within 100 yards of the SEV in Old

Market. He asked whether there was an issue re consistency of message. The P&CC responded that if they were able to sell sex dolls that looked like children she would be very concerned as research had shown there was a direct link to child abuse from those who had purchased them. Abi Holman confirmed that this concern was raised by Police so visits were undertaken and no evidence of that product was found. The Inspector stated that he was far less concerned about sex shops as they were a much different offer though their location was important, ie. next to a school would not be acceptable. The P&CC agreed adding that women attended such shops as well as men and it related to consensual relationships;

- Nick Carter stated that the debate about SEVs was not new and there were real tensions on the matter. Conditioning such premises protected the women working there. If not licensed it could be driven underground or licensed premises might operate under the TENs regime without controls. It was also important to consider whether an SEV or sex shop should be part of a City Centre offer especially with a Purple Flag status. Have these localities changed since the policy came into place? The P&CC observed that the debate had now shifted as the City Council had done so much work on equalities since the policy was introduced;
- Reference was made to Burlesque and male dancers with a female audience and whether these types of entertainment could be licensed. The P&CC stated that male dancing establishments should be treated the same as it was important to challenge such behaviours. She added that A&S Constabulary were currently considering making misogyny a hate crime. The definition of misogyny would be provided to this Working Group by A&SC at a later date;
- The Inspector referred to the increase in online abuse and sexting. A&SC had increased their investigations into child sex exploitation and worked closely with Barnardos on long-term investigations. This was a significant cost and meant they were not doing other Police work whilst also coping with 600 less officers. However, their first priority was to protect the vulnerable;
- Councillor Abraham questioned whether all the sins of the world were being focused on SEVs and whether SEVs provided a freedom people should be able to express. He was genuinely worried about the image of the city with SEVs in place but also realised that the Council had some control through conditions, if they went underground this was lost. He asked whether the arguments being put forward were properly balanced and put above other pressures such as the proliferation of pornography on the internet. The P&CC replied that these premises did make a difference as it provided unsuitable role models for children. The unacceptable state of changing rooms at SEVs showed how employers regarded women. They were willing to allow women to work in those conditions until challenged. The Inspector added that misogyny would continue whilst SEVs still existed and the City council endorsed this;
- Councillor O'Rourke, referring to sex shops as consensual, argued that this could be said of SEVs also as women consented to work there. There would always be women who believed it was their right to do so. These women should also be heard so that the review was properly balanced. The P&CC suggested that the Working Group contact the 125 charity who work with sex workers to get them out of prostitution. Councillor Langley suggested the GMB Union as some sex workers were members of it;
- It was agreed that a piece of work be done to plot the statistics of sexual crime last year in relation to venues.
- The P&CC, in sum up, thanked the Working Group for allowing her to address them. It was her priority to work with partners and hoped she could influence the decision of the Licensing Committee. It was helpful for the Licensing Authority and Police to work together on licensed premises in light of reduced budgets. All tax payers across A&SC were paying for Operation BRIO and that's why the Police were arguing for a late night levy. The Chair thanked the P&CC and Inspector for their attendance.

8. EW (performer)

Summary of introductory / initial comments from EW:

- a. EW has worked as a performer for approx. 10 years.
- b. She works / has worked at a number of venues in Bristol: Urban Tiger, Central Chambers, Temptation, Jack of Diamonds. She also works at SEVs in Swindon.
- c. EW's overall view is that licensed / regulated SEVs have increased safety in and around clubs for performers.
- d. EW expressed concern that Urban Tiger and Central Chambers now have the same owner, as this has created a "monopoly" position for this sector of the economy in Bristol.
- e. The terms of employment, specifically the fees charged by SEVs for performers can vary – in SEVs located in the larger cities, performers often have to pay a set "house fee". The size of the house fee can vary, e.g. a larger house fee is usually payable on Friday and Saturday nights; sometimes, a commission percentage will need to be paid by the performer to the SEV owner/management as well. On a Saturday night at Urban Tiger in Bristol, the house fee is £120.
- f. As per the above, fees charged by SEVs to performers vary. Some venues for example, charge a lower house fee of £20-30 but also take a commission of 25% of performers' earnings.
- g. On occasions, up to 20 performers may be competing for trade. If trade is quiet and there are a limited number of customers, performers can often struggle to earn enough money to cover the house fee. This "overstaffing" can create a less pleasant, competitive working environment at times, with performers effectively competing for business from a limited number of customers.
- h. EW's experience was that performers and venue managers generally ensure strict compliance with licensing conditions, e.g. in terms of enforcing the "no touching" rule.

Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion:

1. Cllr Abraham queried the extent to which the group may be able to comment on / look to influence various aspects of the way SEVs are managed, e.g. in relation to how clubs set house fees, and limiting the number of performers working at any one time. It was important for the group to be clear about the terms of its remit.

The Chair noted that at this stage, the working group was in the process of gathering a wide range of evidence from a number of contributors and different perspectives. Once this had been completed, a careful assessment would need to be undertaken about which matters fell appropriately within the group's remit in terms of forming their recommendations. Officers advised that there were a range of conditions that could potentially be considered in due course – for example, it may be possible to consider particular regulation around limiting the number of performers linked to evidenced demand.

2. In relation to the specific issue of potentially introducing regulation around the setting of performer fees by SEVs, it was noted that MB would need to research relevant case law etc. His initial legal view, however, was that the Council could look to apply conditions that are reasonable and proportionate in terms of achieving set objectives. Therefore, in relation to house fees / fees

charged by clubs to performers, there probably would be reasonable grounds for the Council to introduce a level of control to be applied if this was considered appropriate, e.g. to take account of the minimum wage. Subject to the outcome of research, it would though probably not be possible to introduce conditions around drink pricing, as the decision to purchase a drink(s) was essentially a transactional decision taken by a customer (subject to clear information being made available by the venue about drink prices).

3. Members asked EW's view in relation to changing and backstage conditions, and health and safety generally within SEVs.

EW's view was that the changing conditions at Bristol SEVs were acceptable from a performer perspective and similar to backstage environments elsewhere, i.e. a shared changing room, with availability of a bathroom / toilet / shower. Venues usually had CCTV cameras covering all areas – this was welcomed by performers as helping to ensure safety within the premises. In her experience, managers would respect the changing room environment, e.g. by always knocking on the changing room door before entering.

4. Members asked EW's views and observations about the impact of new legislation and the ability of local authorities to regulate SEVs, and on whether a nil cap on SEVs in Bristol might be appropriate, bearing in mind that some councils have already introduced a nil cap.

EW expressed the following further views:

a. A nil cap in Bristol could lead to performers seeking employment in SEVs elsewhere. She was concerned that some performers may, as a consequence of a nil cap, engage in unregulated activity.

b. She felt it was important to recognise that a lot of women in her position faced barriers to work – as a single mother, for example, working as a performer in a SEV currently gave her the ability to work flexibly, on 1 or 2 nights a week, in a regulated, safe environment.

c. From her personal perspective, the alternative to her current employment would most likely be to work in a pub/bar environment. In her experience, working in a pub/bar had seen a more disrespectful working environment compared to working as a performer in a properly regulated SEV (where she felt protected by trained security staff, knowing also that key rules of behaviour were made clear to customers on entry). She had experienced more inappropriate, sexually motivated behaviour and unwanted sexual advances in pubs/bars than in regulated SEVs.

d. In her view, a lot of performers regarded some aspects of the legislation / regulation as having a degree of negative impact. For example, some customers would pay to spend additional time with a performer (sometimes for several hours), some of which might simply be spent talking with a performer rather than paying to watch a dance – again, in her view, having to get dressed immediately (and only being able to collect money when dressed) after performing a dance could affect the building of a performer's individual rapport with a customer, some of whom were repeat customers. Similarly, there were occasions when, after experiences with particular customers, she would like to be able to initiate a quick "kiss on the cheek" or a short hug with a customer in terms of amicably bringing the customer session to a close (i.e. she would be fully dressed at this point) – this though was prohibited by the current "no touching" rule. Bearing in mind that premises were fully covered by CCTV cameras, she would personally like to see a degree of relaxation of the "no touching" rule, to permit this type of limited form of contact, initiated by the performer when clothed. She felt this would enable her to deliver a full customer experience, reflecting "companionship" time, not just a dance.

e. In her view, it was best if regulated SEVs were not located in or adjacent to predominantly residential/family areas, and there should be an appropriate degree of distance between the two. The SEVs in Bristol city centre, however, were discreet and often people walking past would not know they were there. There was not a lot of family accommodation, in her view, near the current SEV central city locations.

f. She was aware that a number of organisations with a feminist viewpoint argued that a nil cap should be brought in, as SEVs were viewed as promoting the objectification of women. In her view, some of these organisations' outlook on these issues was academically or morally based and not based on any actual experiences of women working in SEVs. The key thing for her was that the SEV working environment should be regulated and kept safe. She had never felt unsafe in a regulated SEV.

g. Whilst EW was not able to quantify the extent to which it happened, she was aware that a number of performers preferred a situation where there was some geographical distance between the SEV in which they worked and the place they lived. She was aware, for example, of a number of performers in Bristol who lived in Cardiff and Swindon, and vice versa.

h. In her view, Bristol could look to have 3-4 regulated SEVs as part of Bristol's creative and vibrant night time economy offer. In her opinion, the availability of cheap alcohol in low price drinking establishments was much more of a "problem" than the existence of SEVs in the context of Bristol night life and the potential for anti-social behaviour.

i. She would prefer the SEVs to be under separate ownerships rather than the current "monopoly" situation.

j. EW indicated she had no personal concerns in relation to sex shops and hostess bars being licensed in Bristol.

k. EW suggested that there were more "working class" performers at Old Market venues compared to the 2 city centre SEVs. She felt this was probably due to the fee structure, especially the level of the "up front" house fee required at the city centre SEVs.

l. In terms of further measures that could be taken to protect the safety of performers, it would be useful provide clear information to performers about how they could report complaints (e.g. about any inappropriate behaviour). This might be through the mandatory display of an appropriate notice within all regulated SEV premises (it would be essential that an individual performer could report a complaint confidentially and safely). Another option could be to look to include this information within a performer's dancing agreement (as issued to all performers by SEVs). In this context, the Chair suggested that it would be useful for the working group to see some examples of performers' dancing agreements.

9. Keith Rundle, Destination Bristol – City Centre BID Development Manager (now Operations Director, City Centre Business Improvement District (BID))

Summary of main points raised/noted in discussion:

1. Keith Rundle briefly outlined details of the 2 year consultation carried out in advance of the approval of the City Centre BID.

2. During the consultation, no views had been raised in terms of the issue of whether SEVs should continue to be permitted or not in the central city area. No specific question on this subject had been asked during the consultation.

3. It was clarified that the consultation on the BID had been focused on measures that could be taken to improve the local business environment (e.g. street scene/cleansing improvements), to be funded by a levy paid by the local businesses. Keith Rundle agreed to supply the group with a copy of the BID prospectus (which had been produced as a result of the consultation and then voted on by businesses in the BID area).

4. In response to a question from the Chair, Keith Rundle confirmed that, from the perspective of the BID consultation and subsequent prospectus (as approved by businesses within the BID area), there were no discernible positive or negative impacts, in terms of the continuation of SEVs in the city centre area.

5. Keith Rundle confirmed that he had no opinion on whether there should be an increase or decrease in the number of SEVs in the city centre area.

Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women

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Abstract A recent White House Council Report on Women and Girls called attention to sexual assault on college campuses and encouraged continued research on this important public health problem. Media that sexually objectify women have been identified by feminist scholars as encouraging of sexual assault, but some researchers question why portrayals that do not feature sexual assault should affect men's attitudes supportive of violence against women. Guided by the concepts of specific and abstract sexual scripting in Wright's (Communication Yearbook 35:343–386, 2011) sexual script acquisition, activation, application model of sexual media socialization, this study proposed that the more men are exposed to objectifying depictions, the more they will think of women as entities that exist for men's sexual gratification (specific sexual scripting), and that this dehumanized perspective on women may then be used to inform attitudes regarding sexual violence against women (abstract sexual scripting). Data were gathered from collegiate men sexually attracted to women ($N = 187$). Consistent with expectations, associations between men's exposure to objectifying media and attitudes supportive of violence against women were mediated by their notions of women as sex objects. Specifically, frequency of exposure to men's lifestyle magazines that objectify women, reality TV programs that objectify women, and pornography predicted more objectified cognitions about women, which, in turn, predicted stronger attitudes supportive of violence against women.

Keywords Pornography · Men's magazines · Reality TV · Objectification · Violence · 3AM

Introduction

Millions of women in the United States are sexually assaulted at some point in their lives and perpetrators of female sexual assault are almost always male (Breiding et al., 2014). A recent White House Council Report on Women and Girls called attention to sexual assault on college campuses (White House Council, 2014). The report cited randomized, campus level research conducted at two large public universities which found that approximately one in five women had experienced completed or attempted sexual assault since entering college (Krebs, Lindquist, Warner, Fisher, & Martin, 2009). Sexual assault was defined as unwanted sexual contact that could include touching of a sexual nature, oral sex, sexual intercourse, anal sex, or sexual penetration with a finger or object (Krebs et al., 2009).

Why collegiate men sexually aggress against their female peers is not easily explained. Sexual assault is the result of a confluence of factors (Malamuth, Linz, Heavey, Barnes, & Acker, 1995). One factor that has often been suggested is men's exposure to media that sexually objectify women (Jensen, 2007; Rothman et al., 2012). Experimental and survey studies have found that attitudes predictive of violence against women vary as a function of men's exposure to objectifying media (Hald, Malamuth, & Yuen, 2010; Mundorf, Allen, D'Alessio, & Emmers-Sommer, 2007); however, research in this area is limited in two important ways. First, despite the fact that women are frequently objectified in mainstream media (i.e., age unrestricted, sexually nonexplicit media), most studies have focused on pornographic media (i.e., age restricted, sexually explicit media) (Allen, Emmers, Gebhardt, & Giery, 1995; Attorney General, 1986; Hald et al., 2010). Second, scholars have questioned why exposure to media that rarely, if ever, depict sexual

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assault would affect men's attitudes related to sexual assault (Ferguson & Hartley, 2009; Fisher, Kohut, Gioacchino, & Fedoroff, 2013).

The present study of collegiate men's exposure to objectifying media and attitudes supportive of violence against women (ASV) addressed each of these limitations.¹ To address the first limitation, exposure to objectifying reality television (TV) and exposure to mainstream men's magazines were assessed, in addition to pornography exposure. To address the second limitation, the possibility that objectifying media affect ASV by increasing men's notion that women are sex objects was investigated.

Aggression Responses Approach to Media and ASV

Pornography has been the focal point of research on ASV, most likely because pornographic media have been said to actually depict men sexually assaulting women (Cowan, Lee, Levy, & Snyder, 1988). But recent content analyses suggest that sexual assault is rare in the pornography commonly consumed by men. As one example, rape was not depicted in any scene in Bridges, Wosnitzer, Scharrer, Sun, and Liberman's (2010) study of films identified as most-rented or best-selling by the Adult Video Network. As another example, rape was not depicted in any clip in Gorman, Monk-Turner, and Fish's (2010) study of video-clips from popular pornography websites. Such findings have led researchers who operate from an "aggression responses" perspective (Allen et al., 1995, p. 9) to question the validity of correlations between pornography consumption and ASV. From an aggression responses perspective, the causal link between exposure to sexual media and increases in ASV is the depiction of men sexually assaulting women. If sexual assault is not depicted, no change in ASV can occur (Allen et al., 1995).

For example, in a review article, Fisher et al. (2013) minimized studies finding links between popular pornography exposure and ASV (i.e., Malamuth, Addison, & Koss, 2000; Malamuth et al., 2012) because "no compelling explanation [was] offered to conceptualize a linkage between nonviolent sexual imagery and attitudes and behavior involving sexual violence" (p. 4). As another illustration, in their review article, Ferguson and Hartley (2009) stated that because "most pornography is of a non-violent nature" it may be "time to rethink the relationship between pornography and sexually assaultive behaviors" (p. 327). Given the prevalence of sexual assault, the severity of its consequences, and the impact such researchers' conclusions may have on public and practitioner opinion (Bushman & Anderson, 2001; Martins et al., 2013), it is important to consider at a theoretical level

¹ Our conceptualization of attitudes supportive of violence against women follows that of Malamuth, Hald, and Koss (2012), who defined ASV as "positive affective responses to acts such as rape, other types of sexual aggression, and partner violence; evaluative cognitions justifying these acts; and behavioral predispositions or attractions toward such aggressive acts" (p. 428).

whether there is justification for the hypothesis that rape-absent depictions may still adversely affect men's ASV.

Female Objectification and ASV

Media often depict women as sexual objects (American Psychological Association, 2007; Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997). Women are depicted as sexual objects when they are assigned the role of providing men sexual pleasure via their physical attractiveness and sexual accessibility. Objectification reduces human beings to entities. In the case of female sexual objectification, women are reduced to entities whose function is male sexual gratification.

Through what mechanism and process might viewing media that objectify women increase ASV? Wright's (2011) script acquisition, activation, application model (₃AM) of sexual media socialization provides a straightforward theoretical rationale for both the mechanism and the process. The mechanism through which objectifying media are theorized to exert social influence is the sexual script. Mediated sexual scripts provide consumers with socially constructed guidelines for particular sexual roles and behaviors (Gagnon & Simon, 2005; Wright & Tokunaga, 2015). **Sexual media can provide novel scripts (acquisition), prime previously acquired scripts (activation), and encourage the personal utilization of scripts by portraying particular sexual roles and behaviors as normative, appropriate, and rewarding (application).**

That objectifying women is portrayed as normative, appropriate, and rewarding for men in many mainstream and pornographic media is well established (American Psychological Association, 2007; Bridges et al., 2010; Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997; Jensen, 2007). The process through which exposure to objectifying media is theorized to affect ASV is abstract scripting. According to the ₃AM, sexual media provide consumers with scripts for specific sexual roles and behaviors. Abstract scripting occurs when consumers deduce the general principle or behavioral philosophy guiding these specific scripts (Wright & Funk, 2014).

As stated, media often depict women as though they were sexual objects. The more men are exposed to such depictions, the more they may think of women as entities that exist for male sexual gratification (specific scripting). This dehumanized perspective on women may then be used to inform attitudes toward women and sexual violence (abstract scripting). For example, men who think that women should be sexually accessible should also be more able to envision using force to obtain sex and to perceive that women who violate their role as sexually subservient to men are deserving of retaliation (Burt, 1980). In sum, exposure to objectifying media may lead men to think of women as sex objects, and the more men think of women as sex objects, the more likely they should be to hold ASV.

Scholars who have questioned associations between ASV and men's exposure to objectifying but sexual assault absent media have asked for a theoretically compelling explanation for the effect. Each of the tenets just described (i.e., specific scripting, abstract scripting, objectification and dehumanization, dehumanization and

the disinhibition of aggression) has a firm basis in theory (Allen et al., 1995; Bandura, 2001; Check & Malamuth, 1986; Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997; Huesmann, 1986, Russell, 1988; Wright, 2011; Wright & Funk, 2014).

Objectification of Women in Pornography, Men's Magazines, and Reality TV

The objectification of women in pornography has been observed in scholarly inquiry for decades (Dines, 2006; Dworkin, 1989; Jensen, 2007; Linz & Malamuth, 1993; Smith, 1976). As one illustration, Monk-Turner and Purcell (1999) examined 40 pornographic films and found that women were portrayed as indiscriminately available to men for sexual consumption in more than 90 % of scenes. As another illustration, in approximately every other clip in Gorman et al.'s (2010) analysis of 45 online videos, male actors directed women in objectifying ways (e.g., "Get down on your knees." "Get back up." "I'm going to cum, get down.") (p. 138). Nudity was also more likely for female than male actors.

Two mainstream media genres that have recently been the target of much scholarly critique for their objectification of women are men's lifestyle magazines and reality TV. *Maxim* and *Esquire* magazines, for example, have been critiqued for depicting women as "mere sexual objects" (Krassas, Blauwkamp, & Wesselink, 2003, p. 113) and constructing a "male-subject versus female-object" heterosexual norm (Breazeale, 1994, p. 11). Similarly, Cassidy (2012) critiqued the reality TV show *Jersey Shore* for promoting the "objectification and subjugation of women" (p. 169) and Stern (2005) criticized the reality TV show *Real World* for relying on the "exploitation of the female body" (p. 14) to attract viewers. As is the case with recent studies of sex in pornography, statements about men's lifestyle magazines and reality TV suggest that they directly elevate objectification, but not sexual assault.

Present Study

To conclude, content analyses of pornography and scholarly critiques of men's lifestyle magazines and reality TV suggest that female objectification is common in these genres but sexual assault is not. Accordingly, by measuring men's exposure to such media, notions of women as sex objects, and ASV, it is possible to provide insight into the hypothesis that objectifying but sexual assault absent media affects men's ASV via their notions of women as sex objects.

Method

Participants

Men were recruited from undergraduate courses at a large public university following institutional review board approval of the

study. A total of 187 men participated in the study after voluntarily consenting. Participants ranged in age from 18 to 33 ($M = 20.86$ years, $SD = 2.08$). Participants identifying as White comprised 78.07 % of the sample, 7.49 % identified as Hispanic, 7.49 % as Asian, 3.21 % as Middle Eastern, 3.21 % as Black, and 0.53 % as Other. The majority of participants identified as Christian (56.68 %), 16.04 % as Jewish, 3.21 % as Muslim, 0.53 % as Buddhist, and 3.21 % as an alternate religion. The remaining participants (20.32 %) did not belong to any religion. All participants were sexually attracted to women. The majority of participants (79.75 %) had engaged in sexual intercourse in the last year.

Data were collected via a confidential online survey. Due to a brief misapplication of the survey link, 24 participants were not asked about their sexual experience and magazine/reality TV exposure. Equipment malfunctions should result in data missing completely at random (Howell, 2014). This was the case in the present study. The participants who were asked about their sexual experience and magazine/reality TV exposure were not demographically different from the participants who were not. Missing data were thus imputed in hypothesis tests (see "Results" section).

Measures

The study's primary measures were exposure to pornography, exposure to men's lifestyle magazines, exposure to reality television, notions of women as sex objects, and attitudes supportive of violence against women.

Pornography Exposure

Participants were asked how frequently they viewed pornography in the prior year. Pornography was defined as content appearing in any mediated venue that depicted female nudity and/or graphic sexual acts involving women such as intercourse or oral sex. Response options varied from (1) *never* to (9) *several times a day* ($M = 5.40$, $SD = 1.85$). This definition and item were employed by Wright and Tokunaga (2015).

Men's Magazine Exposure

Participants were asked how much time they spent each week reading men's magazines such as *Maxim* and *Esquire*. Response options ranged from (1) *I do not read magazines such as these* to (8) *more than two hours* ($M = 1.33$, $SD = 0.92$). Approximately one in five men indicated at least some weekly reading. Asking about specific magazines has been normative in past magazine and sexual socialization research (Peter & Valkenburg, 2007; Taylor, 2006). *Maxim* and *Esquire* were used as the particular referents because of their popularity and because the objectification of women in these periodicals has been noted by several

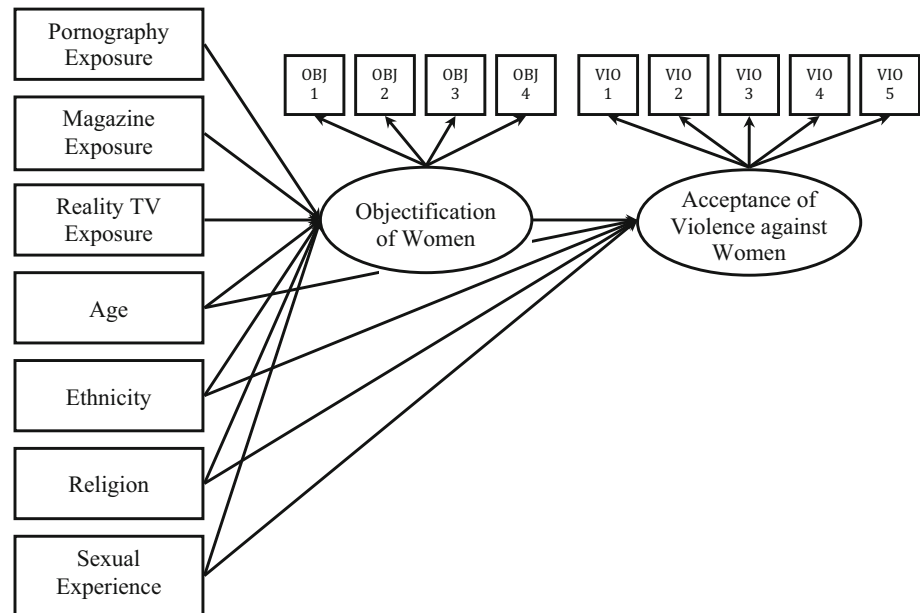
Table 1 Zero-order correlations

Variable	2	3	4	5
1. Pornography exposure	0.07	0.02	0.22**	0.20**
2. Magazine exposure	–	0.30***	0.18*	0.25**
3. Reality TV exposure		–	0.19*	0.20**
4. Objectification of women			–	0.57***
5. Acceptance of violence against women				–

$N = 187$

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$

Fig. 1 The proposed conceptual model of the link between objectifying media exposure and attitudes supportive of violence against women through notions of women as sex objects. OBJ1 to OBJ4 refer to the four indicators of the latent objectification of women construct. VIO1 to VIO5 refer to the five indicators of the latent acceptance of violence against women construct



scholars (Brunner, 2013; Johnson & Sivek, 2009; Krassas et al., 2003; Reichert, 2007; Taylor, 2005).

Reality TV Exposure

Participants were asked how many days each week they watched reality TV shows such as *Jersey Shore* and *The Real World*. Response options ranged from (1) *zero* to (8) *seven* ($M = 2.02$, $SD = 1.38$). Approximately one in two men indicated at least some weekly viewing. Asking about specific programs has been normative in past reality TV and sexual socialization research (Ferris, Smith, Greenberg, & Smith, 2007; Zurbriggen & Morgan, 2006). *Jersey Shore* and *The Real World* were used as the particular referents because of their popularity and because the objectification of women in these programs has been noted by several commentators (Chrisler, Bacher, Bangali, Campagna, & McKeigue, 2012; Domoff, 2013; Marechal, 2014; Smith, 2005).

Notions of Women as Sex Objects

Four items from Peter and Valkenburg's (2007) assessment of adolescents' notions of women as sex objects were adapted for the adult males in the present study. Response options varied from (1) *strongly disagree* to (7) *strongly agree*.

The items and their corresponding descriptive statistics were: "There is nothing wrong with men being interested in a women only if she is pretty" ($M = 3.95$, $SD = 1.65$, 43.30 % of men expressed at least modest agreement), "Sexually active women are more attractive partners" ($M = 4.15$, $SD = 1.78$, 47.60 % of men expressed at least modest agreement), "Unconsciously, women always want to be persuaded to have sex" ($M = 3.70$, $SD = 1.61$, 34.80 % of men expressed at least modest agreement), and "An attractive woman asks for sexual advances" ($M = 3.68$, $SD = 1.52$, 29.40 % of men expressed at least modest agreement). Maximum likelihood factor analysis

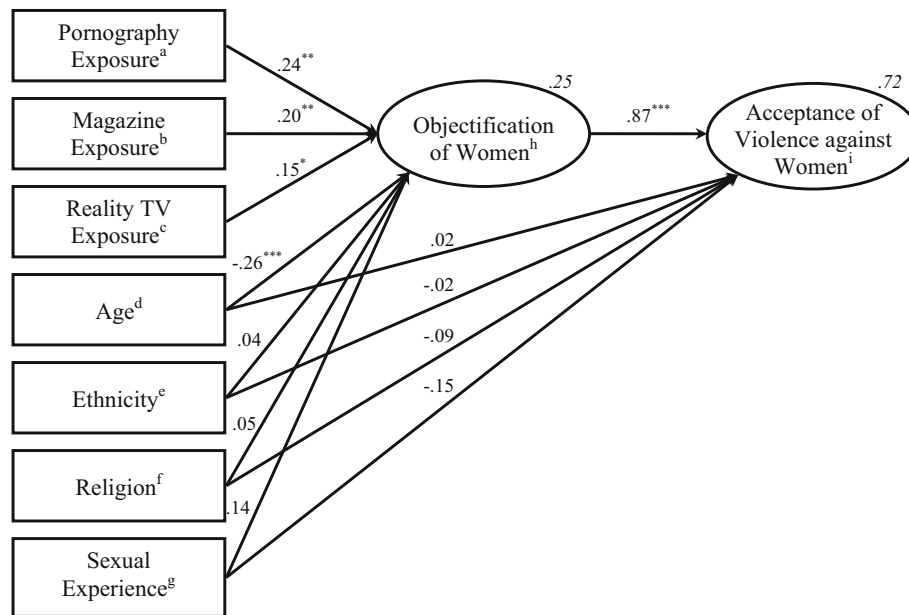


Fig. 2 Mediation of objectifying media exposure on attitudes supportive of violence against women through notions of women as sex objects. *Note* The parameter estimates provided in the model are standardized coefficients; the italicized estimates at the top right of each latent endogenous variable reflect the variance explained (R²) by the linear combination of the predictors. ^a, ^b, ^cHigher scores = more exposure.

^dHigher scores = older. ^eWhite = 0, other ethnicities = 1. ^fNo religious affiliation = 0, Religious affiliation = 1. ^gDid not have intercourse last year = 0, had intercourse last year = 1. ^hHigher scores = more objectification of women. ⁱHigher scores = more acceptance of violence against women. * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$, *** $p < .001$

using the Kaiser's eigenvalue >1 criterion for extraction indicated that the items were grouped into a single factor (eigenvalue = 2.22, variance accounted for = 55.47 %, Cronbach's alpha = .73). Descriptive statistics when the items were averaged to form an index were: $M = 3.87$, $SD = 1.22$.

Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women

Five items from Burt's (1980) research were used to assess attitudes supportive of violence against women. Response options varied from (1) *strongly disagree* to (7) *strongly agree*.

The items and their corresponding descriptive statistics were: "Being roughed up is sexually stimulating to many women" ($M = 3.83$, $SD = 1.63$, 37.40 % of men expressed at least modest agreement), "Many times a woman will pretend she doesn't want to have intercourse because she doesn't want to seem loose, but she's really hoping the man will force her" ($M = 3.21$, $SD = 1.62$, 23.50 % of men expressed at least modest agreement), "Sometimes the only way a man can get a cold woman turned on is to use force" ($M = 2.24$, $SD = 1.45$, 9.60 % of men expressed at least modest agreement), "When women go around braless or wearing short skirts and tight tops, they are just asking for trouble" ($M = 4.17$, $SD = 1.78$, 52.40 % of men expressed at least modest agreement), "A woman who is stuck-up and thinks she is too good to talk to guys on the street deserves to be taught a lesson" ($M = 2.42$, $SD = 1.71$, 16.00 % of men expressed at least

modest agreement). Maximum likelihood factor analysis using the Kaiser's eigenvalue >1 criterion for extraction indicated that the items were grouped into a single factor (eigenvalue = 2.39, variance accounted for = 47.73 %, Cronbach's alpha = .72). Descriptive statistics when the items were averaged to form an index were: $M = 3.17$, $SD = 1.13$.

Results

The purpose of this study was to examine the tenability of a theoretical model wherein men who are more frequently exposed to pornography, men's magazines, and reality TV have stronger notions of women as sex objects, which in turn, promote ASV. Zero-order correlations between these variables are shown in Table 1. A structural equation model was used to test the paths from objectifying media exposure to notions of women as sex objects and, in turn, the path to ASV (see Fig. 1).

Multiple imputation with the linear regression method was used to account for the missing data by predicting plausible values for those scores assumed to be missing at random. The measurement and structural models were fit to the imputed dataset. A confirmatory factor analysis was first conducted to test the fit of the measurement model. Pornography exposure, men's magazine exposure, and reality TV exposure were treated as three independent observed variables, notions of women as sex objects was a latent variable that measured four indicators, and ASV was

a second latent factor that measured five indicator variables. Prior research suggested that age, ethnicity, religious status, and sexual experience may confound relationships between objectifying media exposure and attitudes toward women (Ward, Merriwether, & Caruthers, 2006; Wright & Funk, 2014). Accordingly, these variables were also included in the measurement model and allowed to covary freely with the observed and latent variables. The fit of the model was acceptable, $\chi^2(75) = 103.08$, $p = .02$, CFI = 0.94, RMSEA = 0.045, 90 % CI [0.020, 0.065], SRMR = 0.05.

The proposed hypotheses were tested in the structural equation model. Paths were estimated from pornography exposure, men's magazine exposure, and reality TV exposure to notions of women as sex objects, and a path from notions of women as sex objects to ASV was also estimated. The structural model showed acceptable fit to the data, $\chi^2(76) = 113.06$, $p = .004$, CFI = 0.92, RMSEA = 0.051, 90 % CI [0.030, 0.070], SRMR = 0.06. The standardized coefficients for each estimated path are shown in Fig. 2. The results demonstrated that the paths from pornography exposure ($\beta = 0.24$, $SE = 0.08$, $p = .001$), men's magazine exposure ($\beta = 0.20$, $SE = 0.08$, $p = .008$), and reality TV exposure ($\beta = 0.15$, $SE = 0.08$, $p = .05$) to objectification of women were all at or below the significance threshold. Thus, more frequent exposure to objectifying media was associated with stronger notions of women as sex objects. The path from notions of women as sex objects to ASV was also significant ($\beta = 0.87$, $SE = 0.06$, $p < .001$). Men who viewed women as sex objects had attitudes more supportive of violence against women.

The direct effect of pornography, men's magazine, and reality TV exposure on ASV was tested in a second structural equation model. The fit of the structural model with the direct effects was acceptable, $\chi^2(73) = 103.08$, $p = .01$, CFI = 0.94, RMSEA = 0.051, 90 % CI [0.030, 0.070], SRMR = 0.05. However, the relative contribution of the three additional paths was nonsignificant, $\Delta\chi^2(3) = 3.16$, $p = .37$. Therefore, the relationship between objectifying media exposure and attitudes supportive of violence against women was fully mediated by notions of women as sex objects.

Indirect effect estimates of the mediation test were obtained from a 5000 bias-corrected bootstrapping resampling procedure. Age, ethnicity, religious status, and sexual experience were again included in the mediation test as covariates of both the mediator and the outcome variable. The indirect effect estimate, and consequently the mediation, is significant if its bias-corrected 95 % confidence interval does not contain zero. The results indicated that notions of women as sex objects mediated the relationship between pornography exposure and ASV (indirect effect [IE] = 0.074, $SE = 0.026$, 95 % CI [0.024, 0.127]), the relationship between men's magazine exposure and ASV (IE = 0.134, $SE = 0.080$, 95 % CI [0.001, 0.300]), and the relationship between reality TV exposure and ASV (IE = 0.075, $SE = 0.039$, 95 % CI [0.007, 0.159]).

Discussion

The prevalence of sexual assault in the U.S. has led to a recent Presidential Proclamation and White House report calling for increased awareness and commitment to prevention. Both communications directed attention to sexual assault on college campuses (Office of the Press Secretary, 2012; White House Council, 2014). Given that men are the primary perpetrators of sexually aggressive acts against women (Breiding et al., 2014), it is imperative to identify factors that increase men's probability of committing sexual assault.

The sexual objectification of women in media has long been argued to affect men's attitudes in ways that could disinhibit sexually violent behavior (Attorney General, 1986). Data consistent with this premise have been generated using a variety of methodological approaches (Allen et al., 1995; Hald et al., 2010). Yet, this literature's emphasis on pornography and lack of theoretical explication for why depictions that do not feature sexual assault should still affect attitudes related to sexual aggression have been persistent. The emphasis on pornography has limited an understanding of the varieties of media that may affect men's attitudes supportive of violence against women or ASV (Seto, Maric, & Barbaree, 2001). The lack of explanation and empirical investigation of psychological mechanisms underlying associations between exposure to objectifying but sexually assault absent media and ASV has led to persistent questions about the validity of this relationship (Allen et al., 1995; Ferguson & Hartley, 2009; Fisher et al., 2013).

The present study of collegiate males was carried out in response to these limitations. First, exposure to men's magazines such as *Maxim* and *Esquire* and to reality TV programs such as *Jersey Shore* and *Real World* were assessed, in addition to exposure to pornography. Such magazines and TV programs were considered of analytical import because of the recent attention they have garnered from media scholars and because very little prior research appears to have associated exposure to these media with ASV (Brunner, 2013; Cassidy, 2012; Chrisler et al., 2012; Johnson & Sivek, 2009; Krassas et al., 2003; Stern, 2005; Taylor, 2005). Second, notions of women as sex objects was explored as a mediator between exposure to men's magazines, reality TV, and pornography and ASV. According to the 3AM, sexual media provide consumers with scripts for specific sexual behaviors and roles, the principles of which may be abstracted and applied to behaviors and roles that were not depicted (Wright, 2011; Wright & Funk, 2014; Wright, Malamuth, & Donnerstein, 2012). The specific script that objectifying media provide men is that women are sexual instruments that should behave in ways that facilitate men's sexual gratification (Brooks, 1995; Fredrickson & Roberts, 1997; Wright, 2012). Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized.

After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.

Consistent with these theoretical postulates, in the present study, notions of women as sex objects mediated associations between pornography, men's magazine, reality TV exposure, and ASV. Men who were more frequently exposed to pornography, men's magazines, and reality TV were more likely to perceive women as sex objects than men who were less frequently exposed to these media. And, men who were more apt to perceive women as sex objects were also more likely to agree with statements such as "Sometimes the only way a man can get a cold woman turned on is to use force" and "A woman who is stuck-up and thinks she is too good to talk to guys on the street deserves to be taught a lesson" (Burt, 1980). Such attitudes have been found to predict sexually aggressive inclinations and behaviors in both cross-sectional and longitudinal studies (Hald et al., 2010).

Limitations and Future Directions

The cross-sectional nature of the present study leaves open the possibility of reverse-causality. In other words, it is possible that men who believe that violence against women is acceptable in part rationalize this attitude by conceptualizing women as nothing more than sex objects and then select media that confirm this objectified stance on women (i.e., ASV → notions of women as sex objects → objectifying media exposure).² Three waves of longitudinal data are needed to rigorously test the temporal-sequencing proposed by the present study (i.e., objectifying media exposure → notions of women as sex objects → ASV). It is important to note, however, that there already is longitudinal research on objectifying media exposure and notions of women as sex objects and sexual aggression that is supportive of the temporal-sequencing proposed by the present study (Brown & L'Engle, 2009; Peter & Valkenburg, 2009).

An additional alternative explanation for the results of the present study is that objectifying media exposure, notions of women as sex objects, and ASV are all caused by some third variable. No correlational study—whether cross-sectional or longitudinal—can ever rule out all possible third variable confounds. To rigorously address the third variable problem,

² This selective exposure model, tested using structural equation modeling, demonstrated moderate fit to the data, $\chi^2(81) = 118.67, p = .004$, CFI = 0.92, RMSEA = 0.050, 90% CI [0.029, 0.067], SRMR = 0.05. Analogous to the media effects model, the covariates (i.e., age, ethnicity, religion, sexual experience) were modeled as predictors of objectification of women and objectifying media exposure. The path from acceptance of violence against women to objectification of women was significant ($\beta = 0.82, SE = 0.05, p < .001$). Additionally, objectification of women was a significant correlate of pornography exposure ($\beta = 0.27, SE = 0.08, p < .001$), magazine exposure ($\beta = 0.31, SE = 0.08, p < .001$), and reality TV exposure ($\beta = 0.26, SE = 0.08, p = .002$).

experimental research is needed. Although this is an important caveat, it should be mentioned that experimental research with objectifying media as stimuli has already demonstrated effects on men's objectification attitudes and ASV (Kistler & Lee, 2010; Wright & Tokunaga, 2015).

An additional avenue for future research is the assessment of individual differences (Kingston, Malamuth, Fedoroff, & Marshall, 2009). Because evolution would have favored men attracted to young, beautiful, sexually available women (i.e., fertile, healthy women who maximize reproductive rewards while minimizing investment costs), it can be argued that certain elements of objectifying media appeal to a "normal" male fantasy (Buss & Schmidt, 1993; Malamuth, 1996; Wright & Bae, 2016). But some men may be more likely than others to mistake fantasy for reality and to possess beliefs facilitative of sexual antagonism toward real-life women who do not behave like women in objectifying media. An experimental study by Bogaert, Woodward, and Hafer (1999) speaks to the question of individual differences in the fantasy–reality disconnect. In this study, undergraduate men viewed various types of pornography and then interacted with a female confederate. Exposure to rape myth congruent depictions increased the sexually suggestive behavior of lower IQ men only. It was theorized that more intelligent men are less likely to deem scripts from entertainment media as appropriate guides for real-life opposite sex interactions. A study of naturalistic exposure by Malamuth et al. (2012) speaks to the question of beliefs men bring to the viewing experience that may affect how objectifying media impact their attitudes toward women. In this study, young men attending post-high school educational institutions in the U.S. were surveyed. Pornography exposure was assessed, as were ASV. The association between pornography exposure and ASV was strongest among men who exhibited a hostile approach to gender relations and a promiscuous approach to sex. Exposure to depictions of sexually available, nondiscriminating women in media could lead men already hostile to women to become even more so when they consider the behavior of real-life women who refuse to play their part in these men's casual sex script.

The following future research directions are also important. First, while television still dominates the media use of college-aged individuals (Nielsen, 2014a) and lifestyle magazines targeting younger men still report substantial rate bases (Esquire, 2015; Maxim, 2015), the mainstream media landscape is diversifying and evolving. It will be important for future studies to assess men's exposure to objectifying depictions of women across both traditional and emergent mainstream media (Nielsen, 2014b). Second, while studies of the effects of objectifying media have most often used items from Burt (1980) to assess ASV (Hald et al., 2010; Mundorf et al., 2007), and while scores on these items are predictive of collegiate and other men's sexually aggressive behavior (Anderson & Anderson, 2008; Carr & VanDeusen, 2004; Kjellgren, Priebe, Svedin, & Langstrom, 2010; Vega & Malamuth, 2007; Yost & Zurbriggen, 2006), future studies should consider employing additional assessments. Payne, Lonsway, and Fitzgerald (1999) argued

that the Illinois Rape Myth Acceptance Scale improves upon the clarity and wording of Burt's items. Gerger, Kley, Bohner, and Siebler (2007) argued that the Acceptance of Modern Myths about Sexual Aggression Scale assesses more subtle and covert cognitions supportive of sexual violence than those assessed by Burt's items. Regarding collegiate males specifically, Burgess (2007) contended that the items comprising the Rape Attitudes and Beliefs Scale are more sensitive to the dynamics of sexual aggression in the college context than Burt's items. Third, future studies should compare the effects of highly explicit content that has been argued to not objectify women (e.g., content from *erosexotica.com*; Wright & Funk, 2014) with the effects of highly explicit content that has been identified as objectifying (see Bridges et al., 2010; Dines, 2010, for examples).

Conclusion

Recent data suggest that male-on-female sexual assault is a serious problem on U.S. college campuses and in the U.S. in general. Responding to the need for research on the varieties of objectifying media that may affect men's ASV and identification of mediating mechanisms, the present study tested whether notions of women as sex objects mediated associations between men's exposure to pornography, men's magazines, reality TV, and ASV. The more men reported exposure to these media, the stronger were their notions of women as sex objects, and the stronger their notions were of women as sex objects, the more they expressed ASV. These results are consistent with prior experimental and longitudinal studies examining direct associations between objectifying media exposure, notions of women as sex objects, ASV, or sexually aggressive behavior.³

Although the present study may be the first to examine exposure to reality TV, pornography, men's magazines, notions of women as sex objects, and ASV together in a mediated model, the results were consistent with prior research. Furthermore, although heretofore untested, the suggestion of notions of women as sex

objects as the link between objectifying media and ASV is consistent with prior theoretical articulations. When considered in the totality of prior research and theory, therefore, the results of the present study suggest that media that do not depict sexual assault but that do objectify women may still affect men's ASV through the acquisition and activation of sexual scripts that objectify women.

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³ Aggregate-level analysis is an additional methodology that has been employed in the study of sexual media and sexual aggression. Aggregate-level analysts correlate rates of documented sexual crime with indicators of the availability of sexual media, such as a loosened legal restriction on access to pornography (Diamond, Jozifkova, & Weiss, 2011) or the number of pornographic movies released during a particular period (Ferguson & Hartley, 2009). This method contrasts with individual-level analyses such as the present study, where attributes of individuals related to sexual aggression are measured directly and correlated with those individuals' actual media exposure. The perils of drawing conclusions about the behavior of individuals from aggregate-level data are well documented (e.g., Robinson, 1950). Associations found at the aggregate-level may not translate to the individual level and should only be considered as a source of possible evidence when individual-level correlations are not available (MacInnis & Hodson, 2015). For a brief treatment of the problems of aggregate-level analysis in pornography and sexual aggression research, see Kingston and Malamuth (2011). For a more detailed discussion, see Malamuth and Pitpitan (2007).

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendix 8 – List of local authority policy decisions

Local Authority	Type of policy	Type of policy cont...	Other information
Guildford	Nil cap	no upper or lower limit	Current policy for consultation states unlikely to be appropriate, but does not set upper or lower limit
Newcastle	core city / nil cap	outside city centre only	Last amended 2012
Coventry	nil cap	grandfather rights for one venue	Last amended 2011
North Tyneside	nil cap in one locality	current nil cap in Whitley Bay	Last amended 2017
Swansea	nil cap	no previous venues	Last amended 2018
Winchester	nil cap	no previous venues	Last amended 2011
Exeter	nil cap	no previous venues	Last amended 2015
Warwick	nil cap	city centre districts only	
Cornwall	no limit		Last amended 2011
Slough	No limit		Last amended 2010
Birmingham	core city	Limit 8	Last amended 2014
Cardiff	core city	no cap	Last amended 2010
Leeds	core city	nil cap outside city centre, four in city centre	Last amended 2013
Liverpool	core city	nil cap outside city centre, 8 in city centre, 2 in riverside	Last amended 2011

Manchester	core city	nil cap outside city centre, grandfather rights for existing	Unable to locate policy on Manchester's website, so cannot confirm current status. Details of policy last accessed in approx. 2019.
Nottingham	core city	no cap	Last amended 2016
Sheffield	core city	no cap	Previous consultation on policy update, judicially challenged, policy withdrawn and so reverts to last amended in 2011
Portsmouth	nil cap	grandfather rights for existing	Last amended 2012
Bolton	nil cap	city centre districts only, grandfather rights for existing venue	Last amended 2014
Cheltenham	No limit		Last amended 2011
Kirklees	No limit		Unknown when last amended.

Sexual Entertainment Venues and Planning – Briefing Note

In planning terms, many leisure uses fall into use classes A3-A5 or D2 of the Use Classes Order and premises can sometimes change hands or shift the emphasis of their business without actually constituting a material 'change of use' requiring permission. Sexual entertainment venues (SEVs), however, are a *sui generis* use, or a 'use on their own'. This means that planning permission, as well as a license, is required to open an SEV on any premises unless its most recent use was also an SEV.

Under planning law, planning applications must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations dictate otherwise.

The 'development plan' is the suite of statutory policies used by the council as local planning authority to determine applications for planning permission. Currently, the development plan for the city centre area is:

- The [Bristol Local Plan](#), comprising the Core Strategy (June 2011), Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (February 2014) and Bristol Central Area Plan (July 2014); and
- Where relevant, the [Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan](#) (March 2016).

The need for planning permission arises where a change of use occurs, so does not apply to existing SEVs where they are the established lawful use of a premises. However, planning permission would be required for the relocation of an SEV business from one premises to another, which would represent a change of use to the new premises.

If a premises currently in use as an SEV should undergo a lawful change of use to any other use (e.g. a restaurant/bar), then planning permission would be required to convert the premises back to an SEV at a later date.

The **Bristol Local Plan** does not contain any policies relating specifically to SEVs. However, there is an extensive suite of policies that apply to retail and leisure development in Bristol City Centre, including Core Strategy policies BCS2 and BCS7 and Bristol Central Area Plan policies BCAP13-BCAP19. For planning purposes, much of the Old Market area is considered to be part of the city centre.

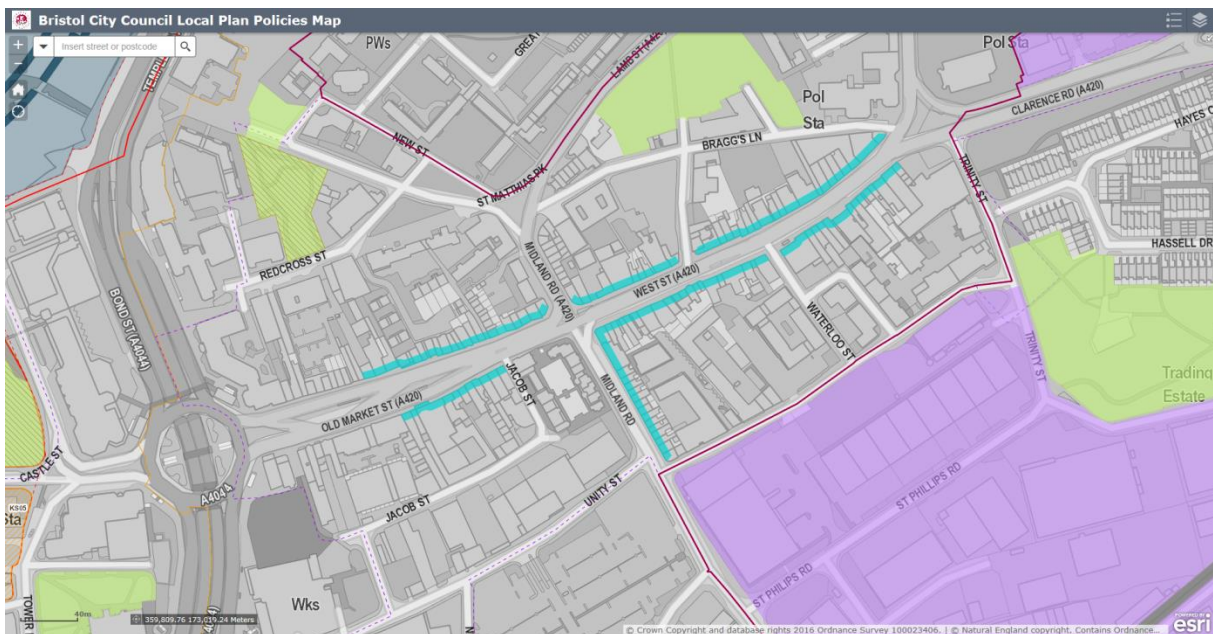
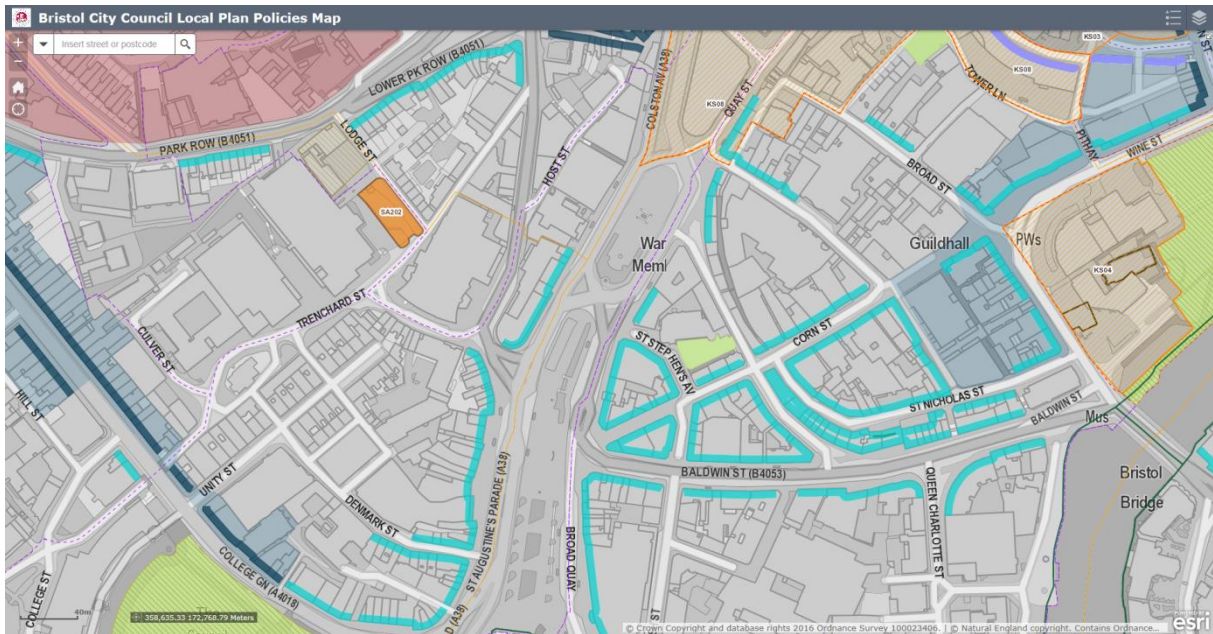
The policies support retail and leisure uses in the city centre. In designated Primary Shopping Frontages, the general presumption is that premises will remain in retail use. Elsewhere, a greater range of uses are supported, although in designated Secondary Shopping Frontages development still has to maintain or enhance the function of the shopping area. In general, uses are expected to add to the vitality, viability and diversity of the area.

Applicants for new SEVs would likely contend that their proposals would add to the vitality and diversity of the area. The council would contend that further SEVs would in fact have a negative impact on vitality by lowering the perceptions and appeal of the area, and as such would be contrary to these policies.

The Bristol Central Area Plan contains a further policy BCAP46 that relates specifically to development in Old Market. It states that development will be expected to support the regeneration of Old Market as a local and specialist shopping area. The development of appropriate evening economy uses and community facilities will be encouraged where it would support the neighbourhood's growing role as a mixed residential community and Bristol's gay village. Also

relevant is policy BCAP3, which seeks a proportion of family housing from all new development in Bristol City Centre; in Old Market, this is increased to a 'substantial proportion'. These policies represent an attempt to shift the city centre towards a more family-friendly and inclusive environment, an objective that the opening of a new SEV would work against.

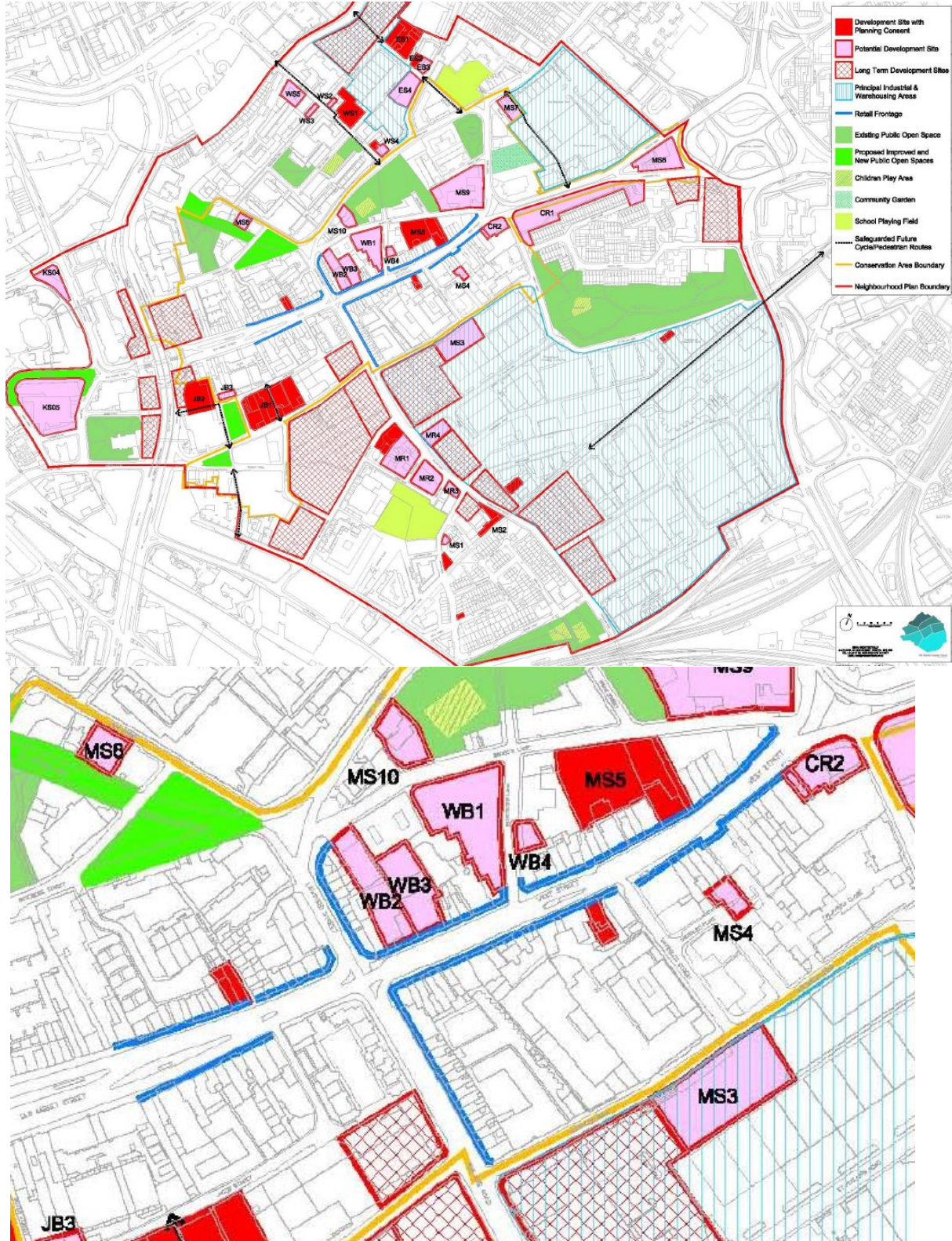
Bristol Local Plan: Extracts of Policies Map showing the location of designated shopping frontages around the Centre Promenade and Old Market.



The **Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan** tackles the issue of SEVs more directly. The plan places SEVs among a number of factors that erode the commercial function of the high street and the community. As such, policy C2 states that the change of use of premises within the designated retail frontage to use for adult entertainment purposes will not be permitted.

More generally, the plan identifies a number of potential development opportunities across the area. Housing is a major feature of uses promoted.

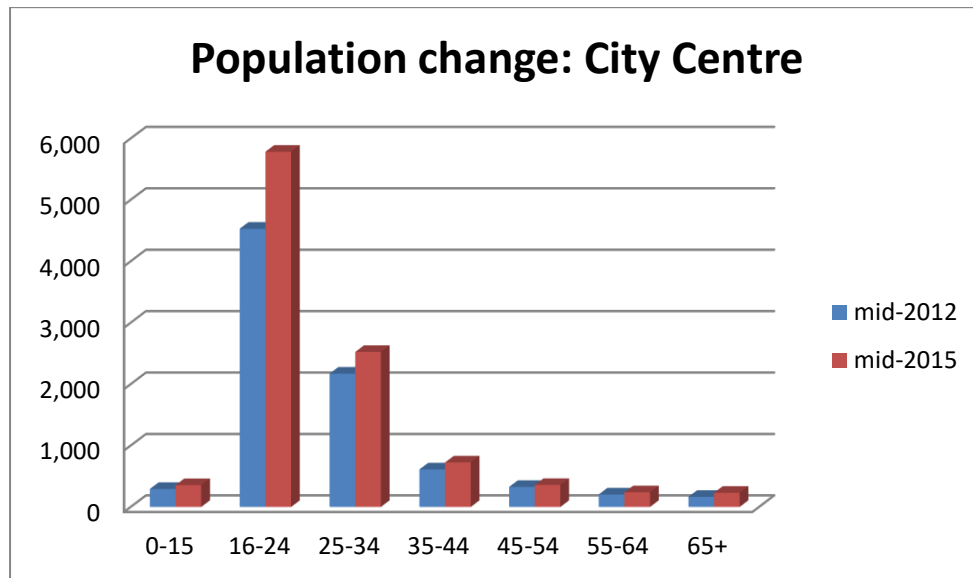
Old Market Quarter Neighbourhood Development Plan: Policies Map and detail of Policies Map showing extent of designated shopping frontages for the purposes of policy C2.



Population change in Bristol City Centre and Old Market

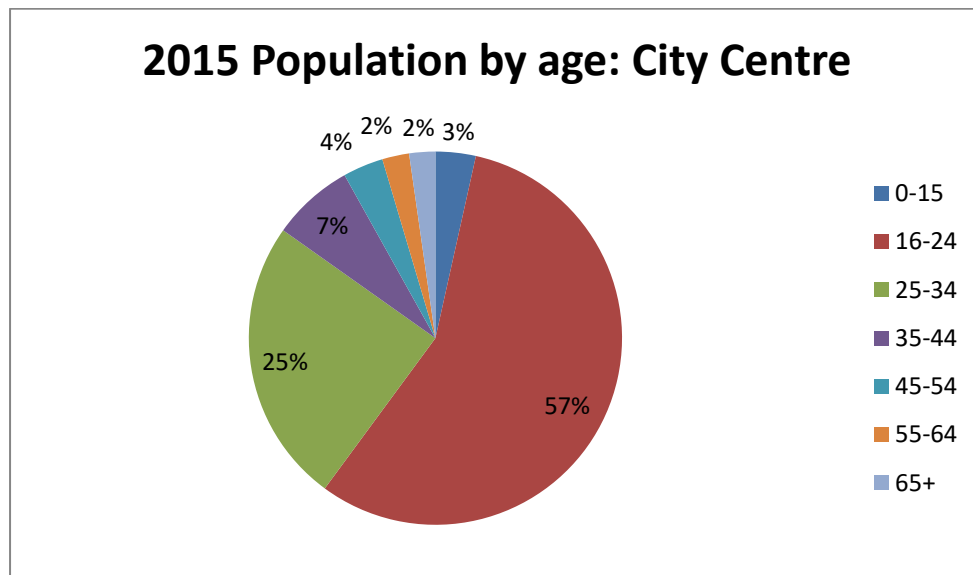
Bristol City Centre cumulative impact area

The 'best fit' data for population change in Bristol City Centre shows significant growth in the student age population, reflecting the high delivery of new student housing in recent years. There has also been growth in the 25-34 age group, suggesting a growing professional population. The population of children under 16 remains low.



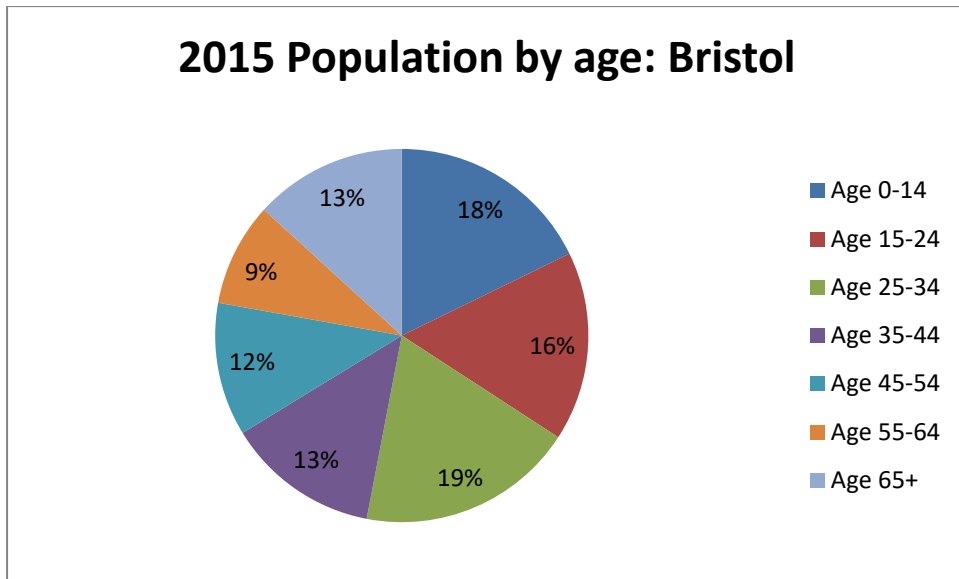
Source: Performance, Information and Intelligence, Bristol City Council. Adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.

The population of the city centre is predominantly in the student age group:



Source: Performance, Information and Intelligence, Bristol City Council. Adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.

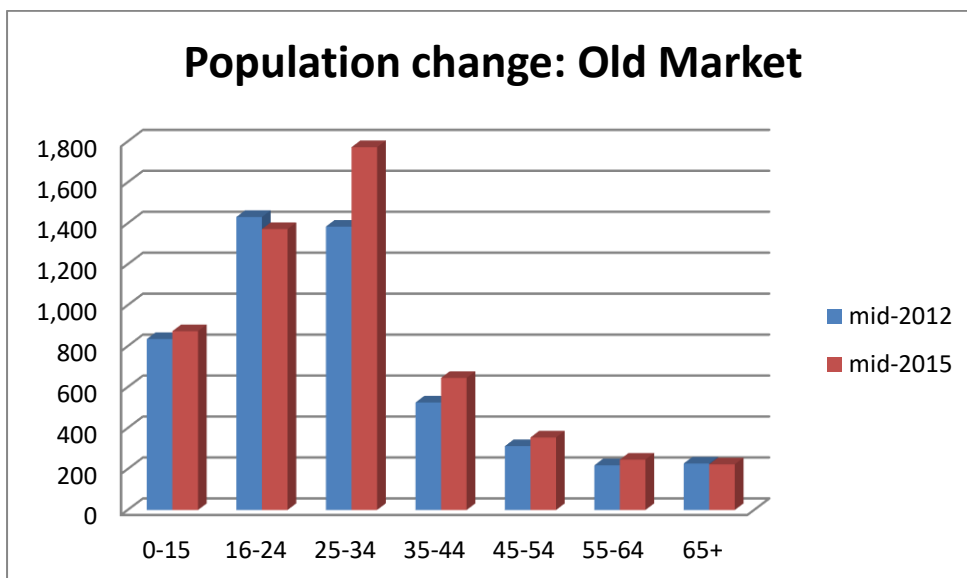
This is significantly different from the citywide picture, which is more evenly distributed. In comparison to the citywide picture, the population under 16 or over 45 is particularly low.



2014-based Sub-national Population Projections Bristol Local Authority
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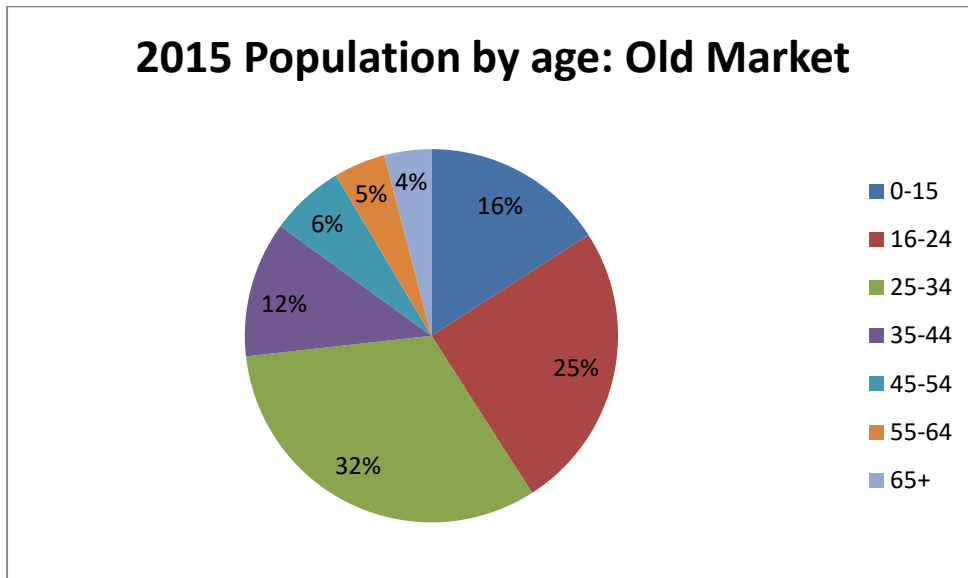
Old Market Quarter neighbourhood planning area

The 'best fit' data for population change in Old Market shows the greatest growth in the young adult population, particularly between the ages of 25-34. Growth in the population of children under 15 is comparatively modest, but from a higher base.

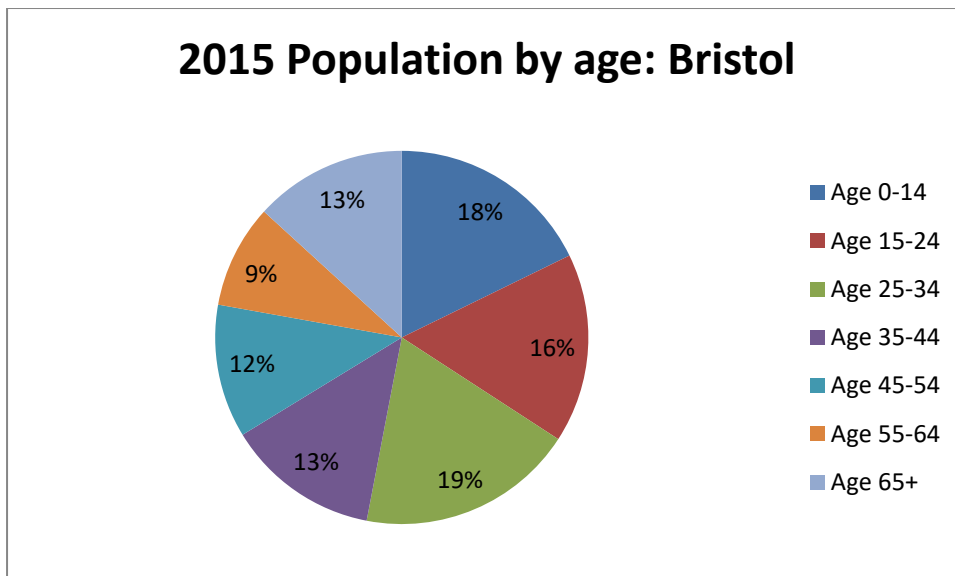


Source: Performance, Information and Intelligence, Bristol City Council. Adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.

The distribution of population by age in Old Market is much closer to the citywide picture than in Bristol City Centre. The population aged over 45 is again relatively low, but the population of children under 15 is comparable to the citywide picture.



Source: Performance, Information and Intelligence, Bristol City Council. Adapted from data from the Office for National Statistics licensed under the Open Government Licence v.1.0.



2014-based Sub-national Population Projections Bristol Local Authority
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Housing delivery in Bristol City Centre and Old Market

Bristol City Centre and Old Market have seen the delivery of high numbers of new homes in recent years. The council's housing trajectory, which tracks the completions and forecast completions of new homes with planning permission or allocated in the Local Plan, forecasts continued development of new homes in both areas over the period to 2026:

	Completions 2006-2016	Forecast dwellings 2016- 2026
Old Market Quarter NPA	1,163	425
City Centre	3,093	1,889

Licensing Service

Sex Establishment Policy Review



Pre Consultation Questionnaire Responses and Results

Final report v1.3

23 April 2019



www.bristol.gov.uk

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1. Summary

S1 Sex Establishment Policy Review

The Council adopted additional parts of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in 2011 which gave it the ability to control and regulate Sex Establishments. Five premises operated as venues offering sexual entertainment at that time. A policy was developed at that time which resulted in three sexual entertainment venue premises becoming licensed under the legislation, along with the four existing sex shops already covered by the same Act.

Currently there are two licensed sexual entertainment venues and four licensed sex shops within Bristol City Council's administrative area. There are currently no licensed sex cinemas or hostess bars.

The Council is undertaking a review of the policy and as part of this review the Council sought to engage with the public and stakeholders initially using a questionnaire. This feedback will be used to help develop the Council's thinking in advance of preparing a draft policy. The draft policy will then undergo a wider consultation later in the year.

S2 Questionnaire

The questionnaire was open between 3 April 2018 and 31 May 2018 and sought responses from the public to questions around the appropriateness of these types of venues in relation to locations, other types of premises, and specific locations within Bristol.

The questionnaire was available online, and paper copies of the survey and alternative accessible formats were available on request. The questionnaire was publicised through media, social media and communications with the public including relevant responsible authorities, equalities groups, and stakeholders.

S3 Scope

This report presents the findings of the sex establishments questionnaire. It includes the overall responses to the questionnaire.

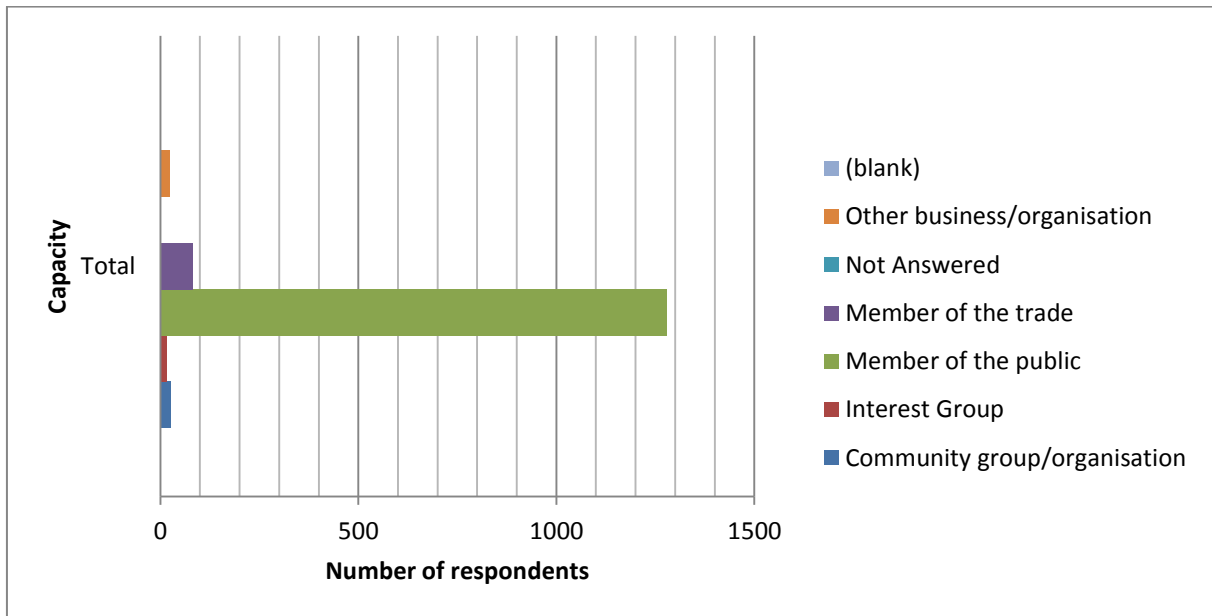
This report does not contain any officers' proposals in respect of the draft policy, having considered the consultation feedback.

2. Response rate and respondent characteristics

2.1 Response rate

1430 responses were received to the questionnaire, via the online and paper based survey.

1279 (90%) of responses were from members of the public, 82 (6%) were from members of the trade, 24 (1%) were from other businesses or organisations, 26 (2%) were from community groups or organisations, 17 (1%) were from interest groups, and 2 respondents did not provide this information.



2.2 Respondent characteristics

1404 (98%) people answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions.

The most common age of respondents was 25-44 years (54%), followed by 45-64 years (28%), 18-24 years (8%), 65-74 (6%), Over 75 years (1%), Under 18 years (less than 1%). 4% preferred not to say.

58% of responses were from women and 33% from men. 8% preferred not to say.

A full breakdown of respondent characteristics is found in Table 1 below.

2.3 Table 1: respondent characteristics - all responses to the survey

	Respondent characteristic	Number of responses to questionnaire	% responses to equalities question
Age	Under 18	2	<1%
	18 – 24	115	8%
	25-44	767	54%
	45-64	399	28%
	65-74	78	6%
	Over 75	11	1%
	Prefer not to say	50	4%
	No response to question	8	<1%
Gender	Female	835	58%
	Male	465	33%
	Prefer not to say	118	8%
	No response to question	12	1%
Transgender	Yes	27	2%
	No	1275	89%
	Prefer not to say	102	7%
	No response to question	26	2%
Ethnicity	White British	1136	79%
	Other White	119	8%
	Mixed / Dual Heritage	48	3%
	Black / Black British	11	1%
	Asian / Asian British	12	1%
	Other ethnic group	6	<1%
	Prefer not to say	89	6%
	No response to question	9	1%
Disability	Yes	125	9%
	No	1186	83%
	Prefer not to say	102	7%
	No response to question	17	1%
Religion	No religion	898	63%
	Christian	298	21%
	Buddhist	22	2%
	Hindu	1	<1%
	Jewish	10	1%
	Muslim	6	<1%
	Sikh	0	0%
	Any other religion or belief	61	4%
	Prefer not to say	125	9%
	No response to question	9	1%
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual (straight)	974	68%
	Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual	288	19%
	Prefer not to say	173	12%
	No response to question	15	1%

3. Survey responses to the questions – Sex Shops

3.1 How many sex shops would be acceptable for the following localities?

Respondents were asked how many sex shops they thought it would be appropriate to have in the following types of area:

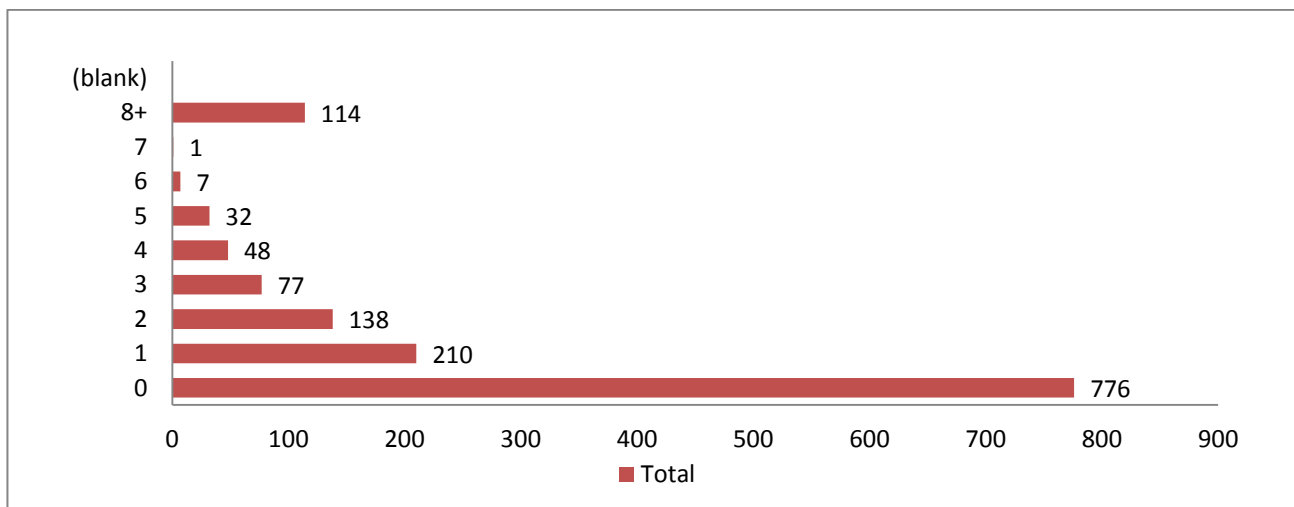
- A residential area
- A deprived area
- A suburban area
- An industrial area
- A busy late night economy area
- A built up area eg shopping precincts/local high streets
- A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it
- A rural area

They were given were given the option of numbers from zero to eight plus.

3.1.1 A residential area

776 (54%) of respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 210 (15%) said one would be appropriate, 138 (10%) said two, 114 (8%) said eight or more, 77 (5%) said three, 48 (3%) said four, 32 (2%) said five, 7 (less than 1%) said six, and 1 respondent (less than 1%) said seven would be appropriate. 27 (2%) people did not respond.

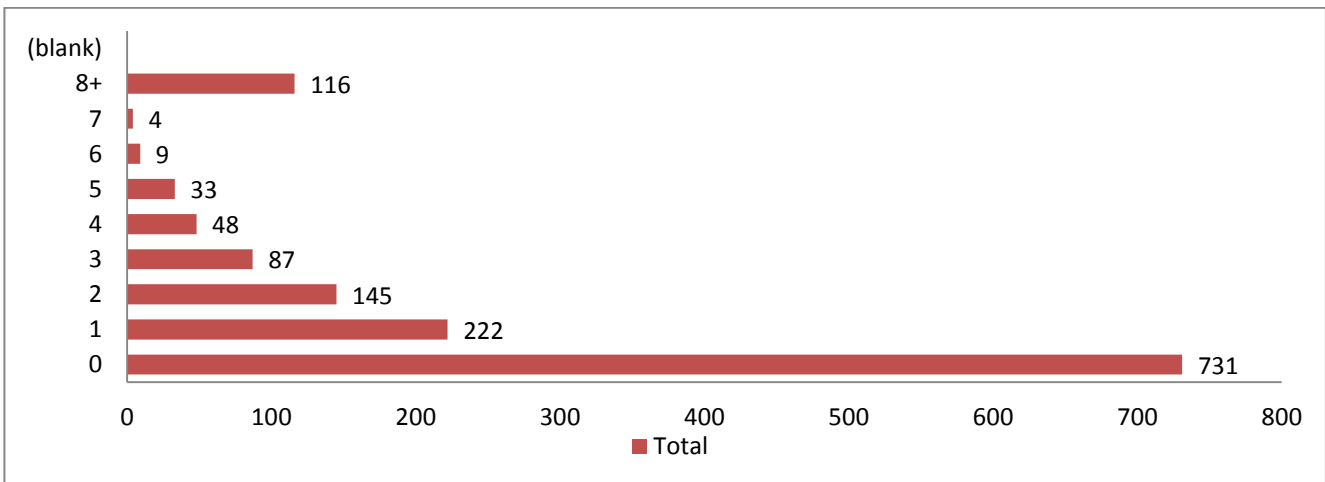
The majority of people (54%) said zero was an appropriate number in a residential area. The remainder (44%) felt that it would be appropriate to have at least one sex shop in a residential area.



3.1.2 A deprived area

731 (51%) of respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 222 (16%) said one would be appropriate, 145 (10%) said two, 116 (8%) said eight or more, 87 (6%) said three, 48 (3%) said four, 33 (2%) said five, 9 (1%) said six, and 4 (less than 1%) respondents said seven would be appropriate. 32 (2%) did not respond

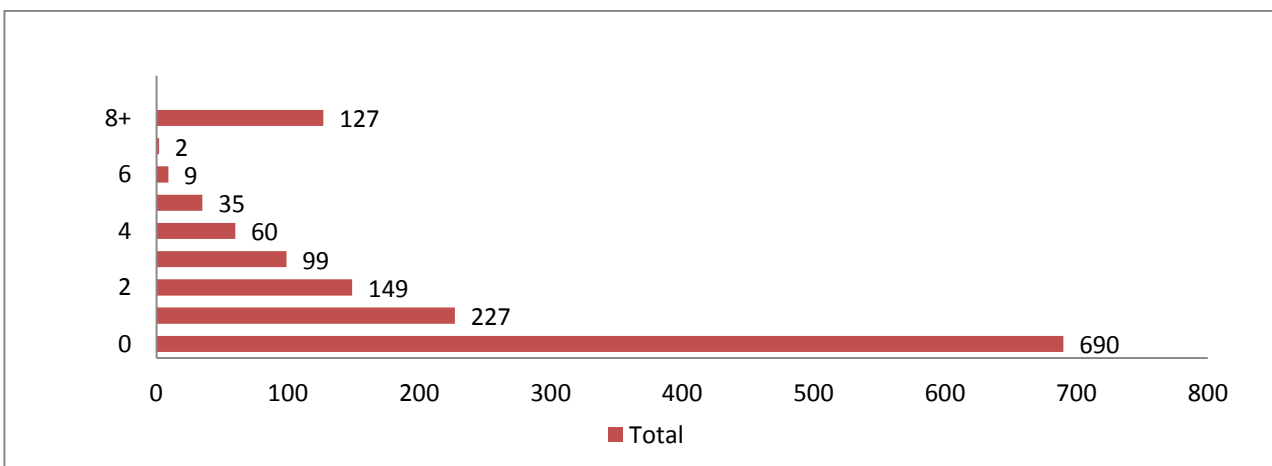
The majority of people (51%) said zero was an appropriate number in a deprived area. The remainder (47%) felt that it would be appropriate to have at least one sex shop in a deprived area.



3.1.3 A suburban area

690 (48%) of respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 227 (16%) said one would be appropriate, 149 (10%) said two, 127 (9%) said eight or more, 99 (7%) said three, 60 (4%) said four, 35 (2%) said five, 9 (1%) said six, and 2 (less than 1%) respondents said seven would be appropriate. 32 (2%) did not respond.

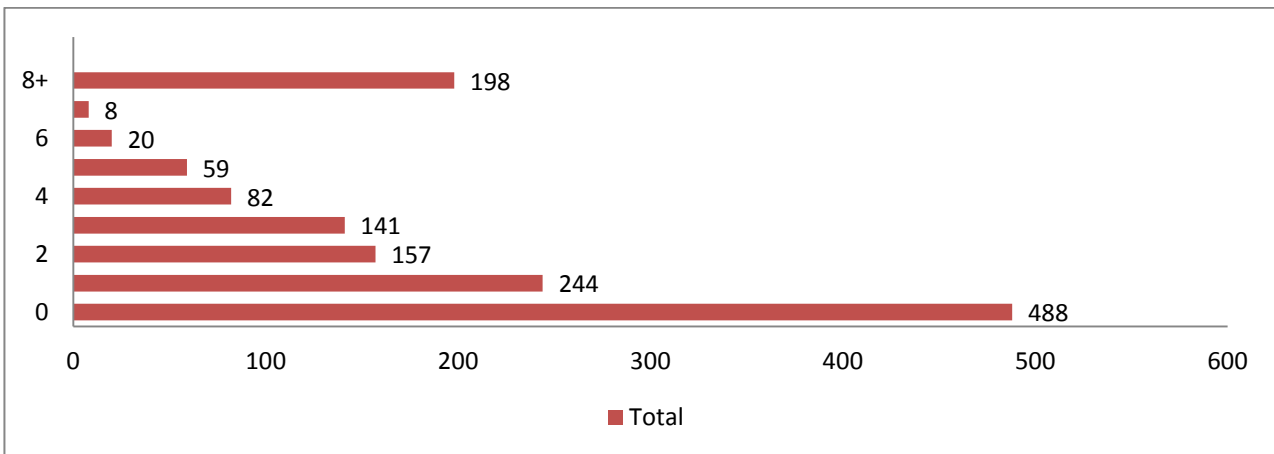
The majority of people (50%) said that at least one sex shop would be appropriate in a suburban area. The remainder (48%) said zero was an appropriate number for a suburban area.



3.1.4 An industrial area

488 (34%) of respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 244 (17%) said one would be appropriate, 198 (14%) said eight or more, 157 (11%) said two, 141 (10%) said three, 82 (6%) said four, 59 (4%) said five, 20 (1%) said six, 8 (1%) respondents said seven would be appropriate. 33 (2%) did not respond.

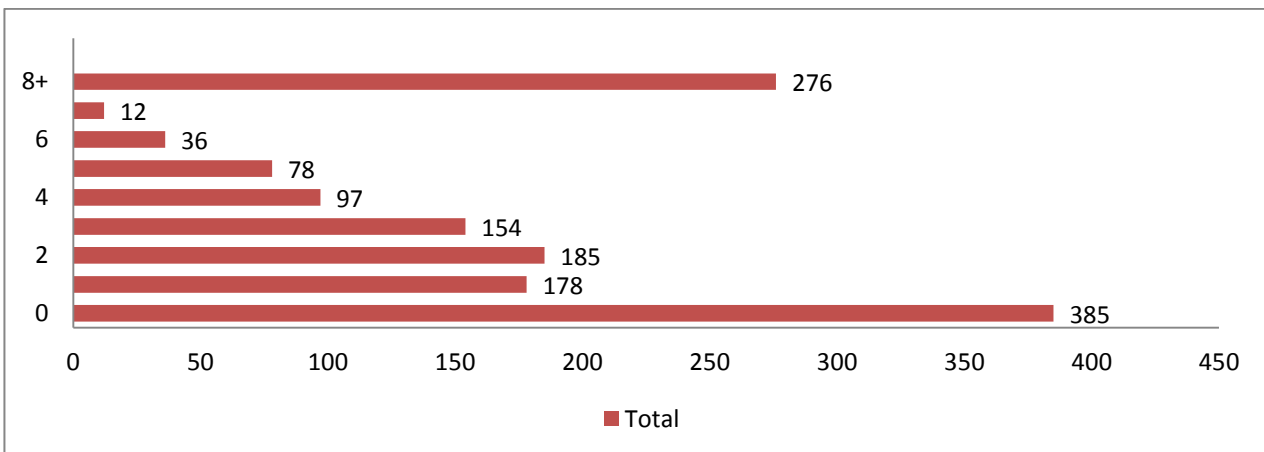
The majority of people (64%) said that at least one sex shop would be appropriate in an industrial area. The remainder (34%) said zero was an appropriate number.



3.1.5 A busy late night economy area

385 (27%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 276 (19%) said eight or more would be appropriate, 185 (13%) said two, 178 (12%) said one, 154 (11%) said three, 97 (7%) said four, 78 (5%) said five, 36 (3%) said six, and 12 (1%) respondents said seven. 29 (2%) did not respond.

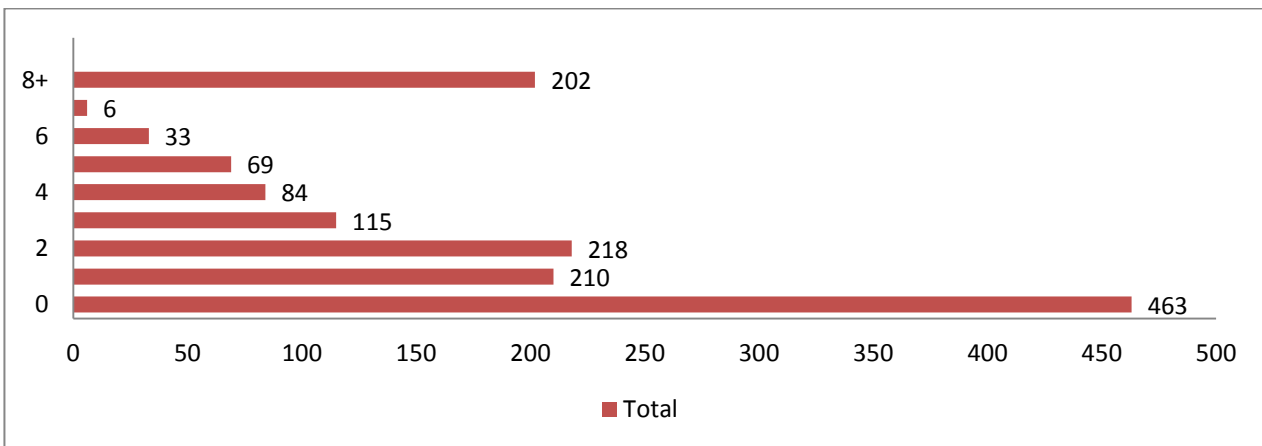
The majority of people (71%) said that at least one sex shop would be appropriate in a busy late night economy area. The remainder (27%) said zero was an appropriate number.



3.1.6 A built up area e.g. shopping precincts/local high streets

463 (32%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 218 (15%) said two would be appropriate, 210 (15%) said one, 202 (14%) said eight or more, 115 (8%) said three, 84 (6%) said four, 69 (5%) said five, 33 (2%) said six, and 6 (less than 1%) said seven. 30 (2%) did not respond.

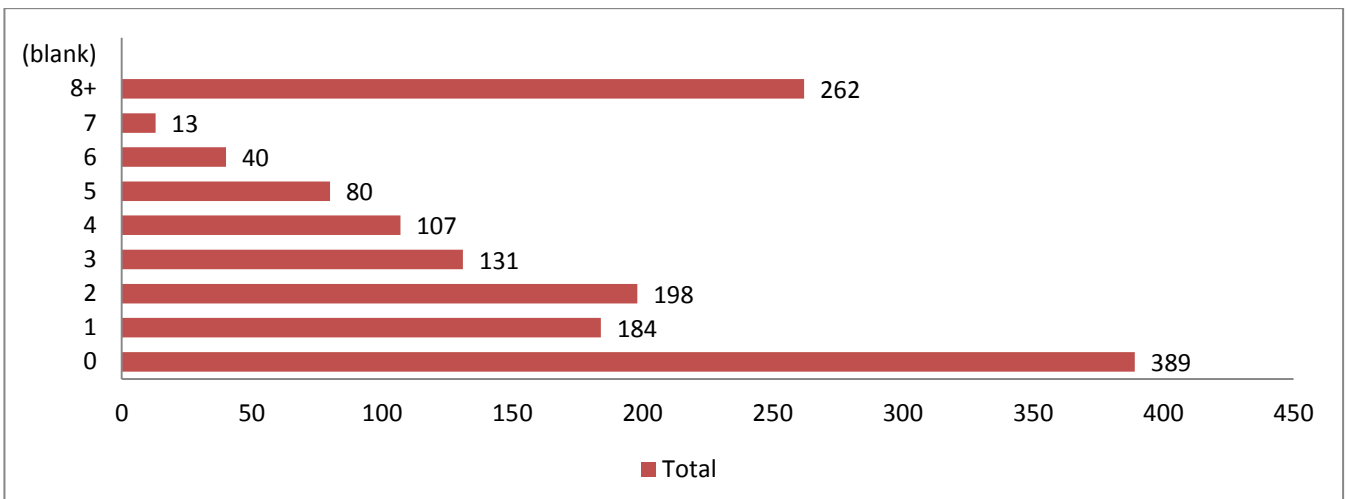
The majority of people (66%) said that at least one sex shop would be appropriate in a built up area. The remainder (32%) said zero was an appropriate number.



3.1.7 A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it

389 (27%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 262 (18%) said eight or more would be appropriate, 198 (14%) said two, 184 (13%) said one, 131 (9%) said three, 107 (7%) said four, 80 (6%) said five, 40 (3%) said six, and 13 (1%) said seven. 26 (2%) did not respond.

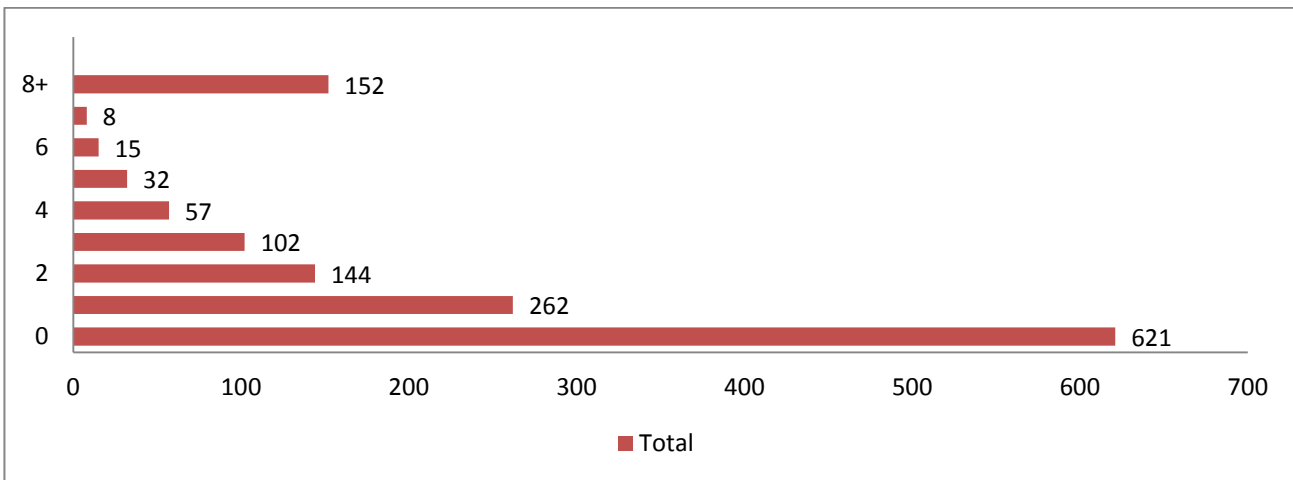
The majority of people (71%) said that at least one sex shop would be appropriate in a city centre, or area immediately surrounding it. The remainder (27%) said zero was an appropriate number.



3.1.8 A rural area

621 (43%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 262 (18%) said one would be appropriate, 152 (11%) said eight or more would be appropriate, 144 (10%) said two, 102 (7%) said three, 57 (4%) said four, 32 (2%) said five, 15 (1%) said six, and 8 (1%) said seven. 37 (3%) did not respond.

The majority of people (54%) said that at least one sex shop would be appropriate in a rural area. The remainder (43%) said zero was an appropriate number.



3.2 It would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop in?

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that it would **not** be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the following areas:

- A residential area
- A deprived area
- A suburban area
- An industrial area
- A busy late night economy area
- A built up area eg shopping precincts/local high streets
- A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it
- A rural area

They were given were given the option s below:

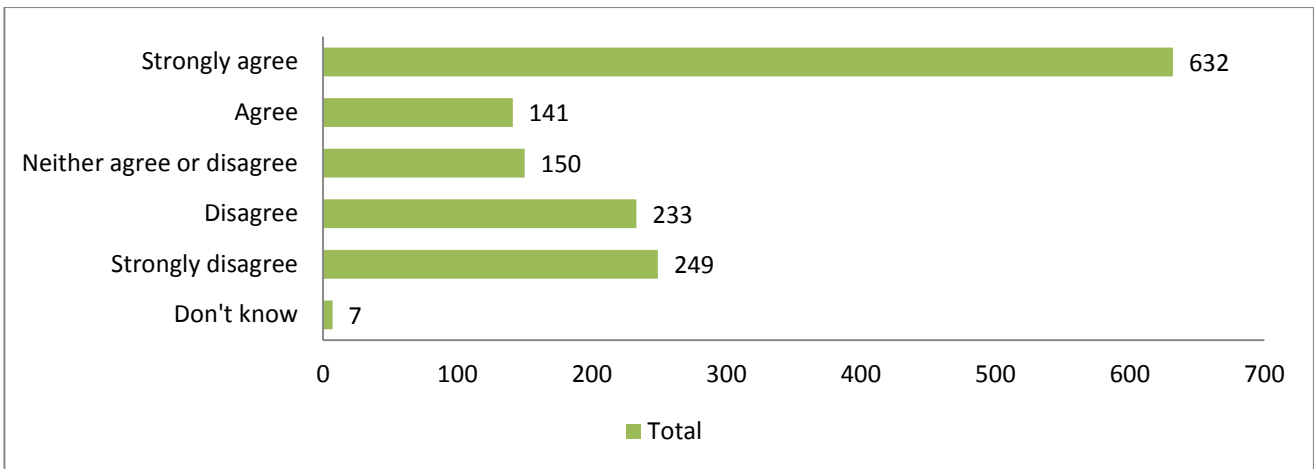
- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree

- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

3.2.1 A residential area

632 (44%) respondents strongly agreed that it was not acceptable to locate a sex shop in a residential area, 249 (17%) strongly disagreed, 233 (16%) disagreed, 150 (10%) neither agreed, nor disagreed, 141 (10%) agreed and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 18 (1%) did not respond.

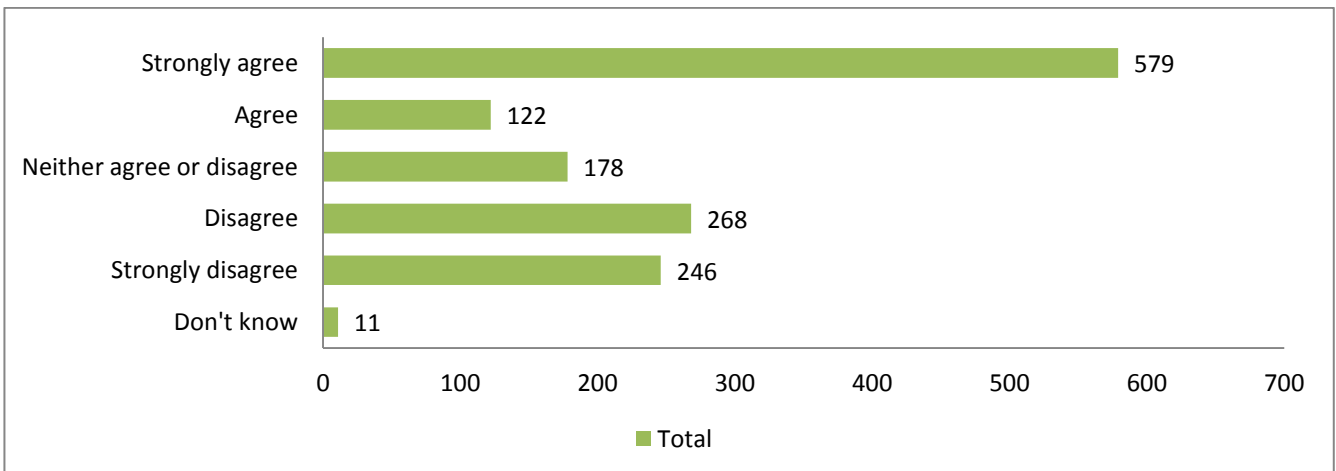
Overall 54% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 33% disagreed, or strongly disagreed.



3.2.2 A deprived area

579 (40%) respondents strongly agreed that it was not acceptable to locate a sex shop in a deprived area, 268 (19%) disagreed, 246 (17%) strongly disagreed, 178 (12%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 122 (9%) agreed, and 11 (1%) did not know. 26 (2%) did not respond.

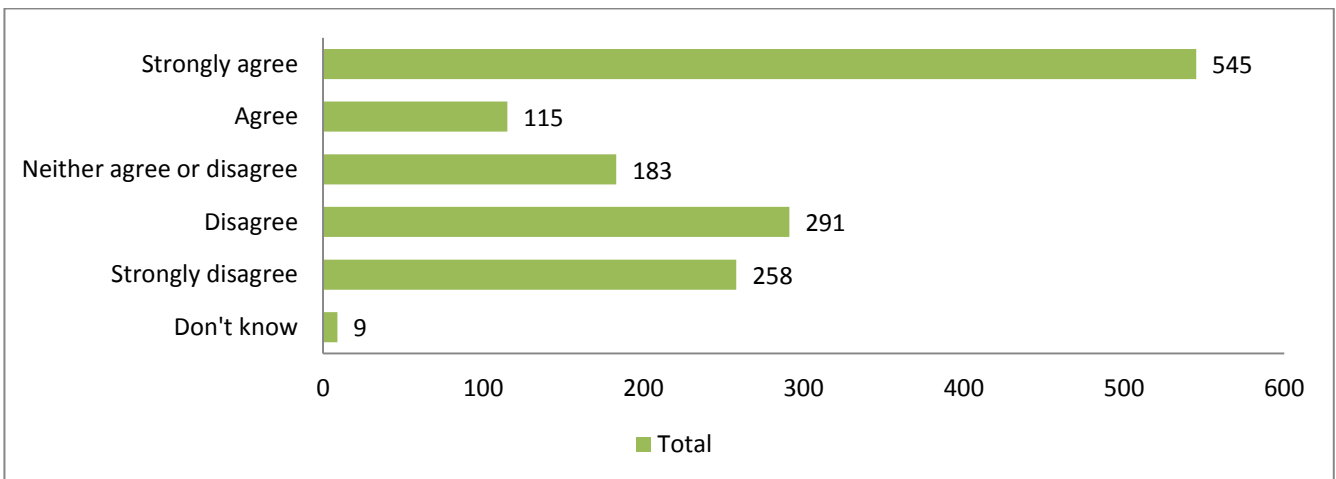
Overall 49% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 36% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.2.3 A suburban area

545 (38%) respondents strongly agreed that it was not acceptable to locate a sex shop in a suburban area, 291 (20%) disagreed, 258 (18%) strongly disagreed, 183 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 115 (8%) agreed, and 9 (1%) did not know. 29 (2%) did not respond.

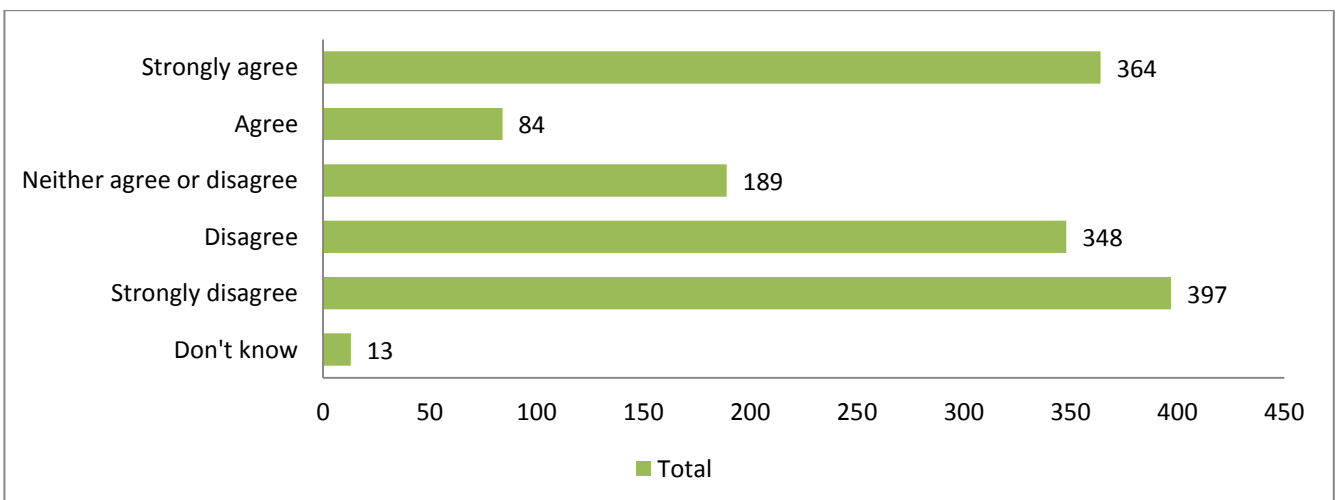
Overall 46% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 38% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.2.4 An industrial area

397 (28%) respondents strongly disagreed that it was not acceptable to locate a sex shop in an industrial area, 364 (25%) strongly agreed, 348 (24%) disagreed, 189 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 84 (6%) agreed, and 13 (1%) did not know. 35 (2%) did not respond.

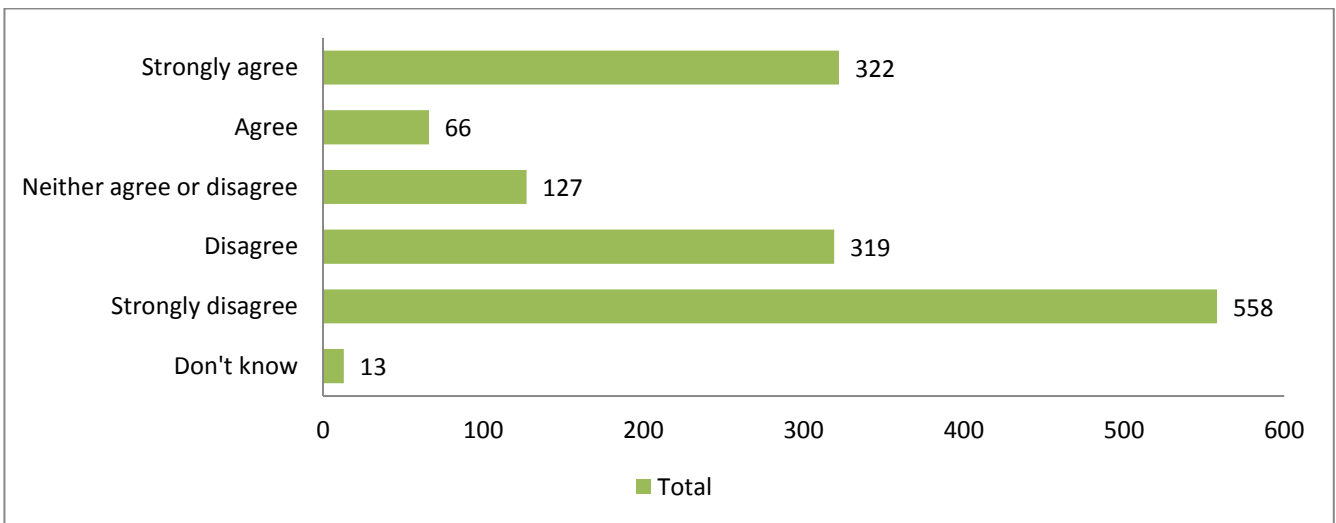
Overall 52% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 31% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.2.5 A busy late night economy area

558 (39%) strongly disagreed that it was not acceptable to locate a sex shop in a busy late night economy area, 322 (23%) strongly agreed, 319 (22%) disagreed, 127 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 66 (5%) agreed, and 13 (1%) did not know. 25 (2%) did not respond.

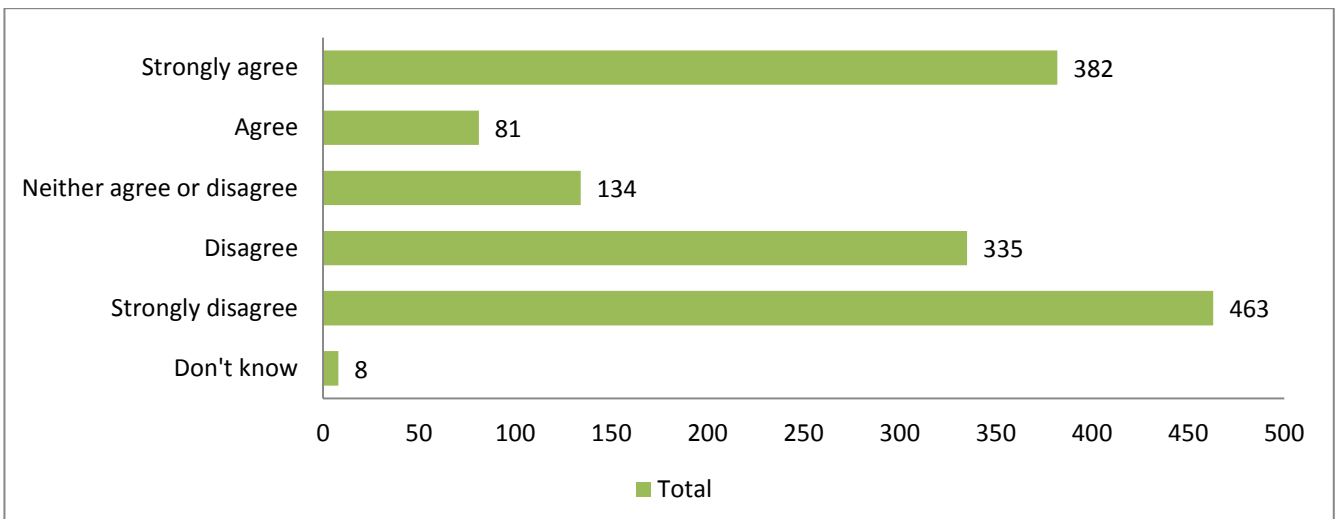
Overall 61% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 28% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.2.6 A built up area e.g shopping precincts/local high streets

463 (32%) strongly disagreed that it was not acceptable to locate a sex shop in a busy late night economy area, 382 (27%) strongly agreed, 335 (23%) disagreed, 134 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 81 (6%) agreed, and 8 (1%) did not know. 27 (2%) did not respond.

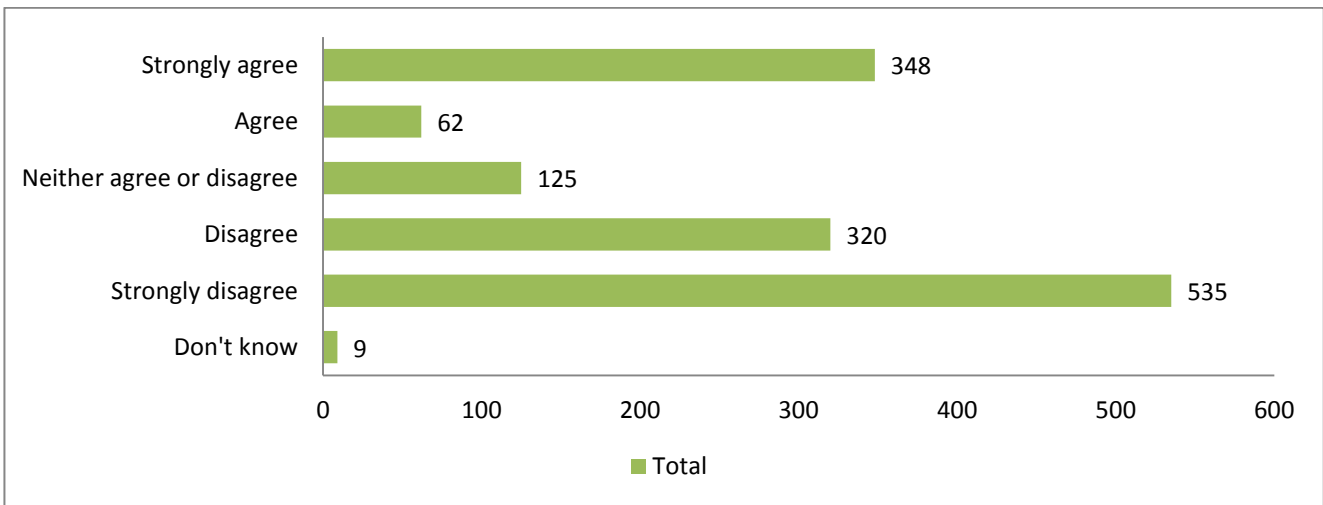
Overall 55% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 33% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.2.7 A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it

535 (37%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop in a city centre, or area immediately surrounding it, 348 (24%) strongly agreed, 320 (22%) disagreed, 125 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 62 (4%) agreed, and 9 (1%) did not know. 31 (2%) did not respond.

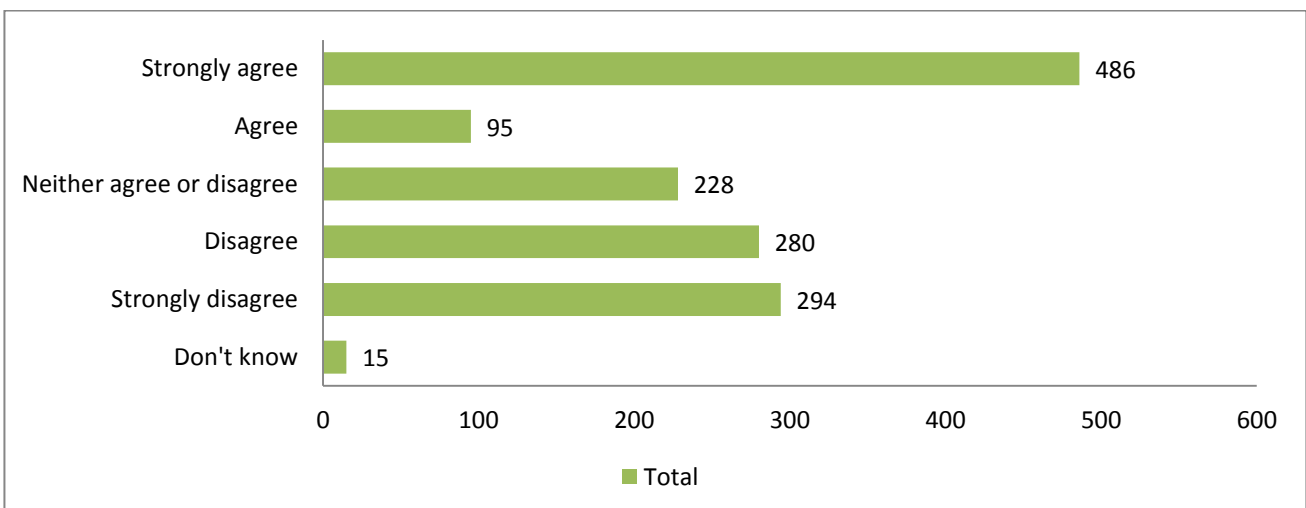
Overall 60% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 28% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.2.8 A rural area

486 (34%) strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop in a rural area, 294 (21%) strongly disagreed, 280 (20%) disagreed, 228 (16%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 95 (7%) agreed, and 15 (1%) did not know. 32 (2%) did not respond.

Overall 42% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 41% of people agreed or strongly agreed.



3.3 It would be acceptable to locate a sex shop on or near to the following city centre areas?

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop on or near to the following city centre areas:

- Harbourside area
- Old City (the area between Broad Quay, St Augustines Parade, and Corn Street, including the area around the Cenotaph)
- Broadmead Area, including Quakers Friars and Cabot Circus areas
- Queen Square and Welsh Back
- Temple Quarter
- Old Market
- Park Street and the Triangle area
- The Stokes Croft and Gloucester Road area
- The area west of Lewins Mead including University, Hospital and Bus Station areas
- Area surrounding Feeder Road including the proposed arena area, Temple Meads area and the Dings and St Philips Marsh areas

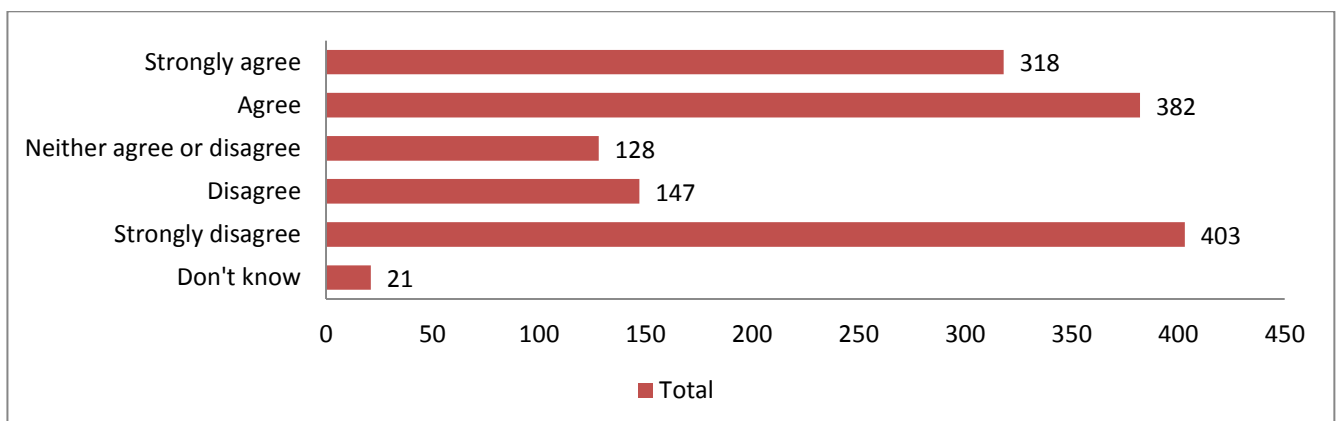
They were given were given the options below:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

3.3.1 Harbourside area

403 (28%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop on the Harbourside area, 382 (27%) agreed, 318 (22%) strongly agreed, 147 (10%) disagreed, 128 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 21 (1%) did not know. 31 (2%) did not respond.

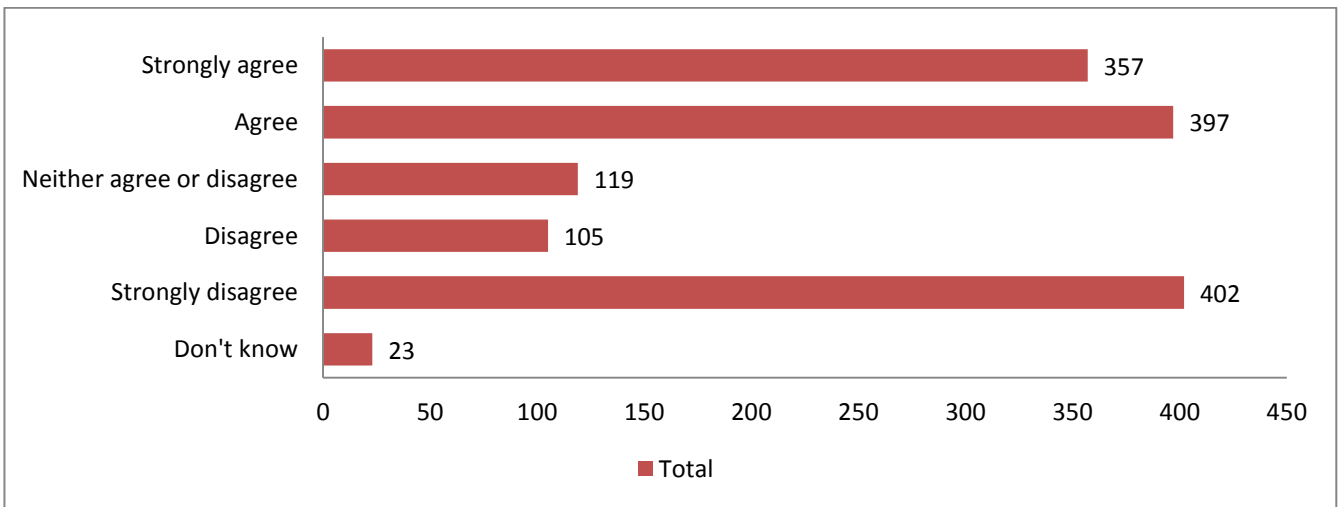
Overall 49% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 38% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.2 Old City (the area between Broad Quay, St Augustines Parade, and Corn Street, including the area around the Cenotaph)

402 (28%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the old city, 397 (28%) agreed, 357 (25%) strongly agreed, 119 (8%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 105 (7%) disagreed, and 23 (2%) did not know. 27 (2%) did not respond.

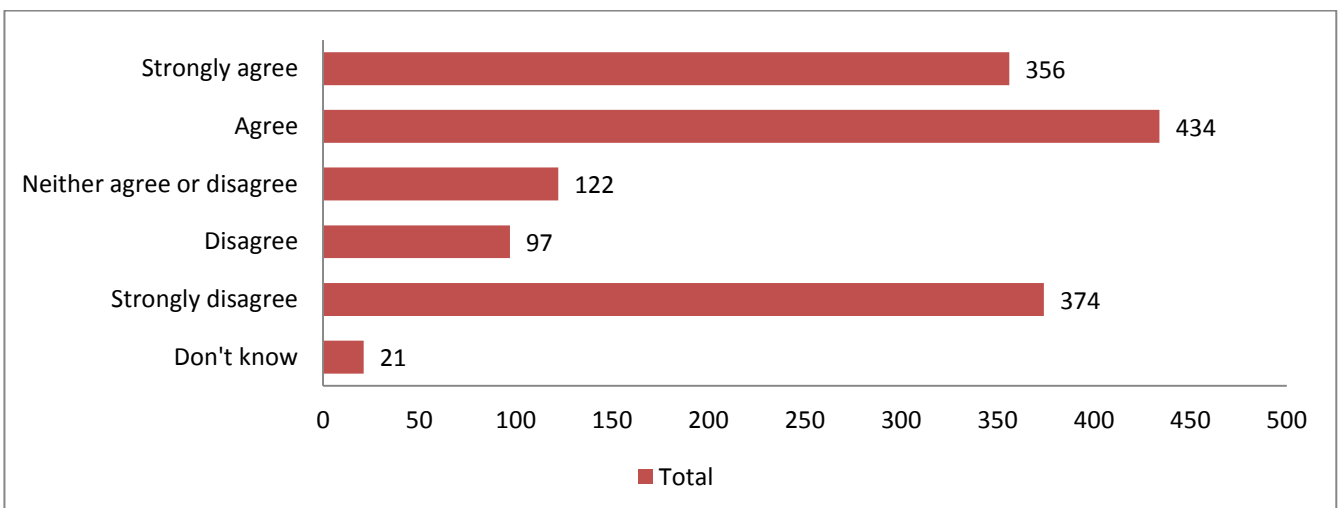
Overall 53% of people agreed, or strongly agreed with the statement, and 35% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.3 Broadmead Area, including Quakers Friars and Cabot Circus areas

434 (30%) of respondents agreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the Broadmead area, 374 (26%) strongly disagreed, 356 (25%) strongly agreed, 122 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 97 (7%) disagreed, and 21 (1%) did not know. 26 (2%) did not respond.

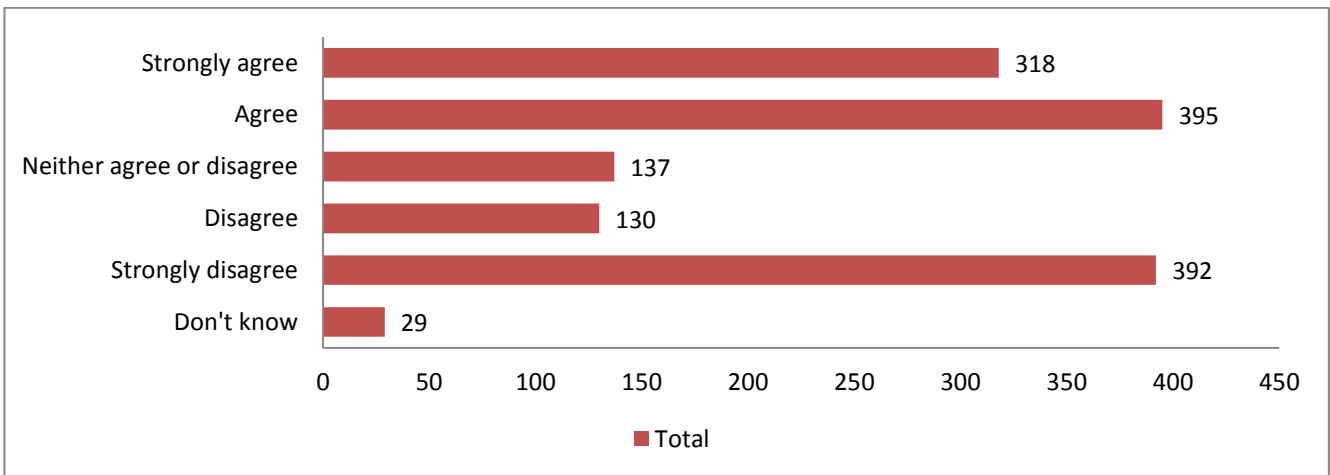
Overall 55% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 33% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.4 Queen Square and Welsh Back

395 (28%) respondents agreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the Queen Square and Welsh Back area, 392 (27%) strongly disagreed, 318 (22%) strongly agreed, 137 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 130 (9%) disagreed and 29 (2%) did not know. 29 (2%) did not respond.

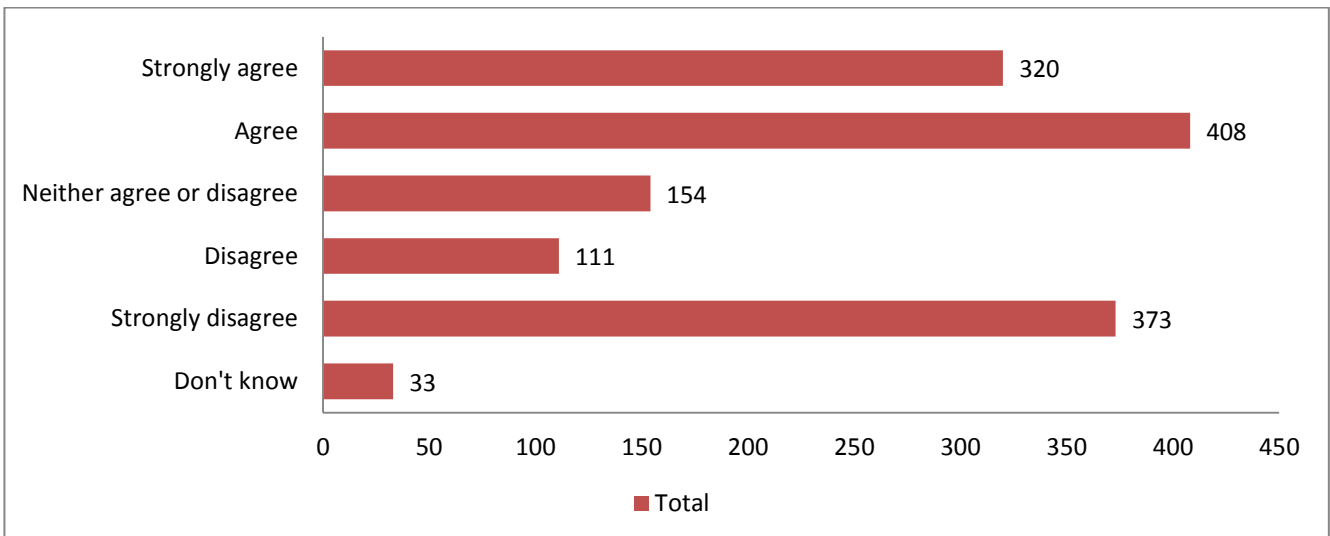
Overall 50% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 36% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.5 Temple Quarter

408 (29%) agreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in temple quarter, 373 (26%) strongly disagreed, 320 (22%) strongly agreed, 154 (11%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 111 (8%) disagreed and 33 (2%) did not know. 31 (2%) did not respond.

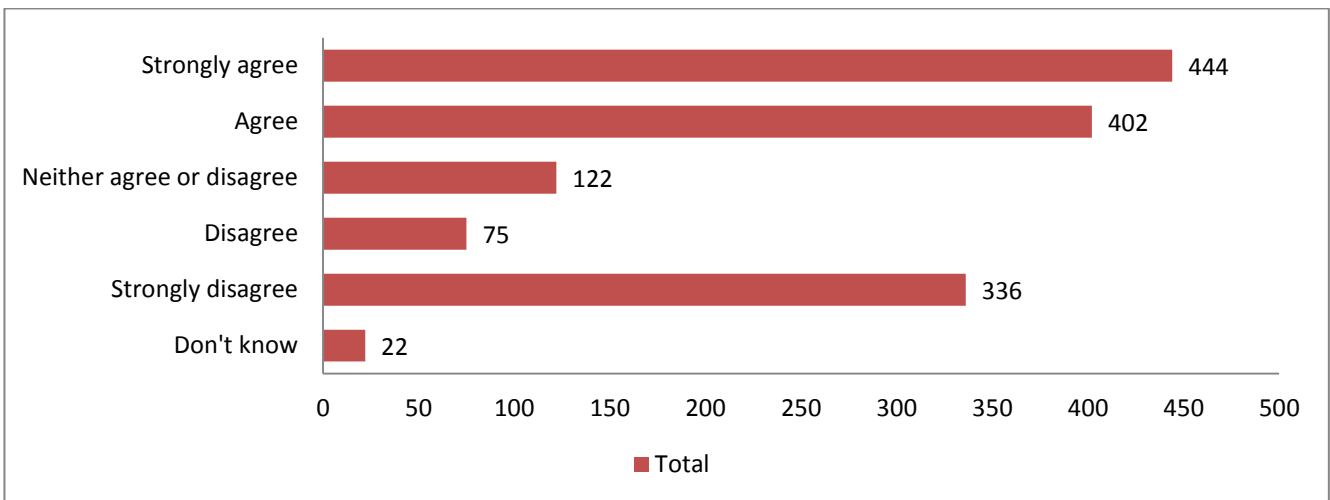
Overall 51% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 34% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.6 Old Market

444 (31%) respondents strongly agreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in Old Market, 402 (28%) agreed, 336 (24%) strongly disagreed, 122 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 75 (5%) disagreed and 22 (2%) did not know. 29 (2%) did not respond.

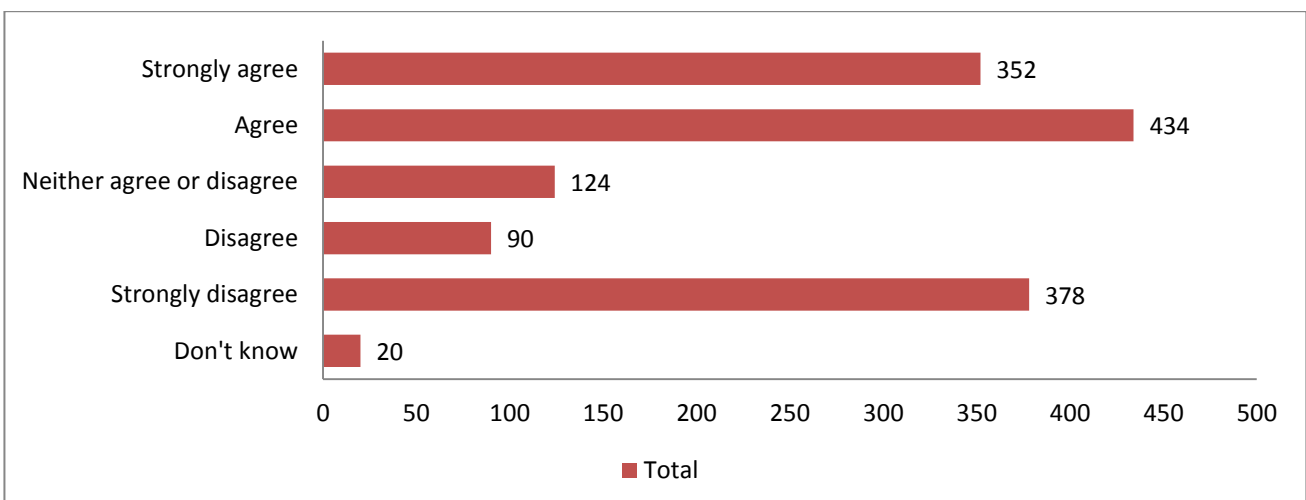
Overall 59% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 33% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.7 Park Street and the Triangle area

434 (30%) respondents agreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the Park Street and Triangle area, 378 (26%) strongly disagreed, 352 (25%) strongly agreed, 124 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 90 (6%) disagreed, and 20 (1%) did not know. 32 (2%) did not respond.

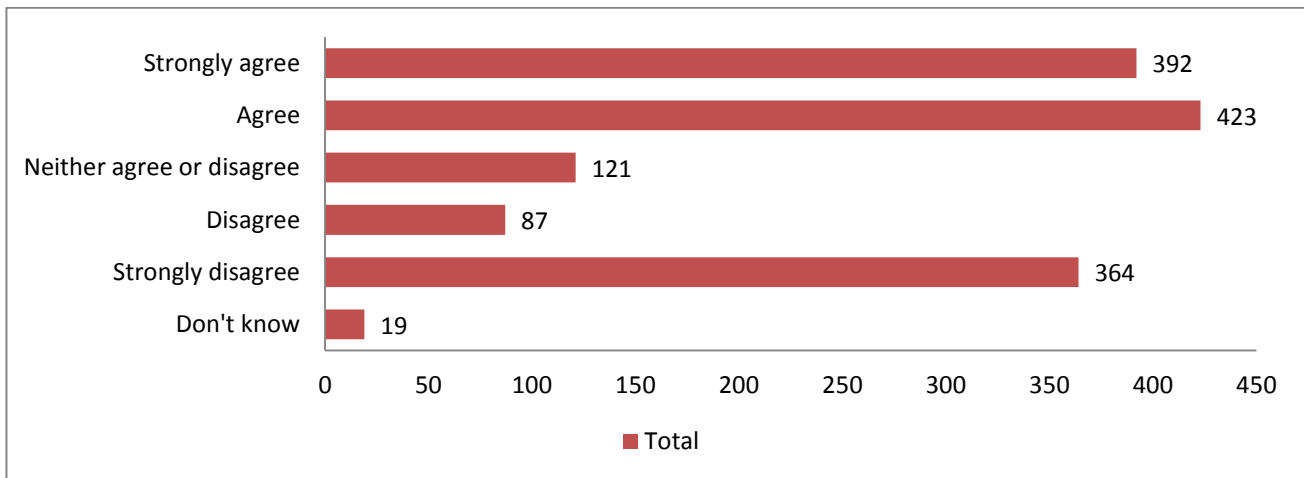
Overall 55% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 32% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.8 The Stokes Croft and Gloucester Road area

423 (30%) respondents agreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the Stokes Croft and Gloucester Road area, 392 (27%) strongly agreed, 364 (25%) strongly disagreed, 121 (8%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 87 (6%) disagreed, and 19 (1%) did not know. 24 (2%) did not respond.

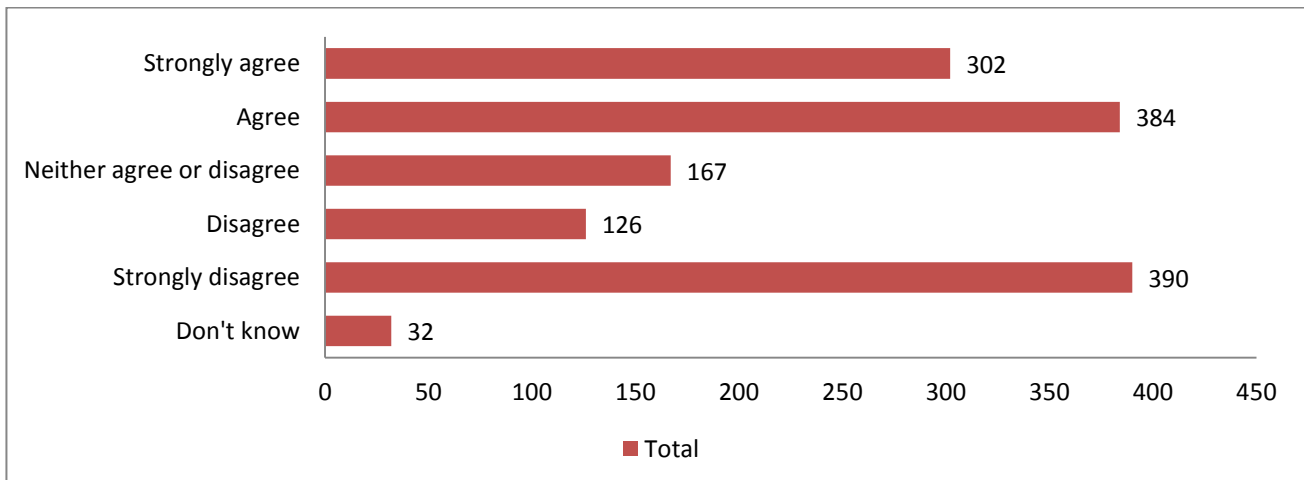
Overall 57% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 31% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.9 The area west of Lewins Mead including University, Hospital and Bus Station areas

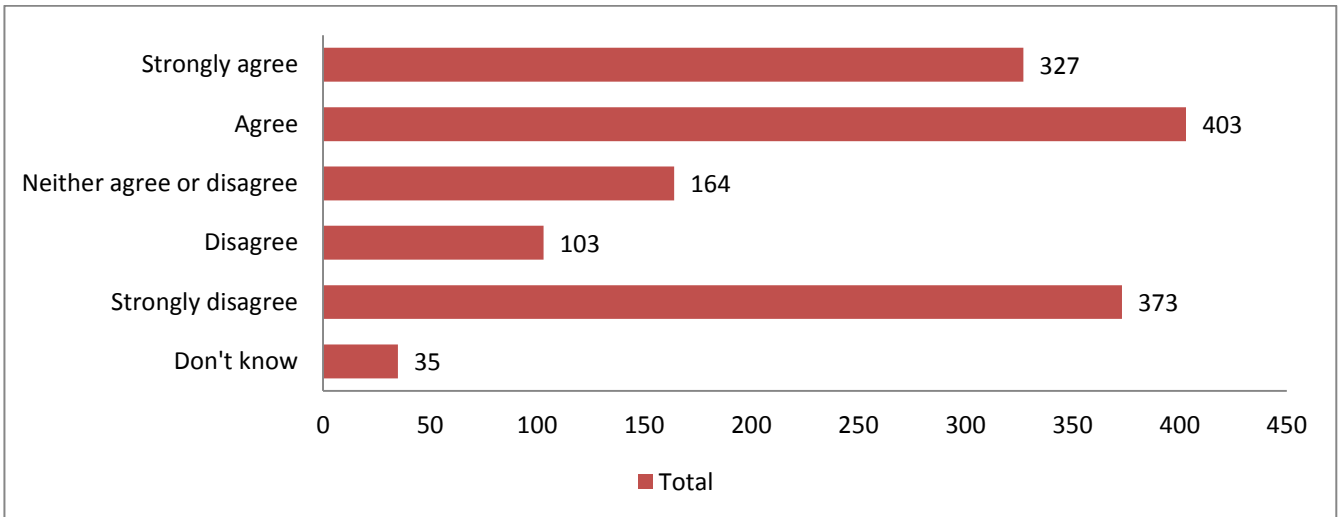
390 (27%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the area west of Lewins Mead, 384 (27%) agreed, 302 (21%) strongly agreed, 167 (12%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 126 (9%) disagreed, and 32 (2%) did not know. 20 (2%) did not respond.

Overall 48% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 36% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.3.10 Area surrounding Feeder Road including the proposed arena area, Temple Meads area and the Dings and St Philips Marsh areas

403 (28%) respondents agreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sex shop in the areas of Feeder Road, the Dings and St Philips Marsh, 373 (26%) strongly disagreed, 327 (23%) strongly agreed, 164 (11%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 103 (7%) disagreed, and 35 (2%) did not know. 25 (2%) did not respond.



3.4 It would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to?

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop on or near to the following types of premises or locations:

- Schools and other places of education
- Residential areas
- Play areas or parks
- Youth Facilities
- Women’s refuge facilities
- Family leisure facilities such as cinemas, theatres and concert halls
- Places of worship
- Places used for celebration or commemoration
- Cultural leisure facilities such as libraries, museums
- Retail shopping areas
- Historic buildings
- Sports centres/facilities
- Transport Hub (bus or train stations etc)
- Financial institutions such as banks
- Late night entertainment areas
- Other

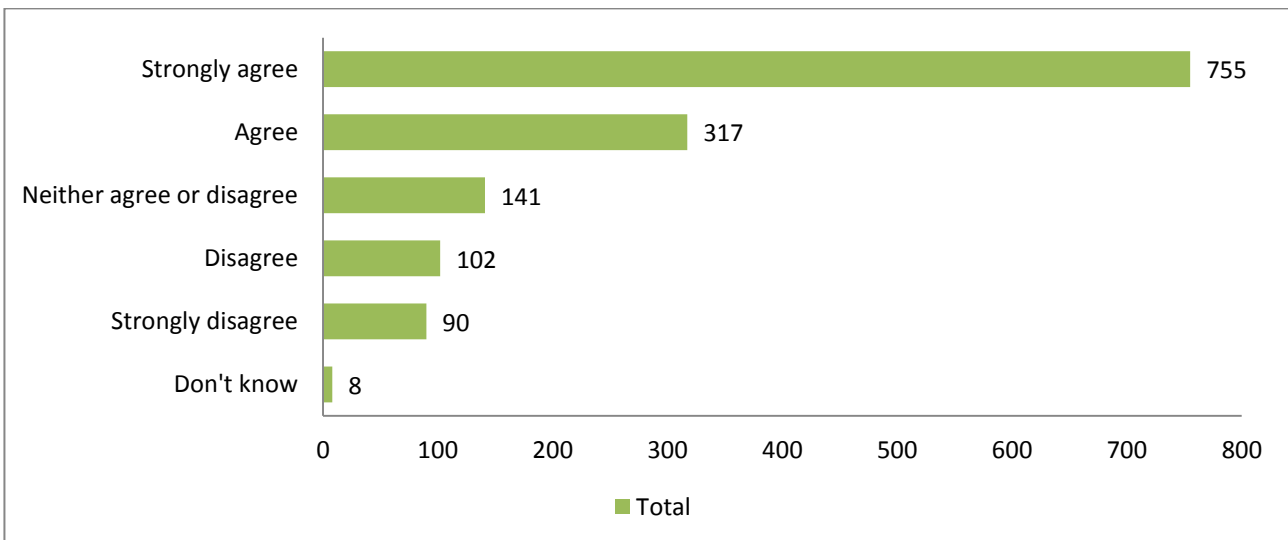
They were given were given the options below:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

3.4.1 Schools and other places of education

755 (53%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to a school or other place of education, 317 (22%) agreed, 141 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 102 (7%) disagreed, 90 (6%) strongly disagreed and 8 (1%) did not know. 17 (1%) did not respond.

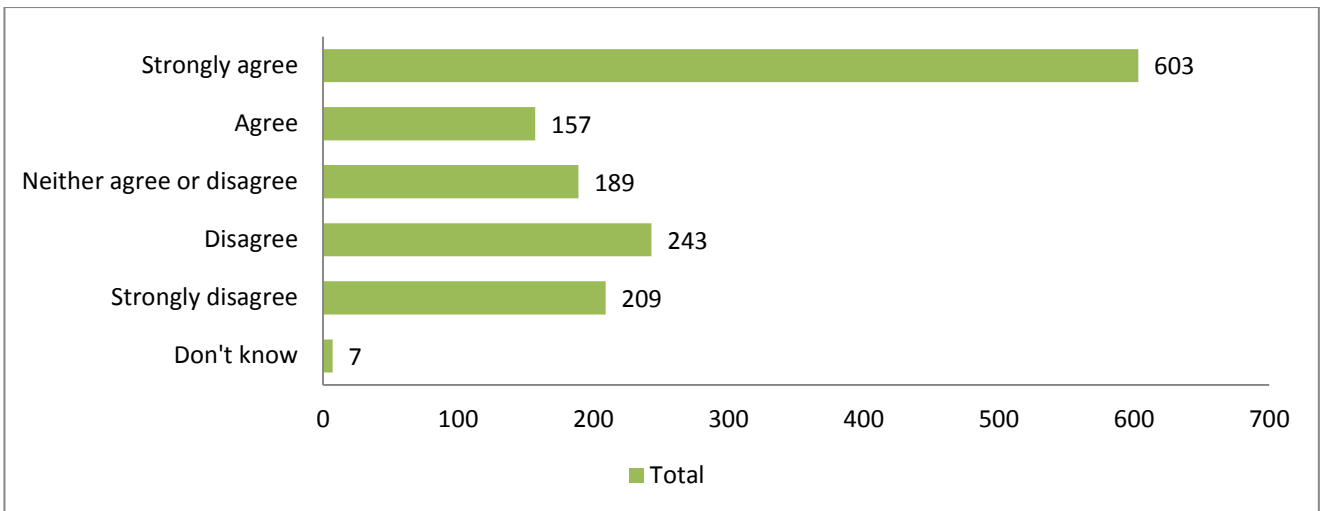
Overall 75% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 13% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.4.2 Residential areas

603 (42%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to a residential area, 243 (17%) disagreed, 209 (15%) strongly disagreed, 198 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 157 (11%) agreed, and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 22 (2%) did not respond.

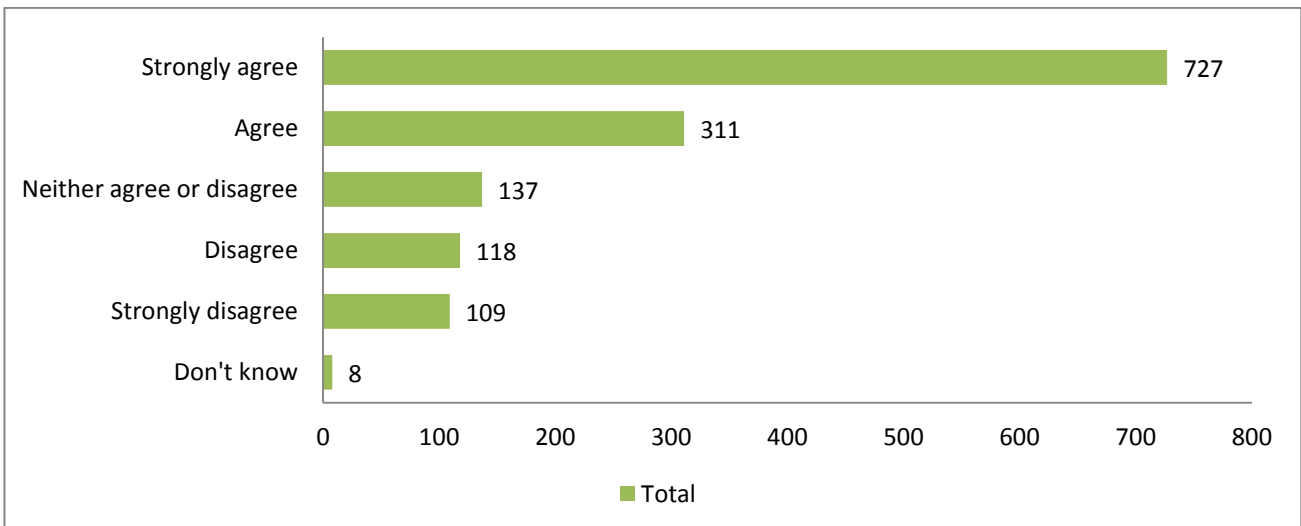
Overall 53% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 32% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.4.3 Play areas or parks

727 (51%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near a play area or park, 311 (22%) agreed, 137 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 118 (8%) disagreed, 109 (8%) strongly disagreed and 8 (1%) did not know. 20 (1%) did not respond

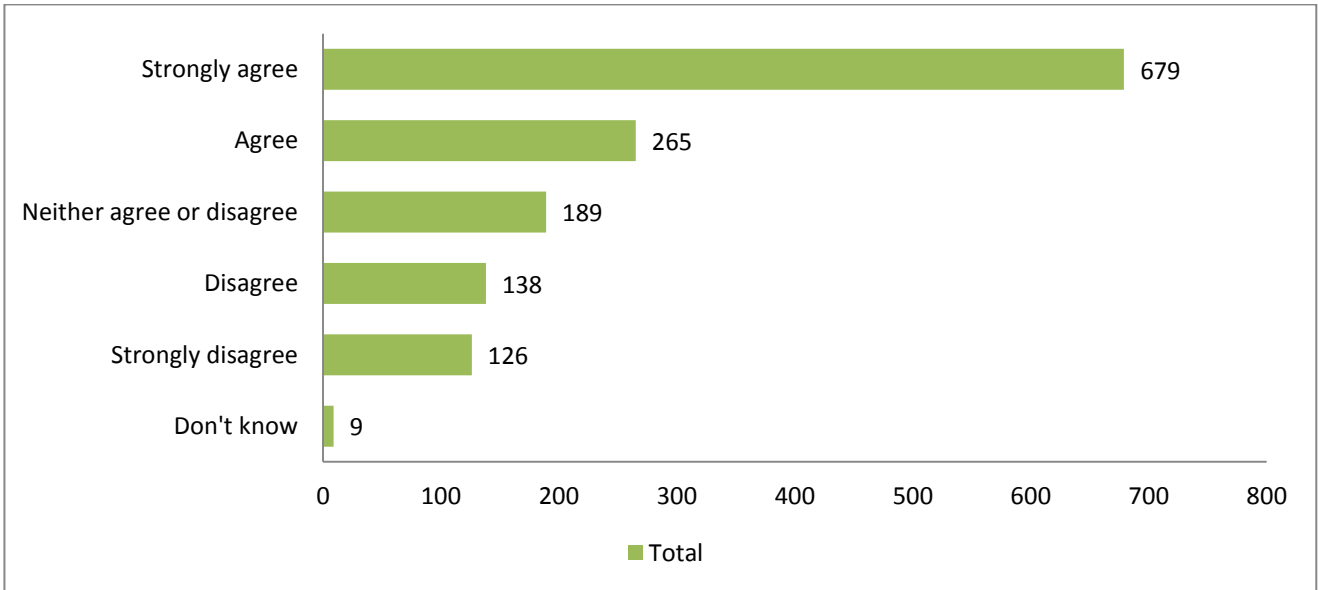
Overall 73% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 16% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.4.4 Youth Facilities

679 (47%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to youth facilities, 265 (19%) agreed, 189 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 138 (10%) disagreed, 126 (9%) strongly disagreed and 9 (1%) did not know. 24 (2%) did not respond.

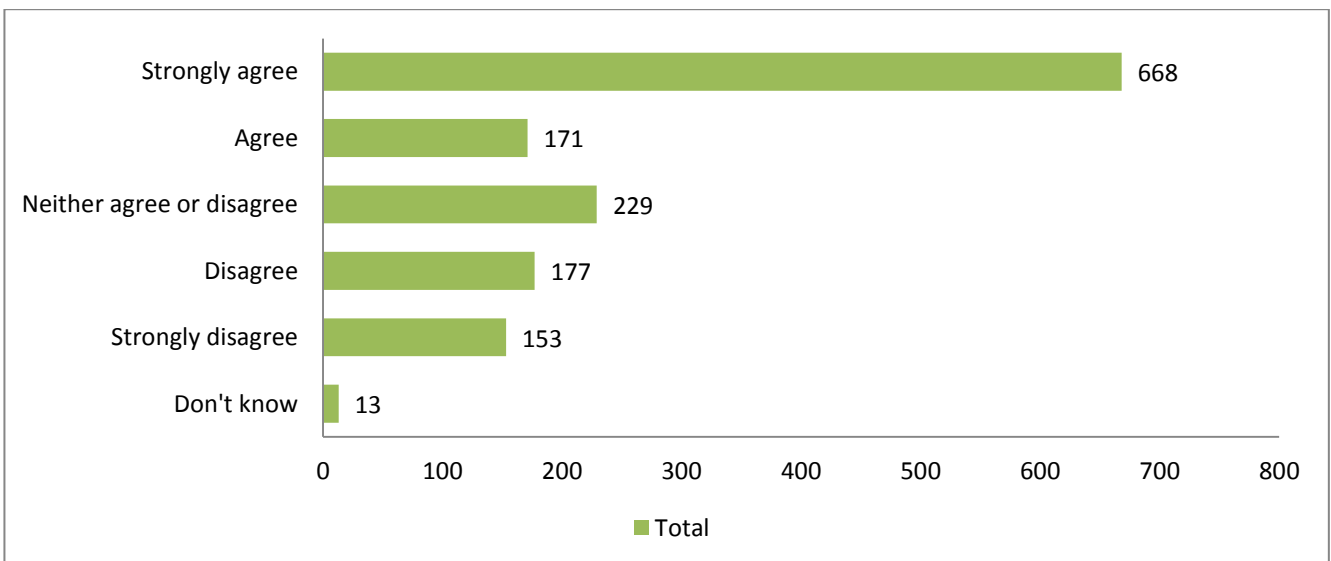
Overall 66% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 19% disagreed, or strongly disagreed.



3.4.5 Women's refuge facilities

668 (47%) strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to women's refuge facilities, 229 (16%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 177 (12%) disagreed, 171 (12%) agreed, 153 (11%) strongly disagreed, and 13 (1%) did not know. 19 (1%) did not respond.

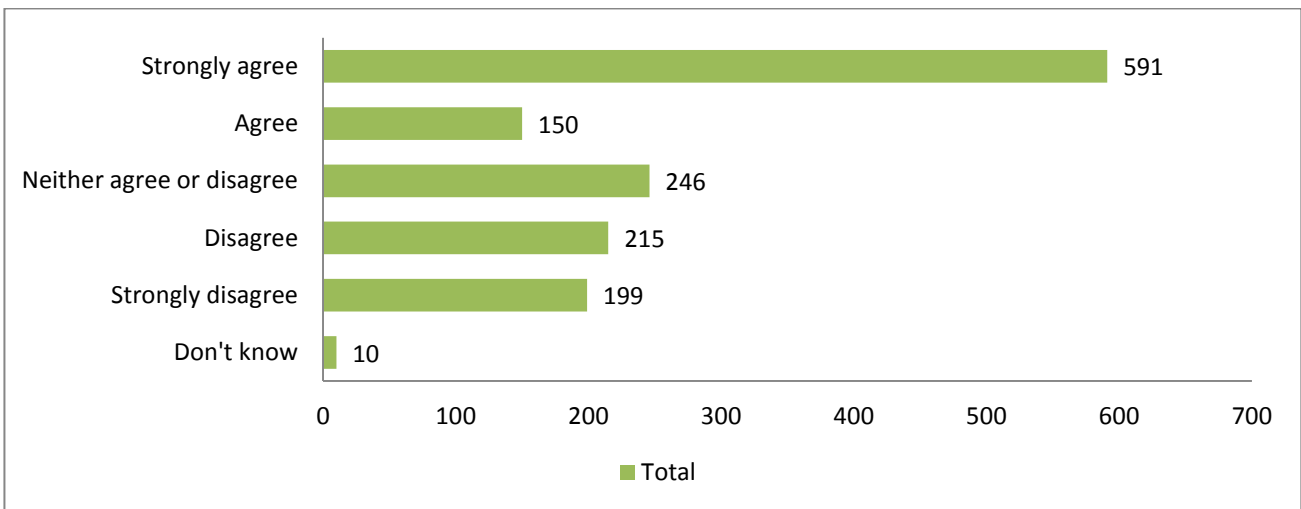
Overall 59% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 23% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.4.6 Family leisure facilities such as cinemas, theatres and concert halls

591 (41%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to family leisure facilities, 246 (17%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 215 (15%) disagreed, 199 (14%) strongly disagreed, 150 (10%) agreed, and 10 (1%) did not know. 19 (1%) did not respond.

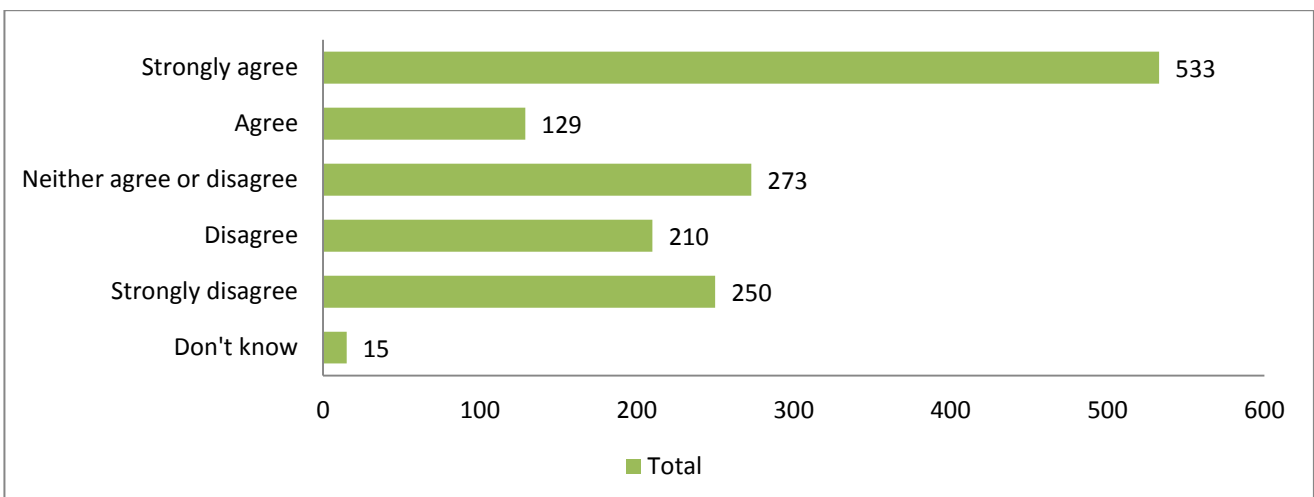
Overall 51% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 29% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.4.7 Places of worship

533 (37%) respondents strongly agreed that it would be inappropriate to locate a sex shop near to places of worship, 273 (19%) neither agree nor disagree, 250 (17%) strongly disagree, 210 (15%) disagree, 129 (9%) agree and 15 (1%) did not know. 20 (1%) did not respond.

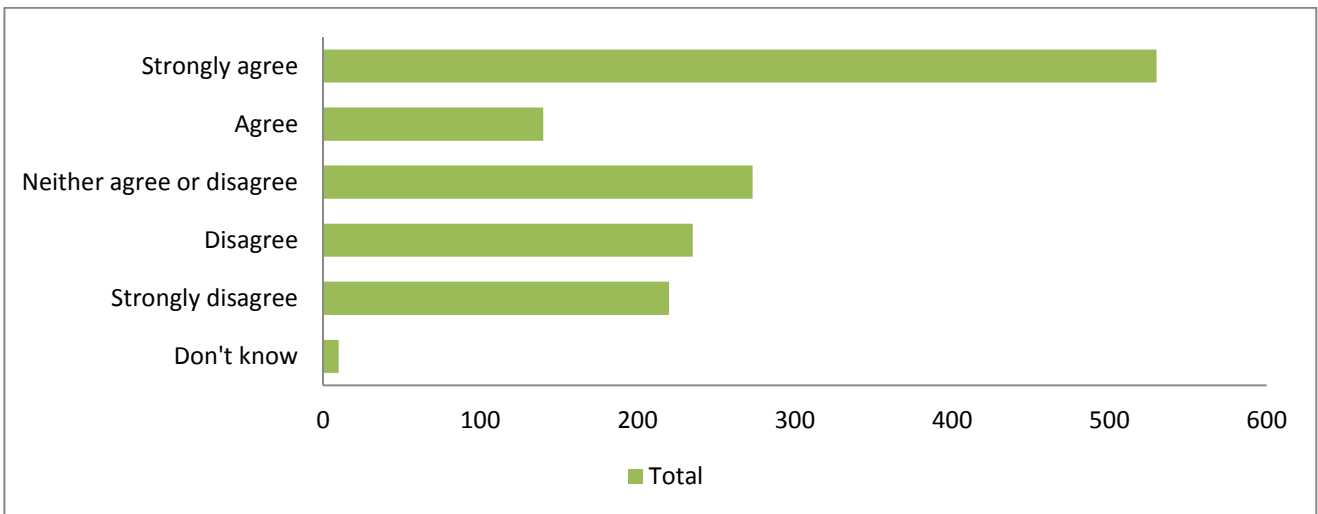
Overall 46% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 32% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.4.8 Places used for celebration or commemoration

530 (37%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sex shop near to places used for celebration or commemoration, 273 (19%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 235 (16%) disagreed, 220 (15%) strongly disagreed, 140 (10%) agreed, and 10 (1%) did not know. 22 (2%) did not respond.

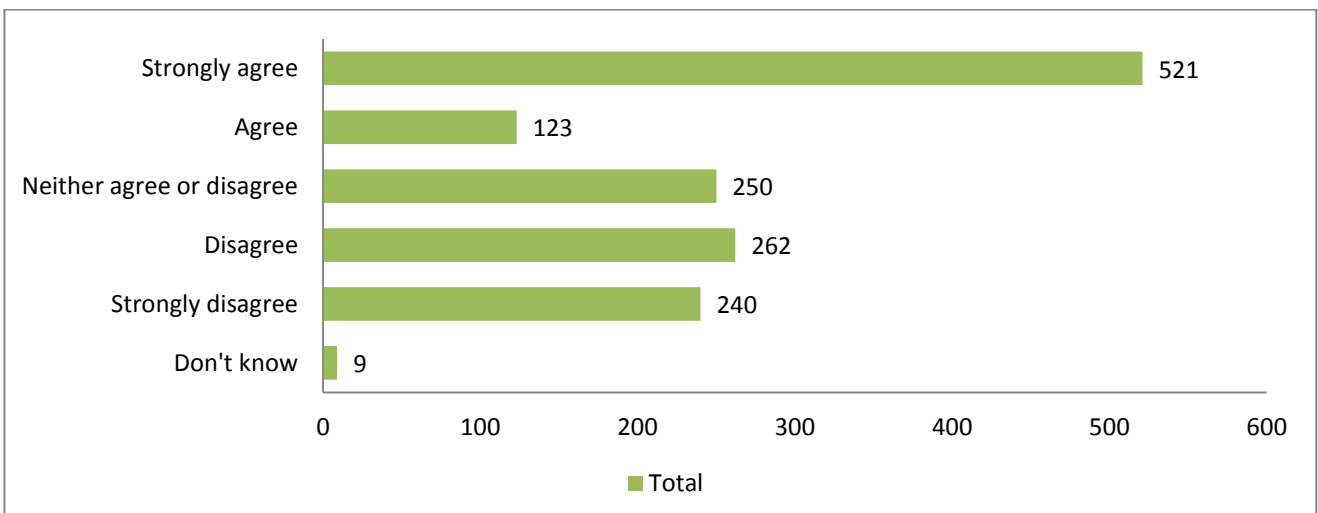
Overall 47% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 31% disagreed, or strongly disagreed.



3.4.9 Cultural leisure facilities such as libraries, museums

521 (36%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to cultural leisure facilities, 262 (18%) disagreed, 250 (17%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 240 (17%) strongly disagreed, 123 (9%) agreed, and 9 (1%) did not know. 25 (2%) did not respond.

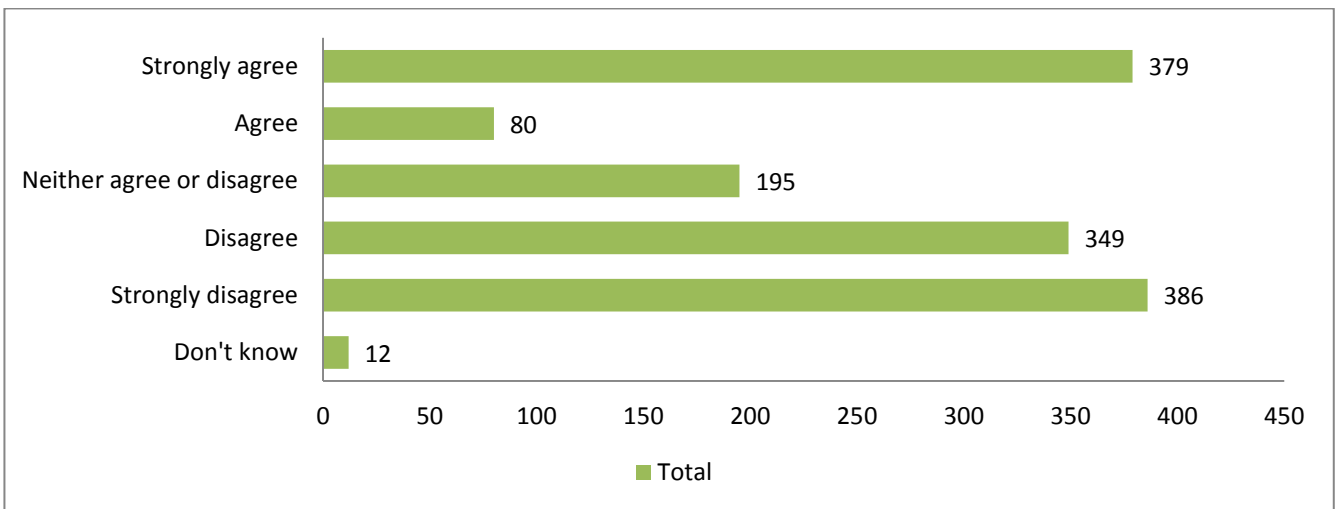
Overall 45% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 35% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



3.4.10 Retail shopping areas

386 (27%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sex shop in a retail shopping area, 379 (27%) strongly agreed, 349 (24%) disagreed, 195 (14%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 80 (6%) agreed, and 12 (1%) did not know. 29 (2%) did not respond.

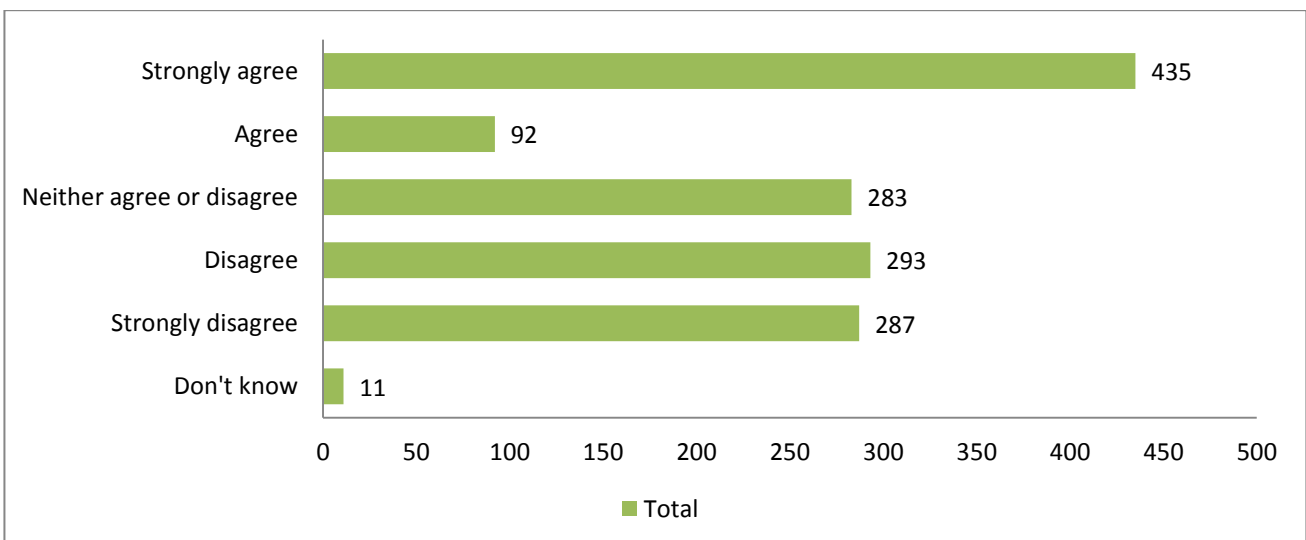
Overall 51% of people disagreed, or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 33% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.4.11 Historic buildings

435 (30%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near historic buildings, 293 (20%) disagreed, 283 (20%) strongly disagreed, 283 (20%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 92 (6%) agreed, and 11 (1%) did not know. 29 (2%) did not respond.

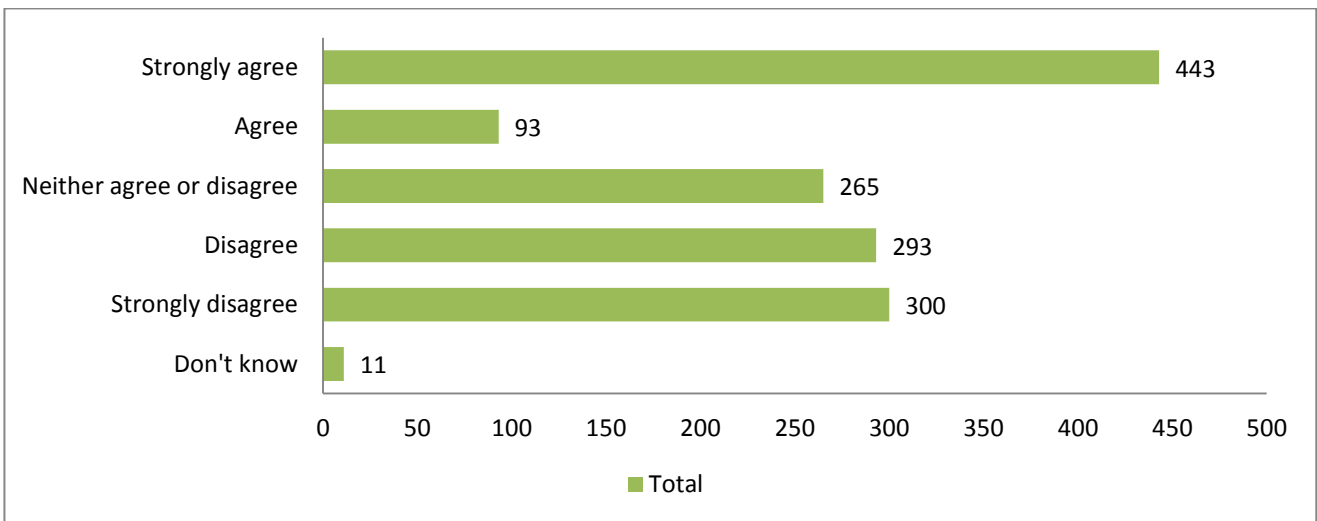
Overall 40% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 36% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.4.12 Sports centres/facilities

443 (31%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to sports centres/facilities, 300 (21%) strongly disagreed, 293 (20%) disagreed, 265 (19%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 93 (7%) agreed, and 11 (1%) did not know. 25 (2%) did not respond.

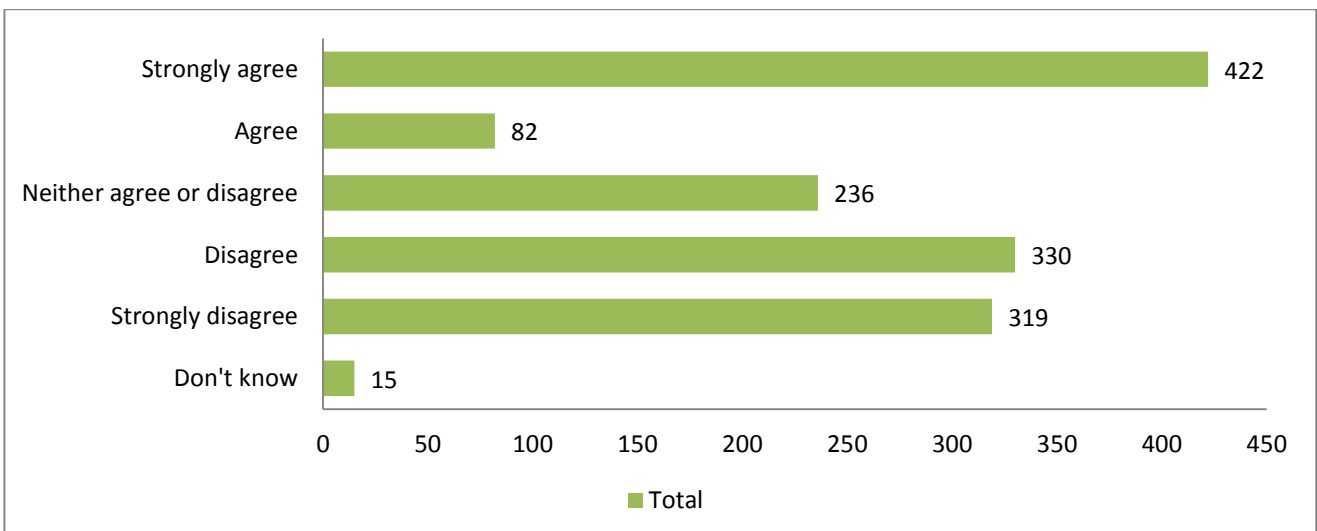
Overall 41% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 38% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.4.13 Transport Hub (bus or train stations etc)

422 (30%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to a transport hub, 330 (23%) disagreed, 319 (22%) strongly disagreed, 236 (17%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 82 (6%) agreed, and 15 (1%) did not know. 26 (2%) did not respond.

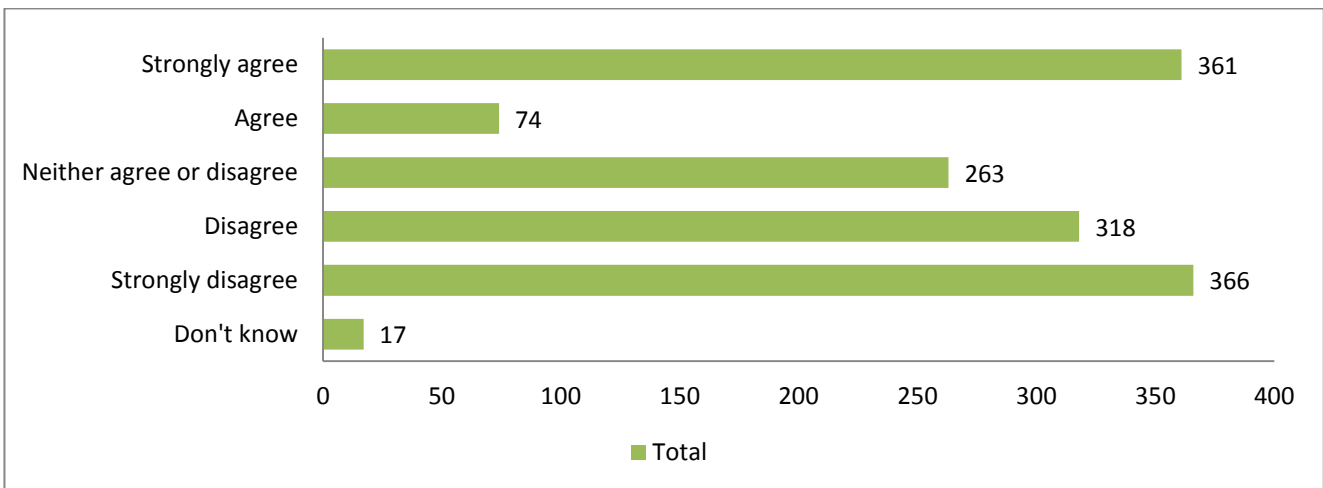
Overall 45% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 36% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.4.14 Financial institutions such as banks

366 (26%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop near to a financial institution, 361 (25%) strongly agreed, 318 (22%) disagreed, 263 (18%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 74 (5%) agreed, and 17 (1%) did not know. 31 (2%) did not respond.

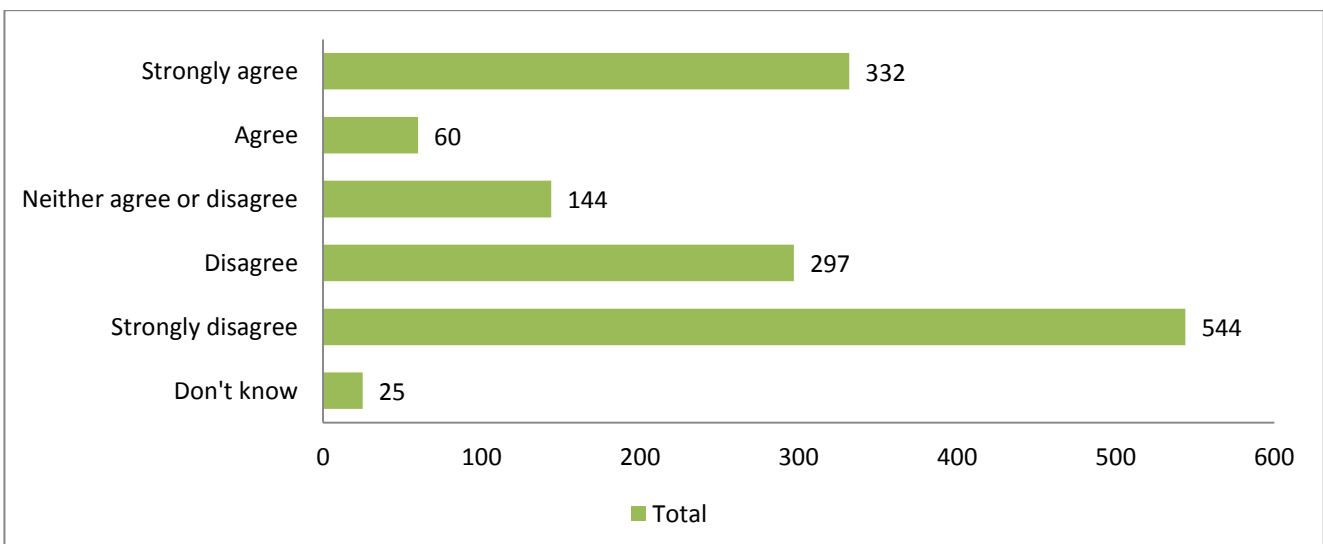
Overall 48% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, 30% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.4.15 Late night entertainment areas

544 (38%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop in a late night entertainment area, 332 (23%) strongly agreed, 297 (21%) disagreed, 144 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 60 (4%) agreed, and 25 (2%) did not know. 28 (2%) did not respond.

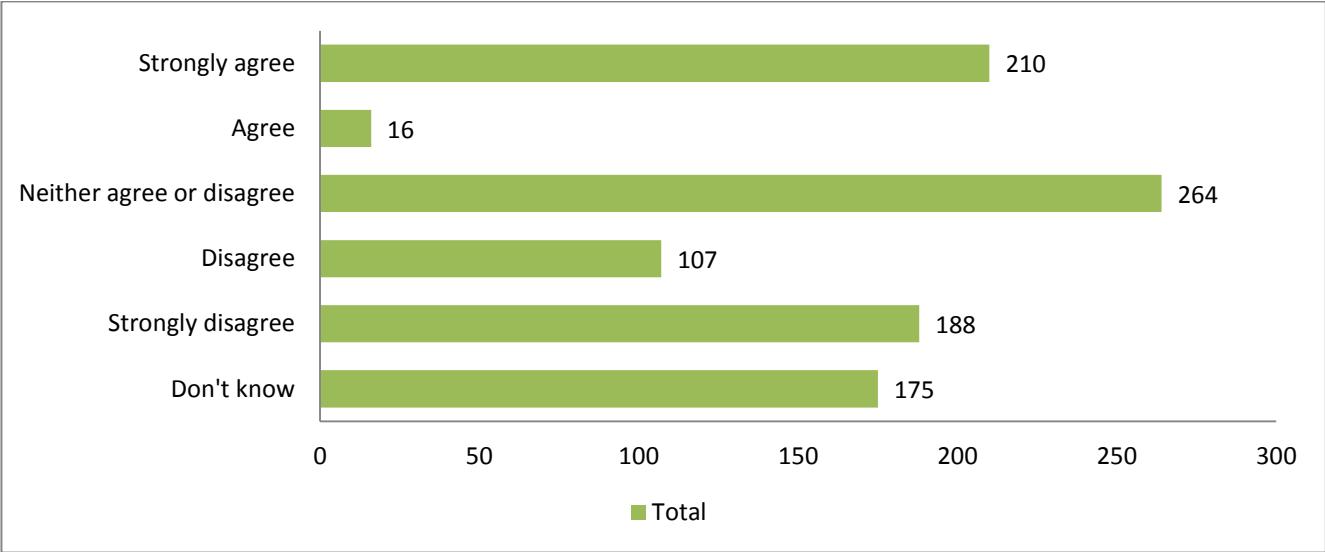
Overall 59% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 27% agreed or strongly agreed.



3.4.16 Other

264 (18%) neither agreed nor disagreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sex shop at another location not named above, 210 (15%) strongly agreed, 188 (13%) strongly disagreed, 175 (12%) did not know, 107 (7%) disagreed, and 16 (1%) agreed. 470 (33%) did not answer.

72 other options and comments were given by respondents alongside this question. A summary of the responses has been included in **Appendix A** to this report.



4 Survey responses to the questions – Sexual Entertainment Venues

4.1 How many sexual entertainment venues would be acceptable for the following localities?

Respondents were asked how many sexual entertainment venues they thought it would be appropriate to have in the following types of area:

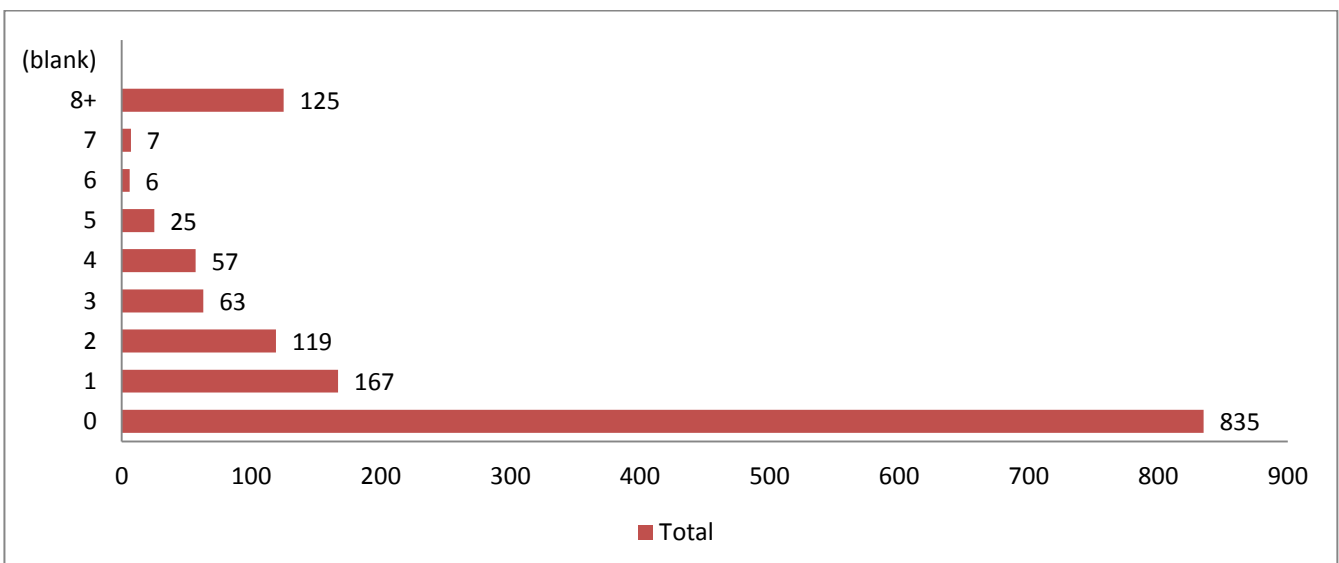
- A residential area
- A deprived area
- A suburban area
- An industrial area
- A busy late night economy area
- A built up area eg shopping precincts/local high streets
- A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it
- A rural area

They were given were given the option of numbers from zero to eight plus.

4.1.1 A residential area

835 (58%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 167 (12%) said one would be appropriate, 125 (9%) said eight or more, 119 (8%) said two, 63 (4%) said three, 57 (4%) said four, 25 (2%) said five, 7 (less than 1%) said seven, 6 (less than 1%) said six. 26 (2%) did not respond.

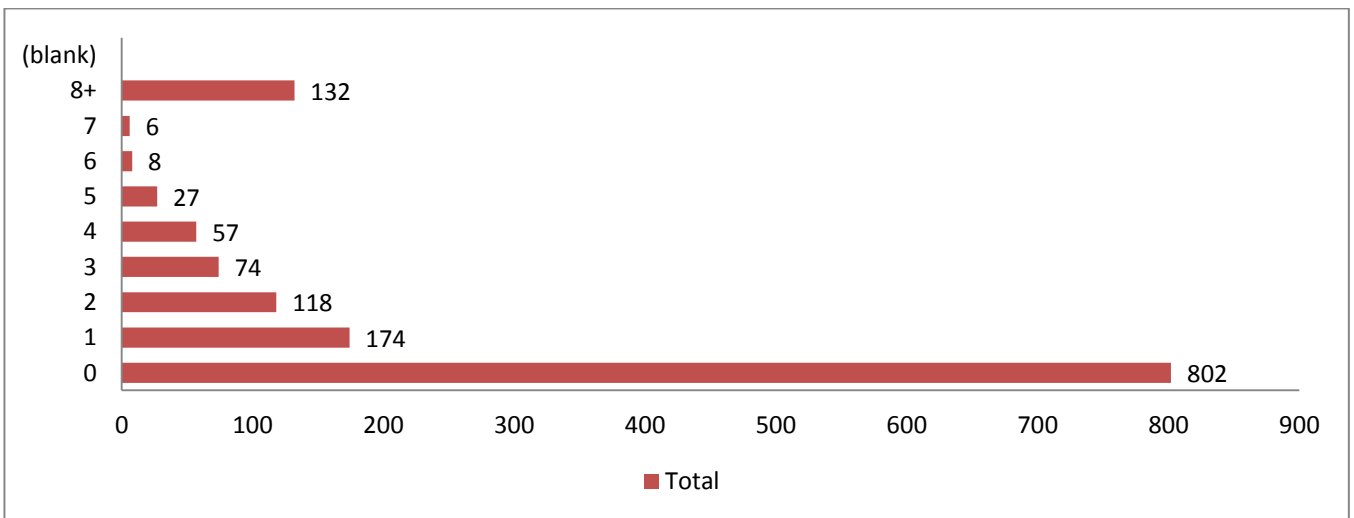
The majority of people (58%) said zero was the appropriate number in a residential area. The remainder (40%) felt that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue in a residential area.



4.1.2 A deprived area

802 (56%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 174 (12%) said one would be appropriate, 132 (9%) said eight or more, 118 (8%) said two, 74 (5%) said three, 57 (4%) said four, 27 (2%) said five, 8 (1%) said six, and 6 (less than 1%) said seven. 32 (2%) did not respond.

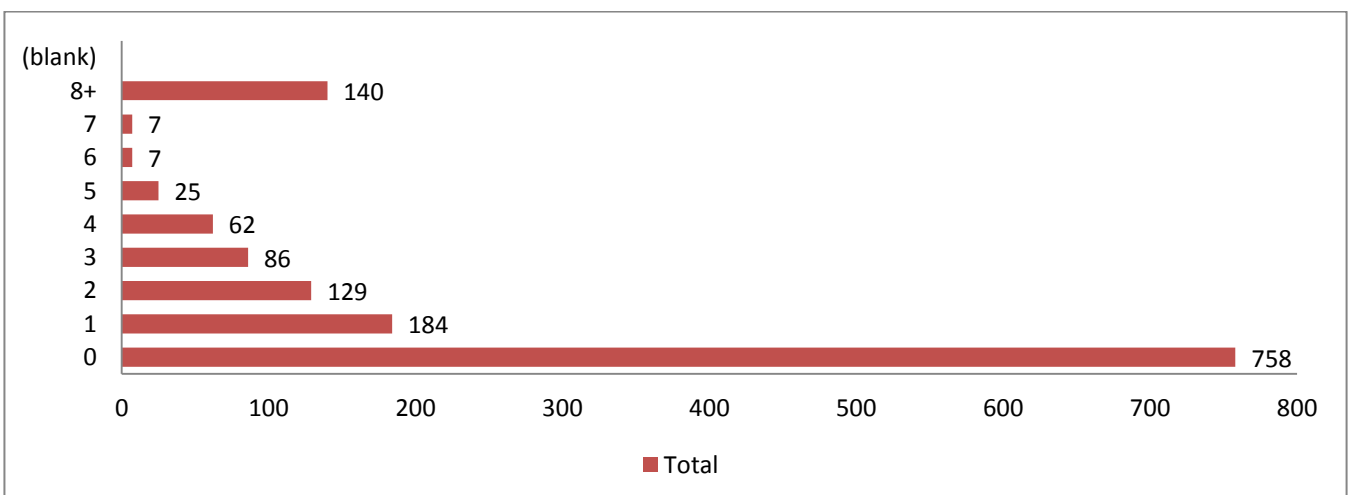
The majority of people (56%) said zero was the appropriate number. The remainder (42%) felt that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue.



4.1.3 A suburban area

758 (53%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 184 (13%) said one would be appropriate, 140 (10%) said eight or more, 129 (9%) said two, 86 (6%) said three, 62 (4%) said four, 25 (2%) said five, 7 (less than 1%) said six and 7 (less than 1%) said seven. 32 (2%) did not respond.

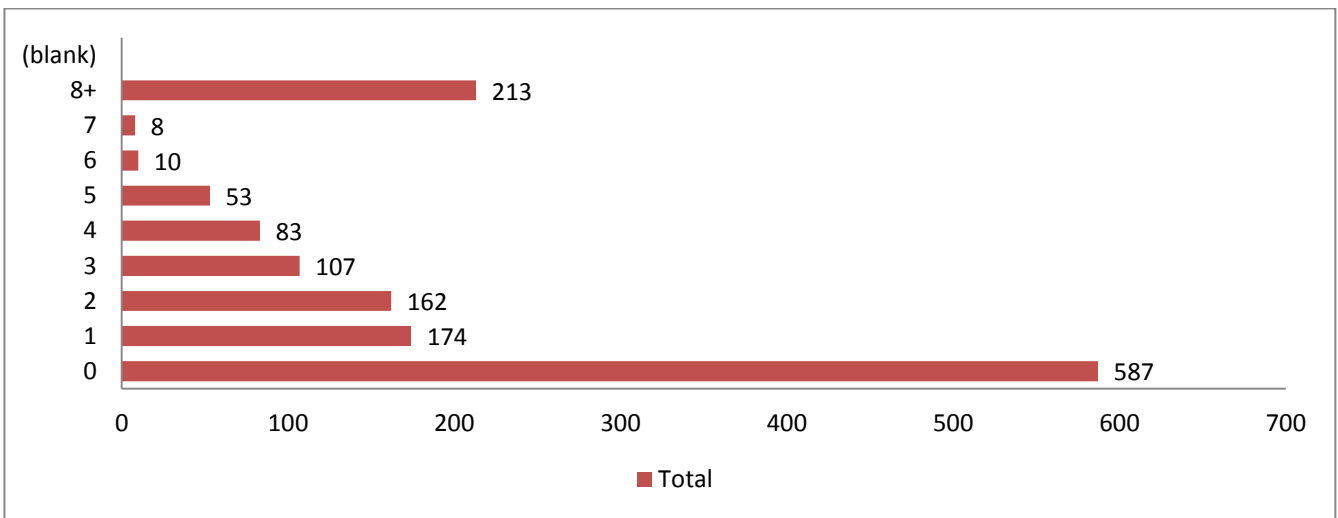
The majority of people (53%) said zero was the appropriate number. The remainder (45%) felt that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue.



4.1.4 An industrial area

587 (41%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 213 (15%) said eight or more would be appropriate, 174 (12%) said one, 162 (11%) said two, 107 (7%) said three, 83 (6%) said four, 53 (4%) said five, 10 (1%) said six and 8 (1%) said seven. 33 (2%) did not respond.

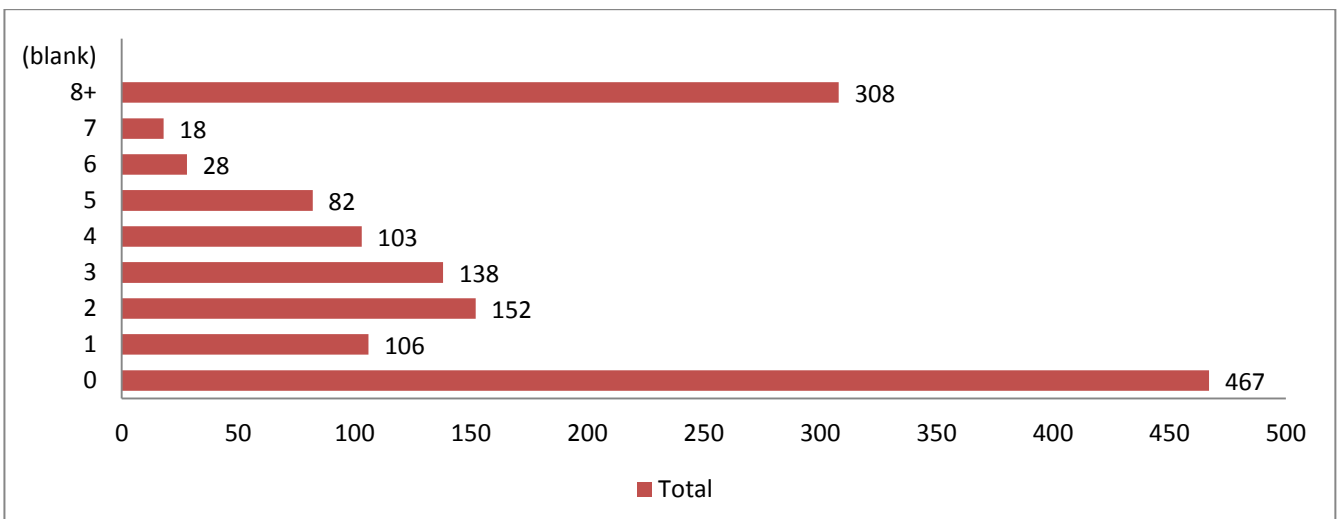
The majority of people (57%) said that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue. The remainder (41%) felt that zero was the appropriate number.



4.1.5 A busy late night economy area

467 (33%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 308 (22%) said eight or more was appropriate, 152 (11%) said two, 138 (10%) said three, 106 (7%) said one, 103 (7%) said four, 82 (6%) said five, 28 (2%) said six, and 18 (1%) said seven. 28 (2%) did not respond.

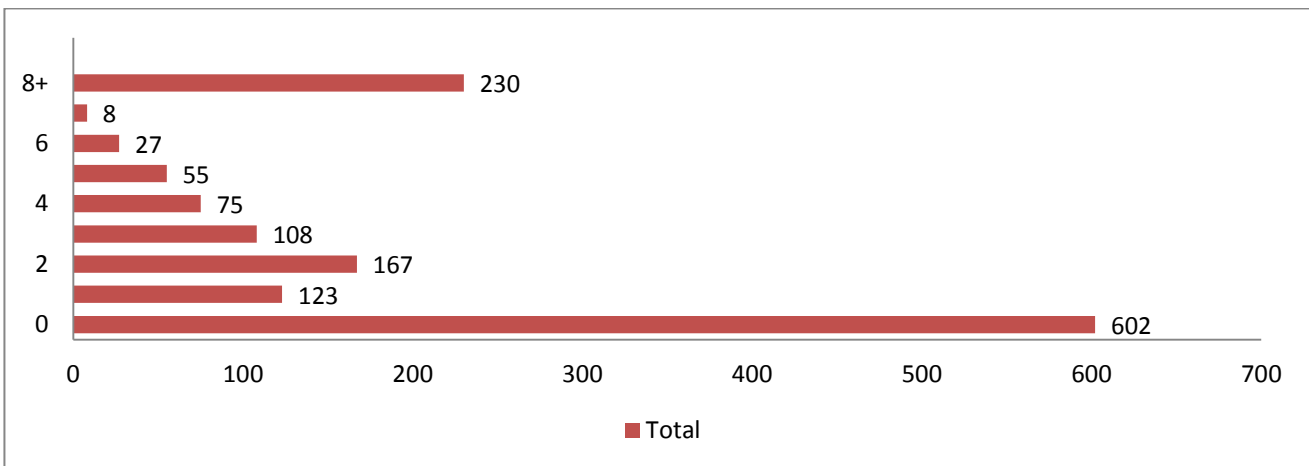
The majority of people (65%) said that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue. The remainder (33%) felt that zero was the appropriate number.



4.1.6 A built up area eg shopping precincts/local high streets

602 (42%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 230 (16%) said eight or more was appropriate, 167 (12%) said two, 123 (9%) said one, 108 (8%) said three, 75 (5%) said four, 55 (4%) said five, 27 (2%) said six and 8 (1%) said seven. 35 (2%) did not respond.

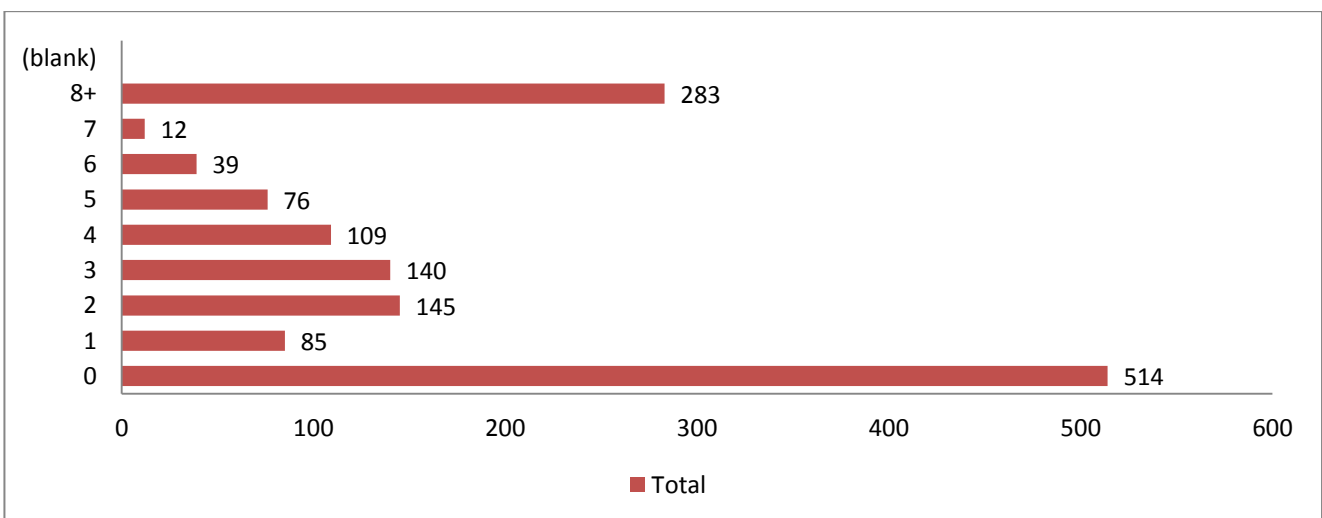
The majority of people (56%) said that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue. The remainder (42%) felt that zero was the appropriate number.



4.1.7 A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it

514 (36%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 283 (20%) said eight or more was appropriate, 145 (10%) said two, 140 (10%) said three, 109 (8%) said four, 85 (6%) said one, 76 (5%) said five, 39 (3%) said six, and 12 (1%) said seven. 27 (2%) did not respond.

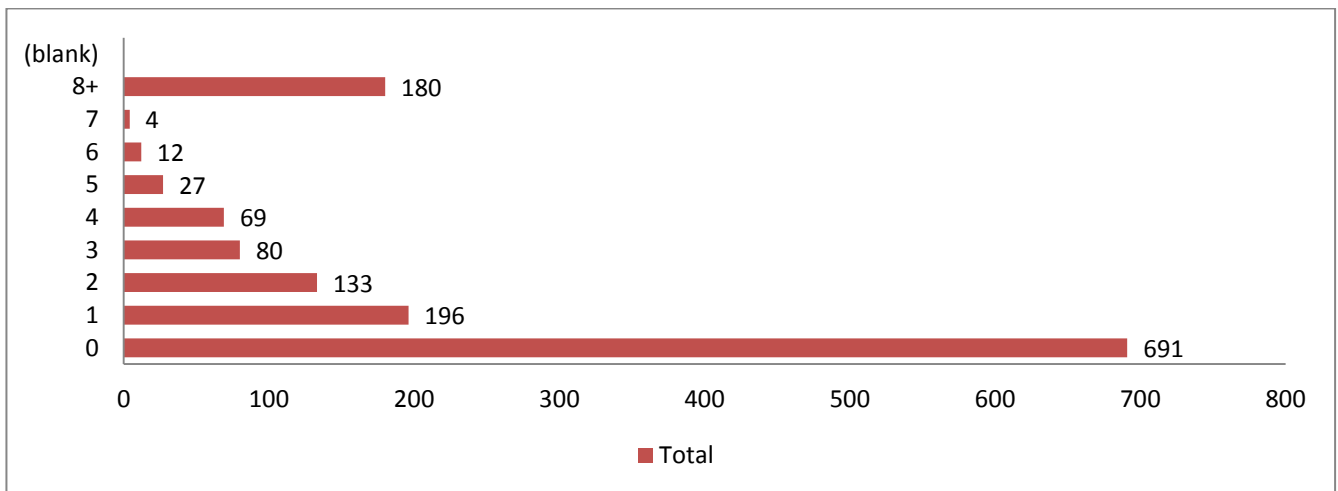
The majority of people (52%) said that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue. The remainder (36%) felt that zero was the appropriate number.



4.1.8 A rural area

691 (48%) respondents stated zero was the appropriate number, 196 (14%) said one was appropriate, 180 (13%) said eight or more, 133 (9%) said two, 80 (6%) said three, 69 (5%) said four, 27 (2%) said five, 12 (1%) said six and 4 (less than 1%) said seven. 38 (3%) did not respond.

The majority of people (49%) said that it would be appropriate to have at least one sexual entertainment venue. The remainder (48%) felt that zero was the appropriate number.



4.2 It would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue in?

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that it would **not** be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue in the following areas:

- A residential area
- A deprived area
- A suburban area
- An industrial area
- A busy late night economy area
- A built up area eg shopping precincts/local high streets
- A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it
- A rural area

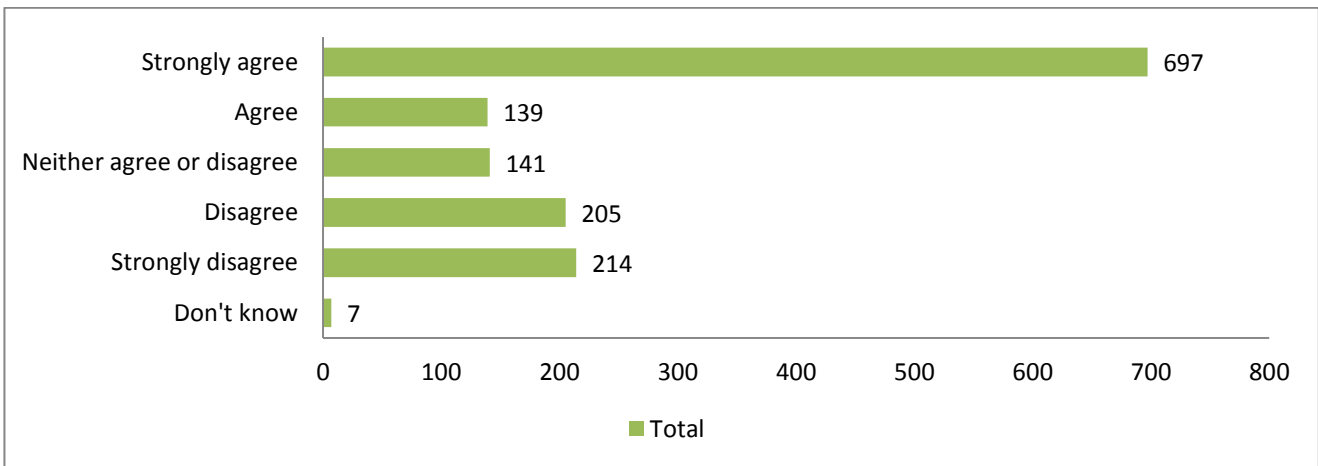
They were given were given the options below:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

4.2.1 A residential area

697 (49%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a residential area, 214 (15%) strongly disagreed, 205 (14%) disagreed, 141 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 139 (10%) agreed, and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 27 (2%) did not respond.

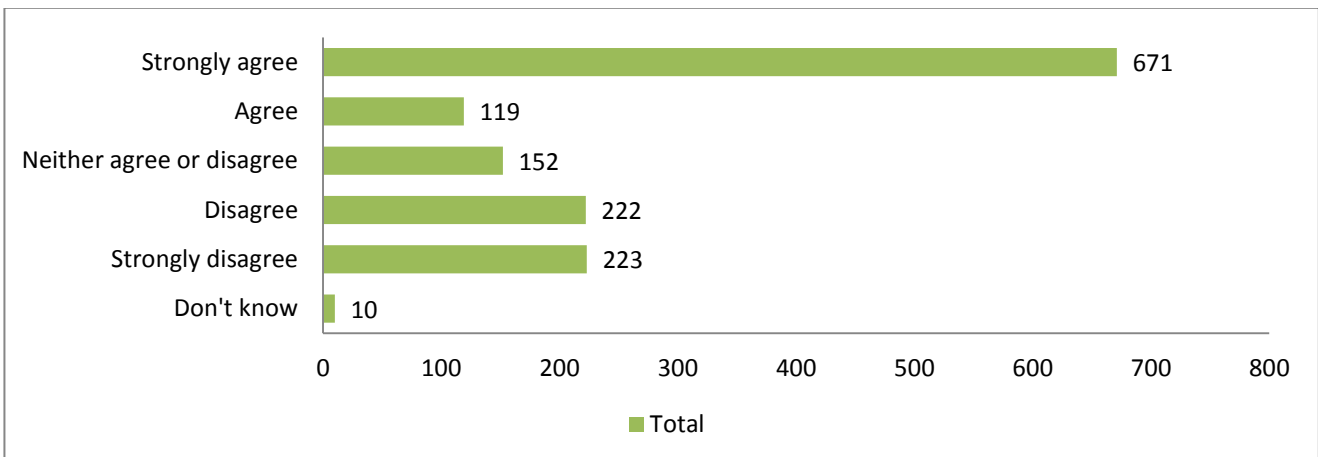
Overall 59% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 29% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.2.2 A deprived area

671 (47%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a deprived area, 223 (16%) strongly disagreed, 222 (16%) disagreed, 152 (11%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 119 (8%) agreed, and 10 (1%) did not know. 33 (2%) did not respond.

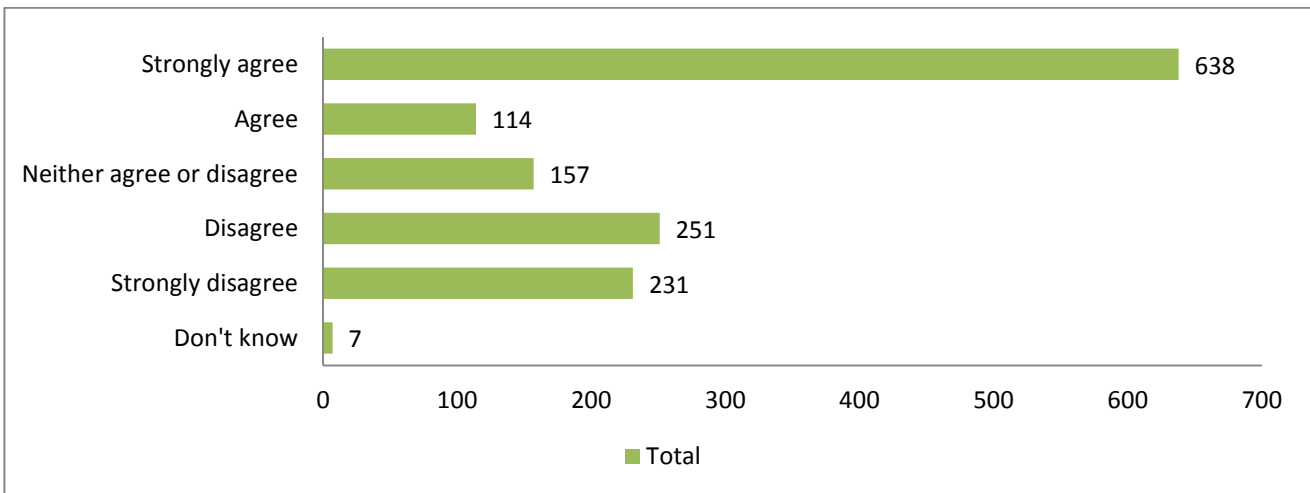
Overall 55% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 32% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.2.3 A suburban area

638 (45%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a suburban area, 251 (18%) disagreed, 231 (16%) strongly disagreed, 157 (11%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 114 (8%) agreed and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 32 (2%) did not respond.

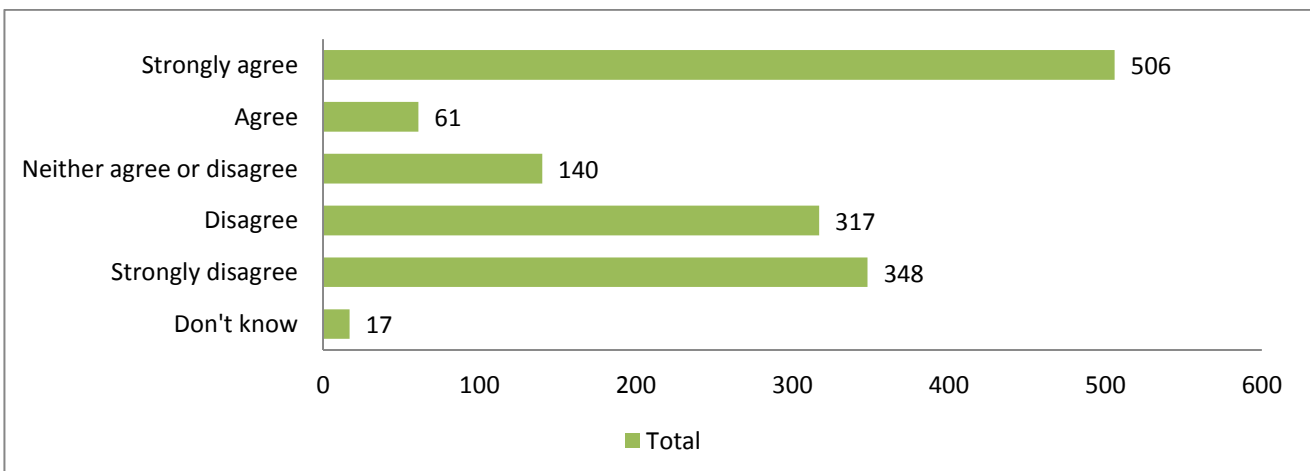
Overall 53% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 34% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.2.4 An industrial area

506 (35%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue in an industrial area, 348 (24%) strongly disagreed, 317 (22%) disagreed, 140 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 61 (4%) agreed, and 17 (1%) did not know. 41 (3%) did not respond.

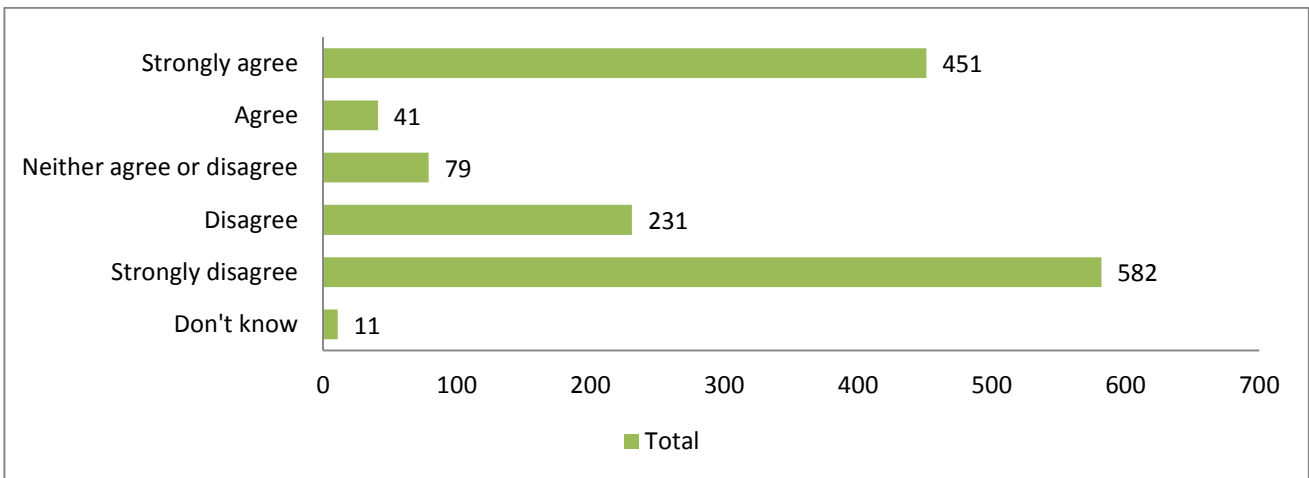
Overall 46% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 39% agreed, or strongly agreed.



4.2.5 A busy late night economy area

582 (41%) of respondents strongly disagreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a busy late night economy area, 451 (31%) strongly agreed, 231 (16%) disagreed, 79 (6%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 41 (3%) agreed, and 11 (1%) did not know. 35 (2%) did not respond.

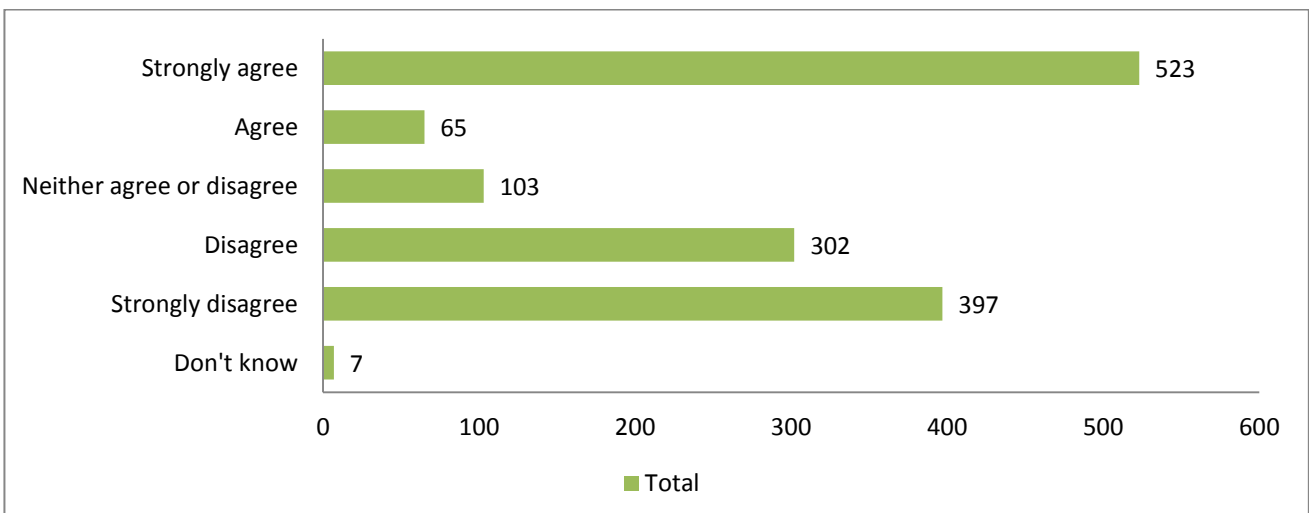
Overall 57% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 34% agreed or strongly agreed.



4.2.6 A built up area eg shopping precincts/local high streets

523 (37%) strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a built up area, 397 (28%) strongly disagreed, 302 (21%) disagreed, 103 (7%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 65 (5%) agreed, and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 33 (2%) did not respond.

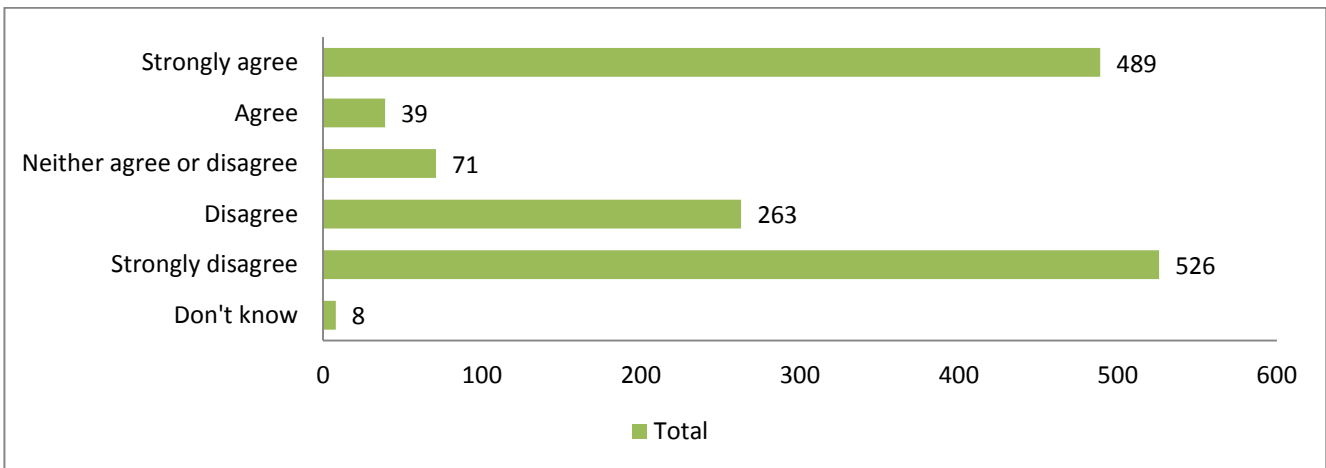
Overall 49% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 42% agreed or strongly agreed.



4.2.7 A city centre, or area immediately surrounding it

526 (39%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a city centre area or area immediately surrounding it, 489 (34%) strongly agreed, 263 (18%) disagreed, 71 (5%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 39 (3%) agreed, and 8 (1%) did not know. 34 (2%) did not respond.

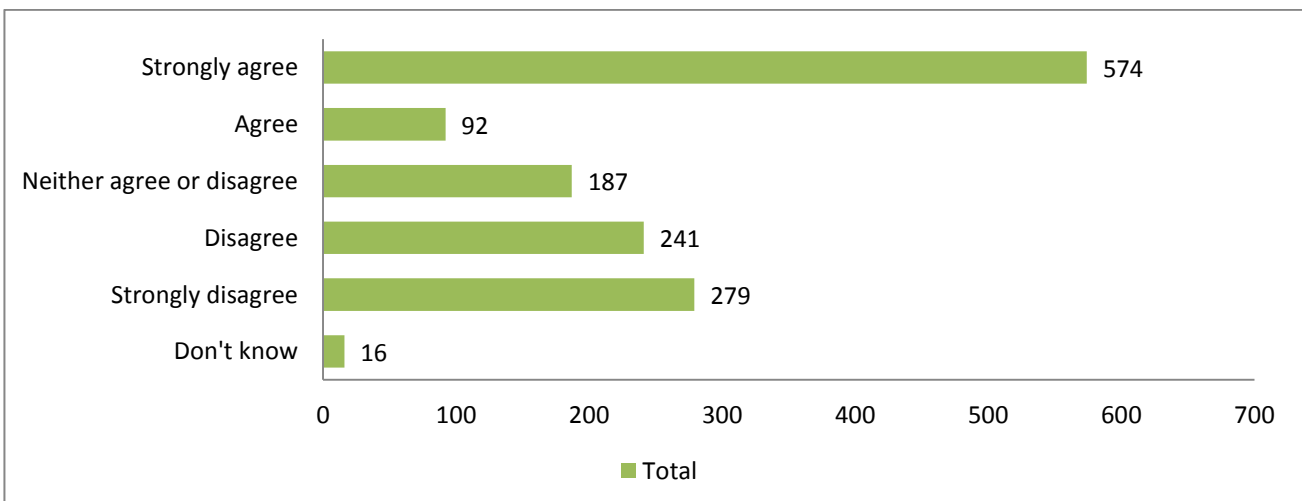
Overall 57% of people disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 37% agreed or strongly agreed.



4.2.8 A rural area

574 (40%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a rural area, 279 (20%) strongly disagreed, 241 (17%) disagreed, 187 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 92 (6%) agreed, and 16 (1%) did not know. 41 (3%) did not respond.

Overall 46% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 37% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3 It would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue on or near the following city centre areas?

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue on or near to the following city centre areas:

- Harbourside area
- Old City (the area between Broad Quay, St Augustines Parade, and Corn Street, including the area around the Cenotaph)
- Broadmead Area, including Quakers Friars and Cabot Circus areas
- Queen Square and Welsh Back
- Temple Quarter
- Old Market
- Park Street and the Triangle area
- The Stokes Croft and Gloucester Road area
- The area west of Lewins Mead including University, Hospital and Bus Station areas
- Area surrounding Feeder Road including the proposed arena area, Temple Meads area and the Dings and St Philips Marsh areas

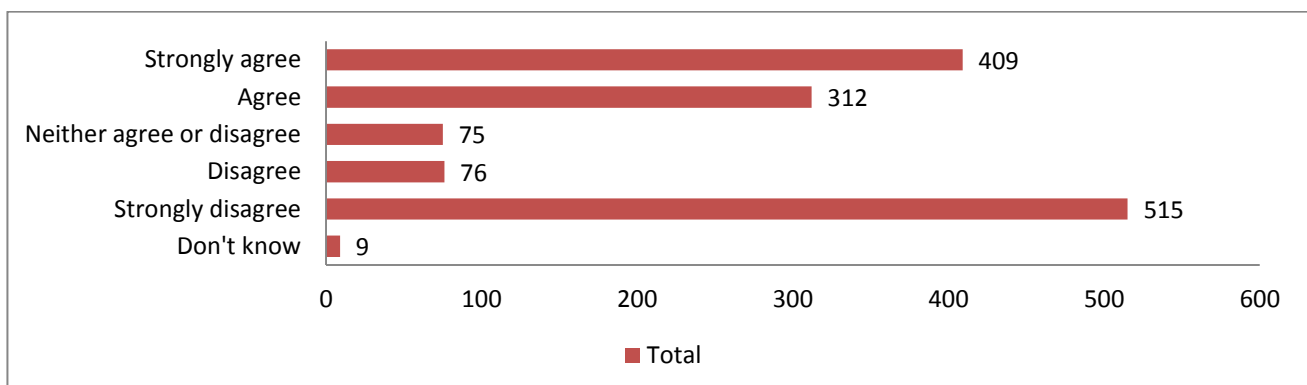
They were given were given the options below:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

4.3.1 Harbourside area

515 (36%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near the harbourside area, 409 (29%) strongly agreed, 312 (22%) agreed, 76 (5%) disagreed, 75 (5%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 9 (1%) did not know. 34 (2%) did not respond.

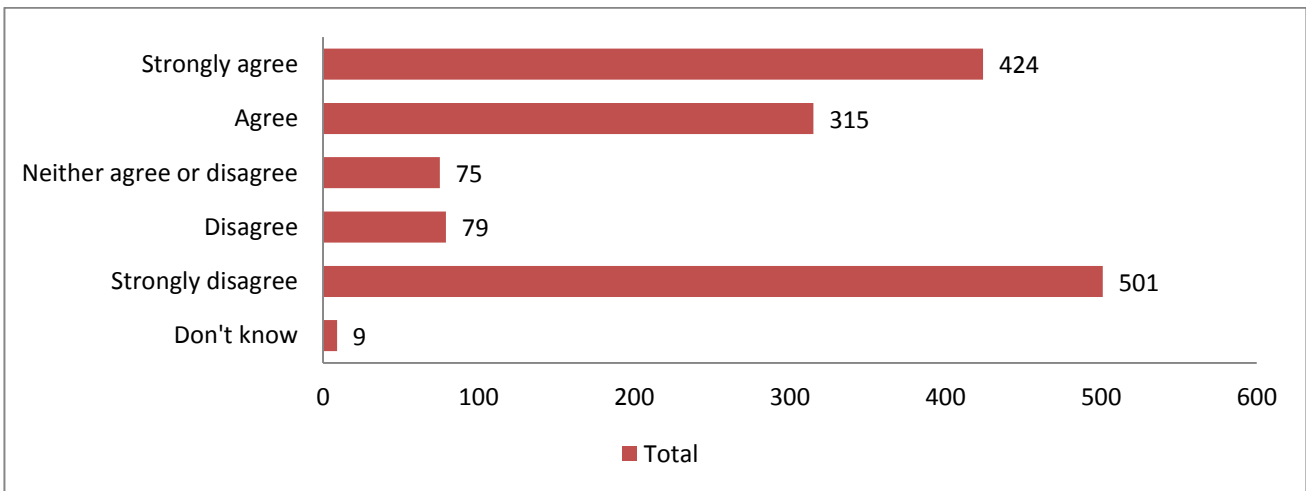
Overall 51% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 41% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.2 Old City (the area between Broad Quay, St Augustines Parade, and Corn Street, including the area around the Cenotaph)

501 (35%) strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near the Old City, 424 (30%) strongly agreed, 315 (22%) agreed, 79 (6%) disagreed, 75 (5%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 9 (1%) did not know. 27 (2%) did not respond.

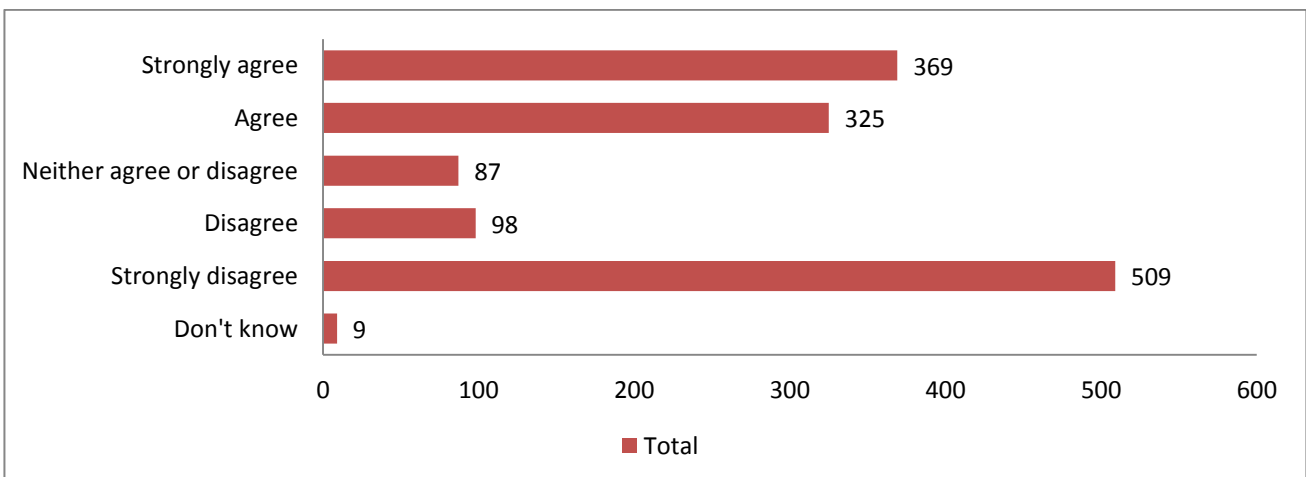
Overall 52% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 41% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.3 Broadmead Area, including Quakers Friars and Cabot Circus areas

509 (36%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near the Broadmead area, 369 (26%) strongly agreed, 325 (23%) agreed, 98 (7%) disagreed, 87 (6%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 9 (1%) did not know. 33 (2%) did not respond.

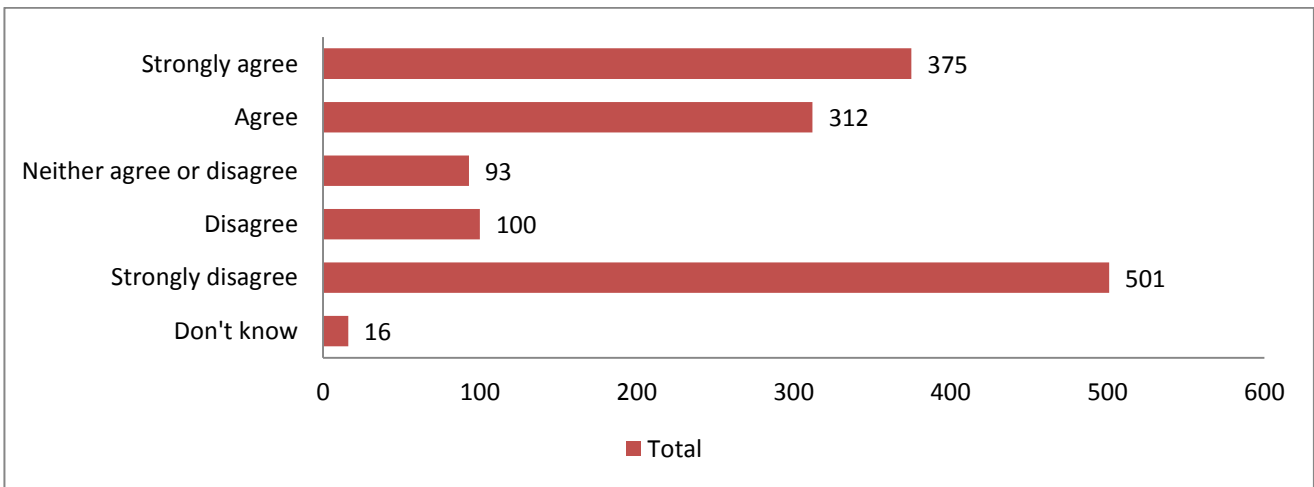
Overall 49% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 43% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.4 Queen Square and Welsh Back

501 (35%) strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near Queen Square and Welsh Back, 375 (26%) strongly agreed, 312 (22%) agreed, 100 (7%) disagreed, 93 (7%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 16 (1%) did not know. 33 (2%) did not respond.

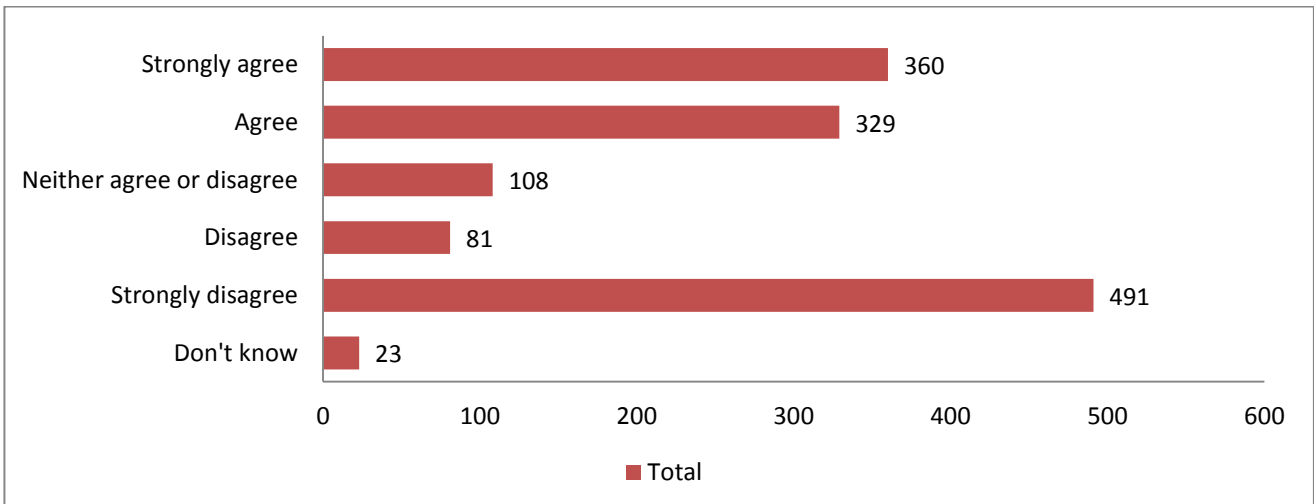
Overall 48% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 43% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.5 Temple Quarter

491 (34%) strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near Temple Quarter, 360 (25%) strongly agreed, 329 (23%) agreed, 108 (8%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 81 (6%) disagreed, and 23 (2%) did not know. 38 (3%) did not respond.

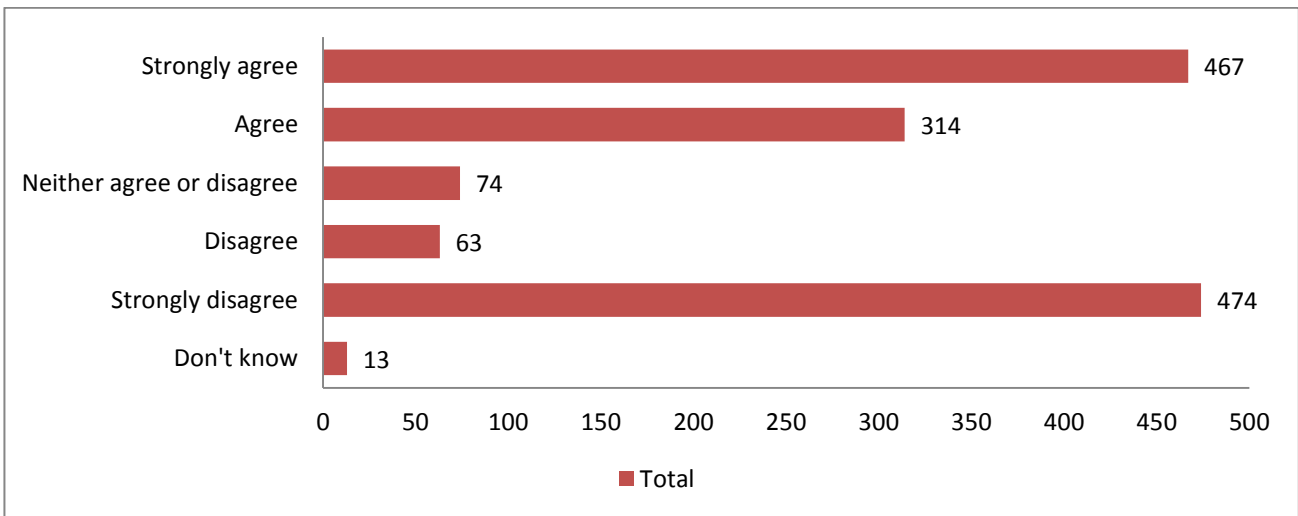
Overall 48% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.6 Old Market

474 (33%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near Old Market, 467 (33%) strongly agreed, 314 (22%) agreed, 74 (5%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 63 (4%) disagreed, and 13 (1%) did not know. 25 (2%) did not respond.

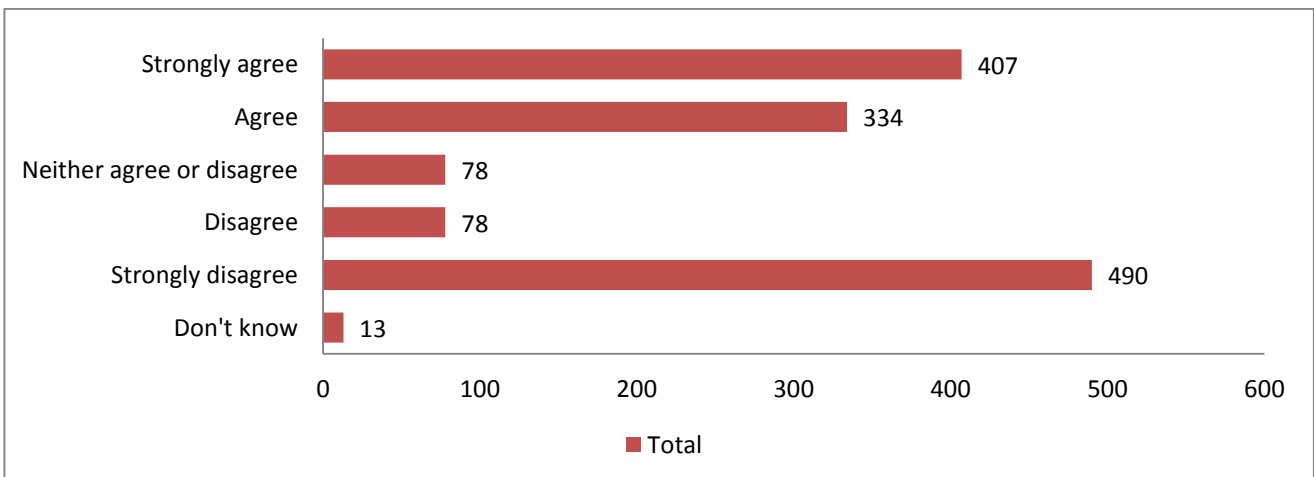
Overall 55% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 37% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.7 Park Street and the Triangle area

490 (34%) strongly disagreed that it would be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near Park Street and the Triangle area, 407 (28%) strongly agreed, 334 (23%) agreed, 78 (5%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 78 (5%) disagreed, and 13 (1%) did not know. 30 (2%) did not respond.

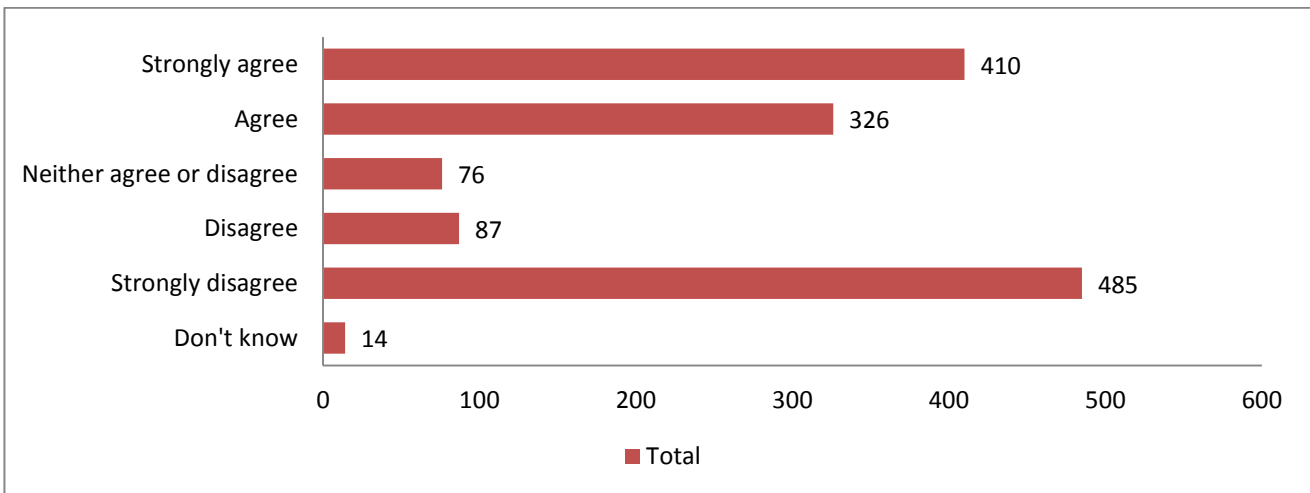
Overall 51% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 39% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.8 The Stokes Croft and Gloucester Road area

485 (34%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near the Stokes Croft and Gloucester Road area, 410 (29%) strongly agreed, 326 (23%) agreed, 87 (6%) disagreed, 76 (5%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 14 (1%) did not know. 32 (2%) did not respond.

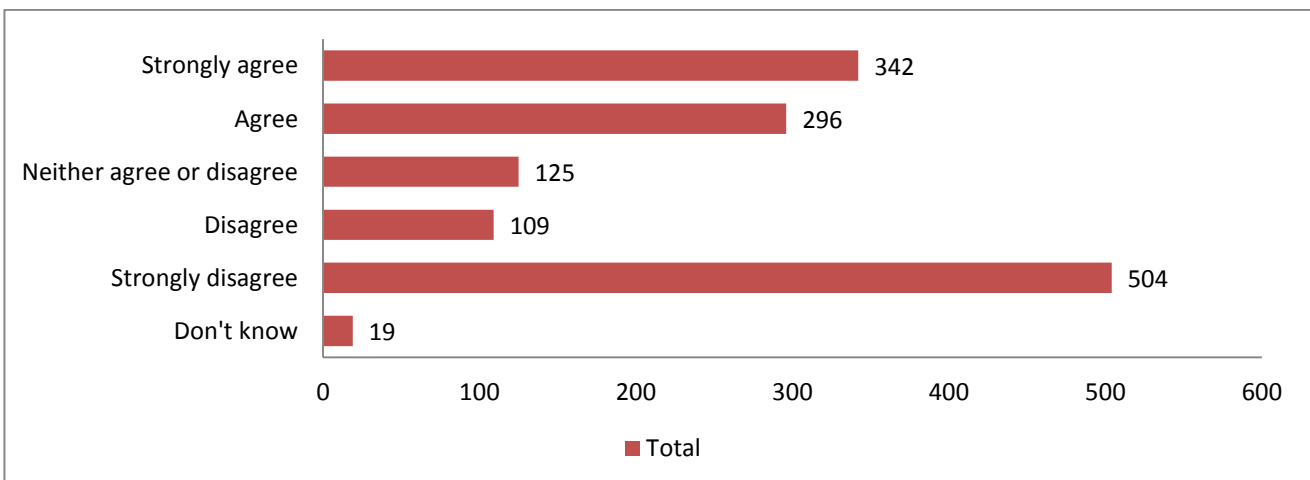
Overall 52% of people agreed or disagreed with the statement and 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.9 The area west of Lewins Mead including University, Hospital and Bus Station areas

504 (35%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near the area west of Lewins Mead, 342 (24%) strongly agreed, 296 (21%) agreed, 125 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 109 (8%) disagreed, and 19 (1%) did not know. 35 (2%) did not respond.

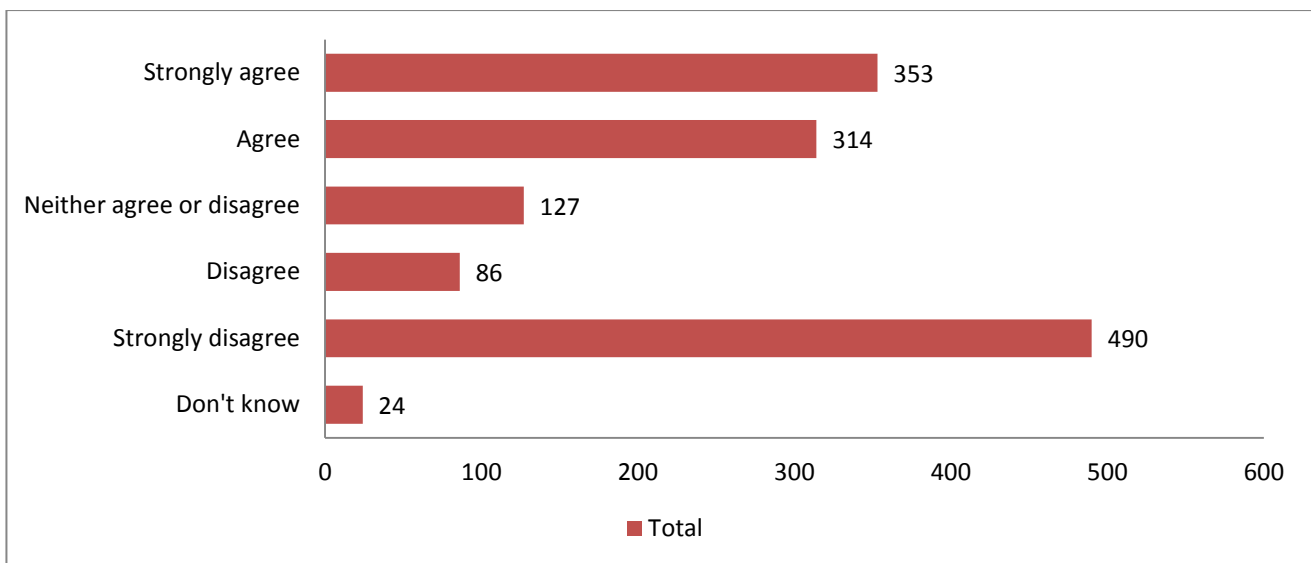
Overall 45% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 43% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.3.10 Area surrounding Feeder Road including the proposed arena area, Temple Meads area and the Dings and St Philips Marsh areas

490 (34%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near the Feeder Road, Dings and St Philips Marsh areas, 353 (25%) strongly agreed, 314 (22%) agreed, 127 (9%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 86 (6%) disagreed, and 24 (2%) did not know. 36 (3%) did not respond.

Overall 47% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4 It would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to?

Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue on or near to the following types of premises or locations:

- Schools and other places of education
- Residential areas
- Play areas or parks
- Youth Facilities
- Women's refuge facilities
- Family leisure facilities such as cinemas, theatres and concert halls
- Places of worship
- Places used for celebration or commemoration
- Cultural leisure facilities such as libraries, museums
- Retail shopping areas
- Historic buildings

- Sports centres/facilities
- Transport Hub (bus or train stations etc)
- Financial institutions such as banks
- Late night entertainment areas
- Other

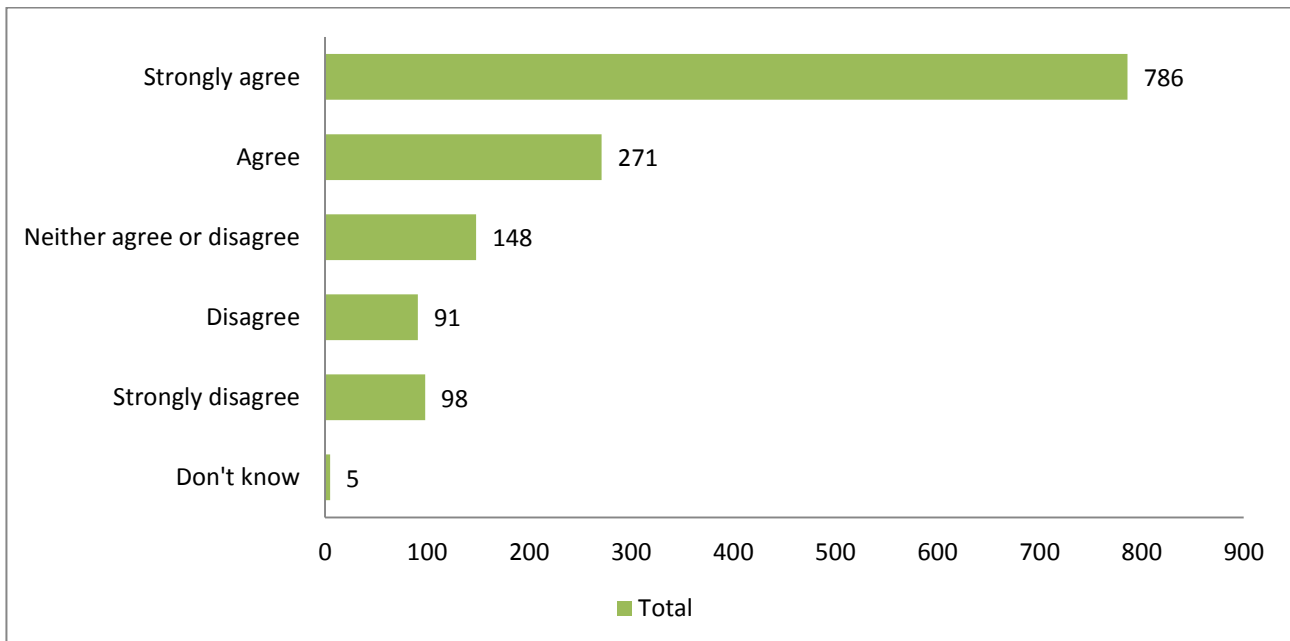
They were given were given the options below:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

4.4.1 Schools and other places of education

786 (55%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to schools or other places of education, 271 (19%) agreed, 148 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 98 (7%) strongly disagreed, 91 (6%) disagreed, and 5 (less than 1%) did not know. 31 (2%) did not respond.

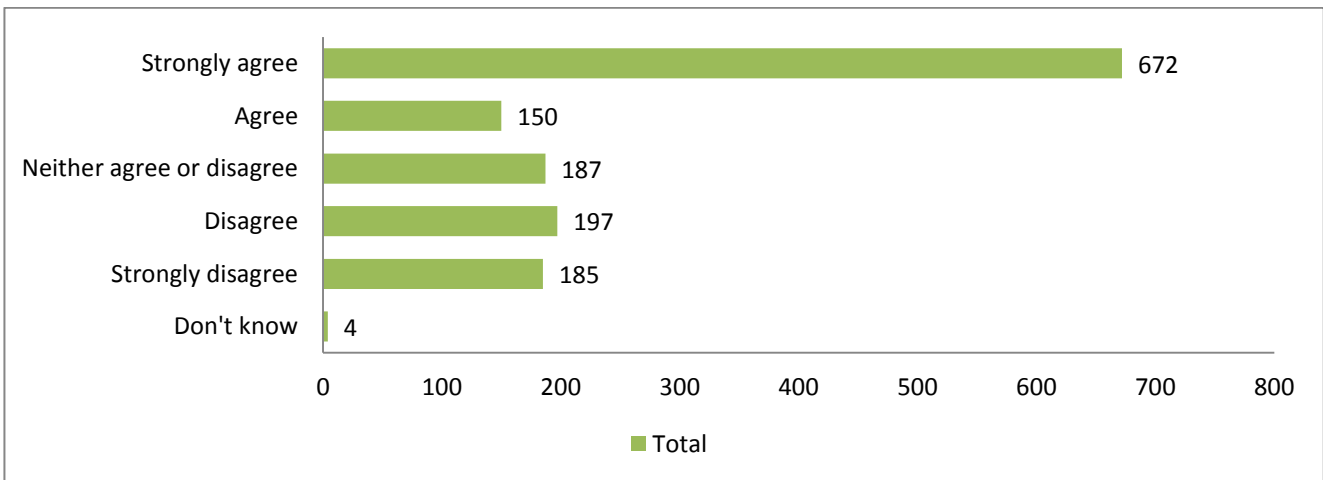
Overall 74% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 13% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.2 Residential areas

672 (47%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near a residential area, 197 (14%) disagreed, 187 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 185 (13%) strongly disagreed, 150 (10%) agreed, and 4 (less than 1%) did not know. 35 (2%) did not respond.

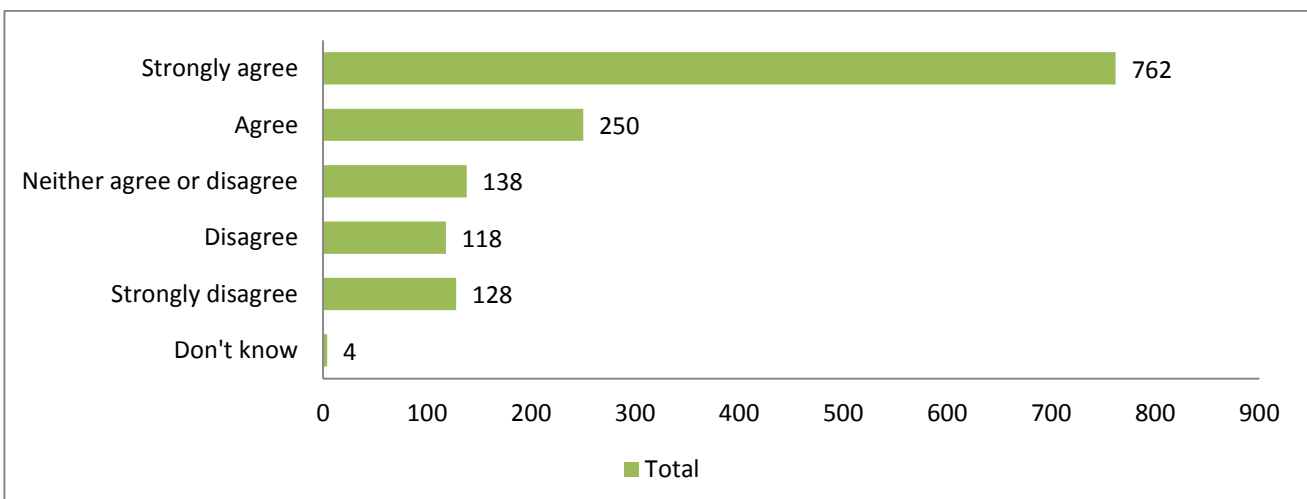
Overall 57% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 27% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.3 Play areas or parks

762 (53%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to play areas or parks, 250 (17%) agreed, 138 (10%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 128 (9%) strongly disagreed, 118 (8%) disagreed, and 4 (less than 1%) did not know. 30 (2%) did not respond.

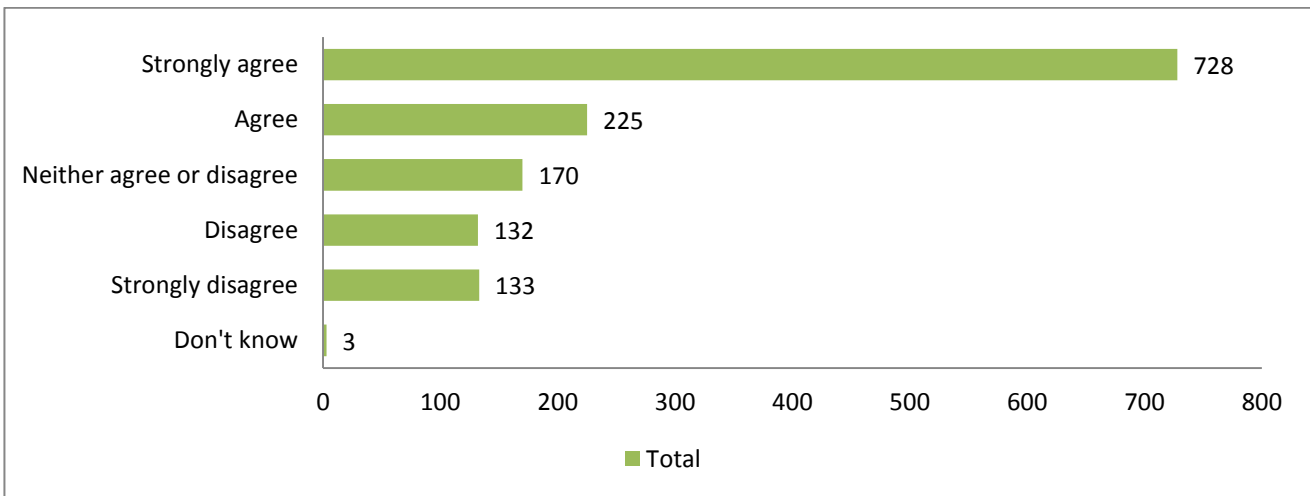
Overall 70% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 17% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.4 Youth Facilities

728 (51%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to youth facilities, 225 (16%) agreed, 170 (12%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 133 (9%) strongly disagreed, 132 (9%) disagreed, and 3 (less than 1%) did not know. 39 (3%) did not respond.

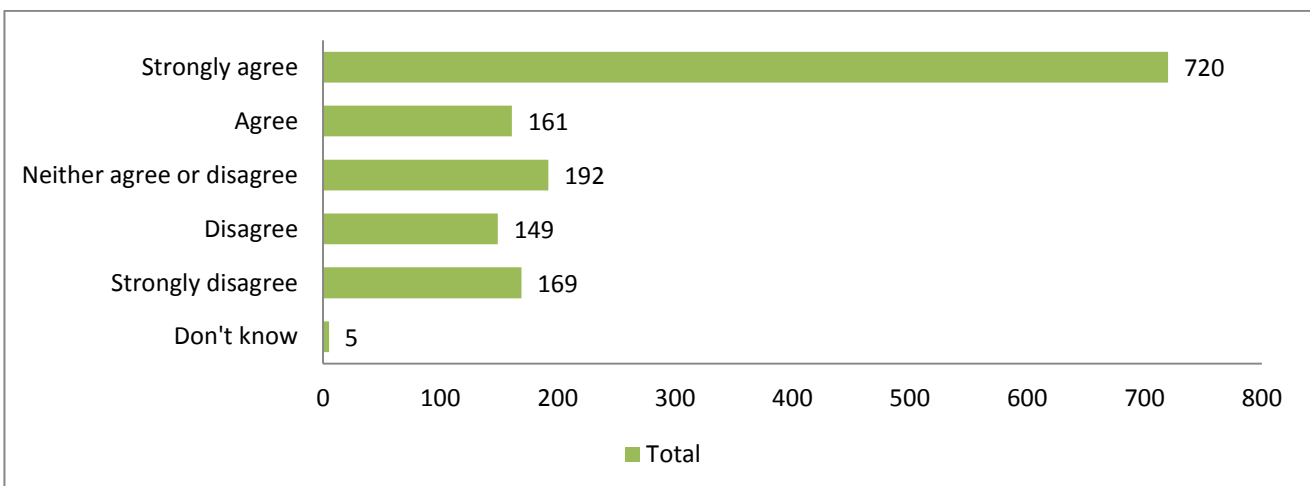
Overall 67% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 18% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.5 Women’s refuge facilities

720 (50%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to women’s refuge facilities, 192 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 169 (12%) strongly disagreed, 161 (11%) agreed, 149 (10%) disagreed, and 5 (less than 1%) did not know. 34 (2%) did not respond.

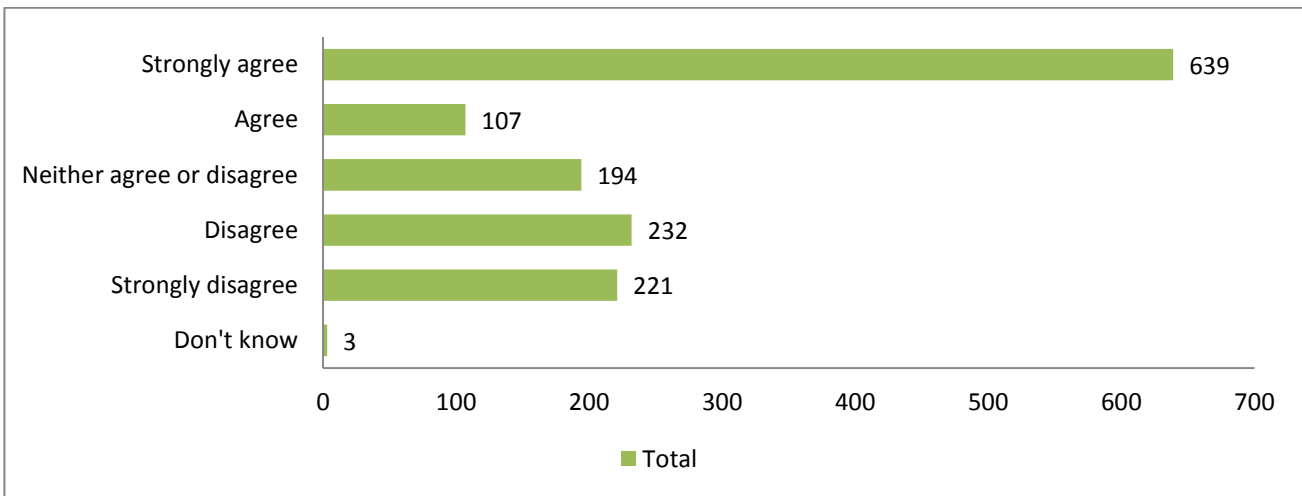
Overall 61% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 22% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.6 Family leisure facilities such as cinemas, theatres and concert halls

639 (45%) strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to family leisure facilities, 232 (16%) disagreed, 221 (15%) strongly disagreed, 194 (14% neither agreed nor disagreed, 107 (7%) agreed, and 3 (less than 1%) did not know. 34 (2%) did not respond.

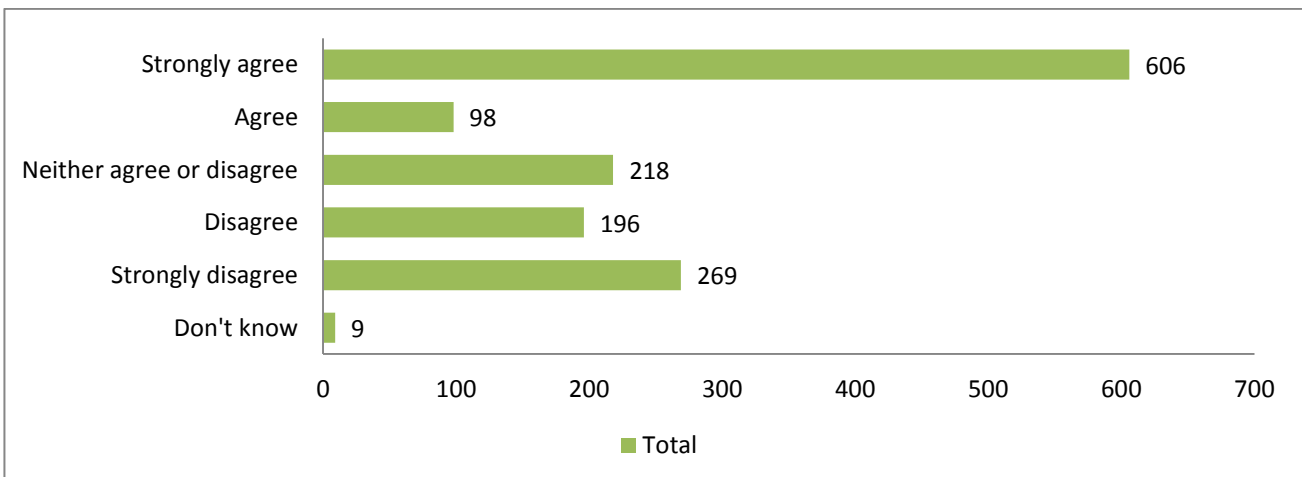
Overall 52% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 31% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.7 Places of worship

606 (42%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to places of worship, 269 (19%) strongly disagreed, 218 (15%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 196 (14%) disagreed, 98 (7%) agreed, and 9 (1%) did not know. 34 (2%) did not respond.

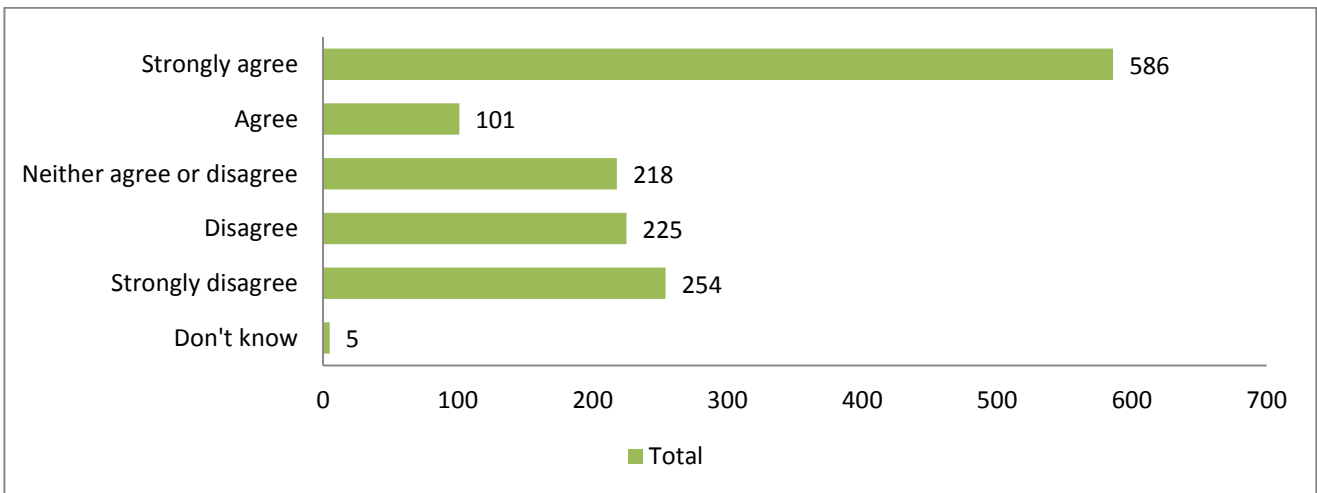
Overall 49% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 33% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.8 Places used for celebration or commemoration

586 (41%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near places used for celebration or commemoration, 254 (18%) strongly disagreed, 225 (16%) disagreed, 218 (15%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 101 (7%) agreed, and 5 (less than 1%) did not know. 41 (3%) did not respond.

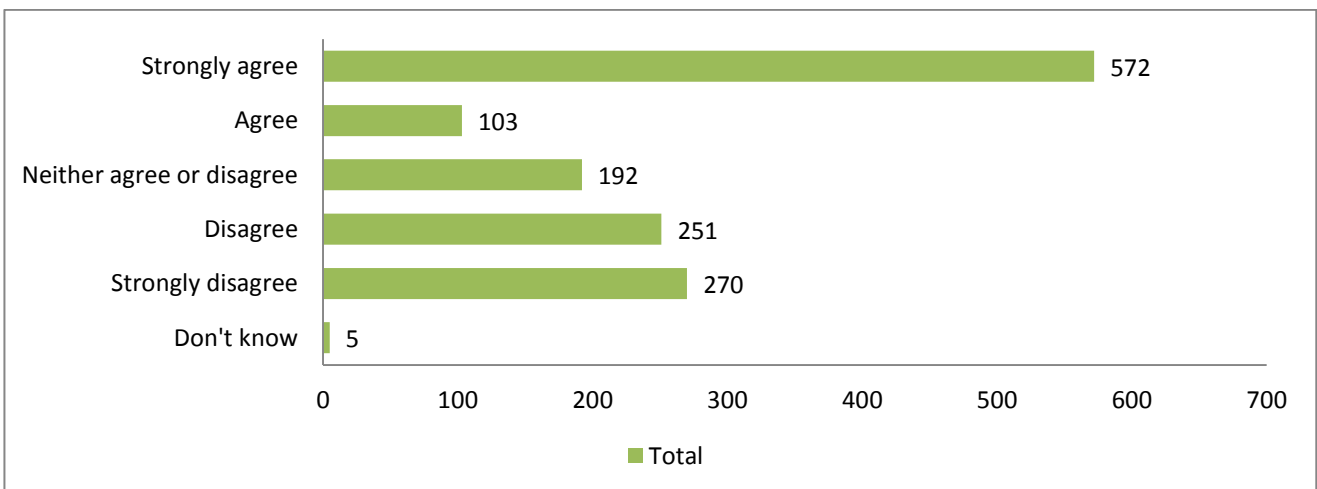
Overall 48% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 34% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.9 Cultural leisure facilities such as libraries, museums

570 (40%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near to cultural leisure facilities, 270 (19%) strongly disagreed, 251 (18%) disagreed, 192 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 103 (7%) agreed, 5 (less than 1%) did not know. 37 (3%) did not respond.

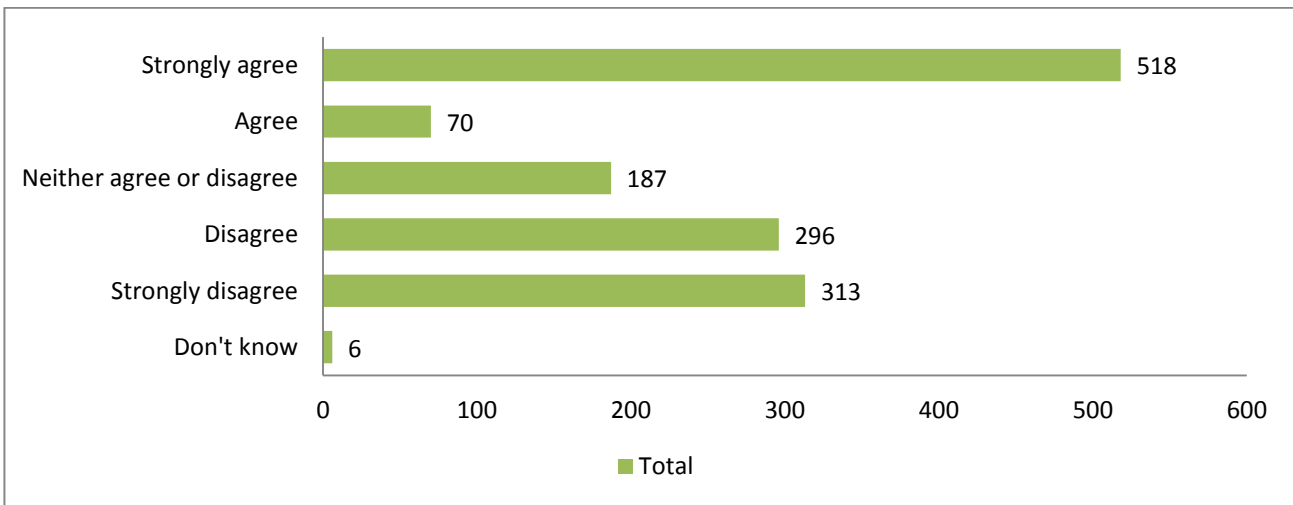
Overall 47% agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 37% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.10 Retail shopping areas

518 (36%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near retail shopping areas, 313 (22%) strongly disagreed, 296 (21%) disagreed, 187 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 70 (5%) agreed, and 6 (less than 1%) did not know. 40 (3%) did not respond.

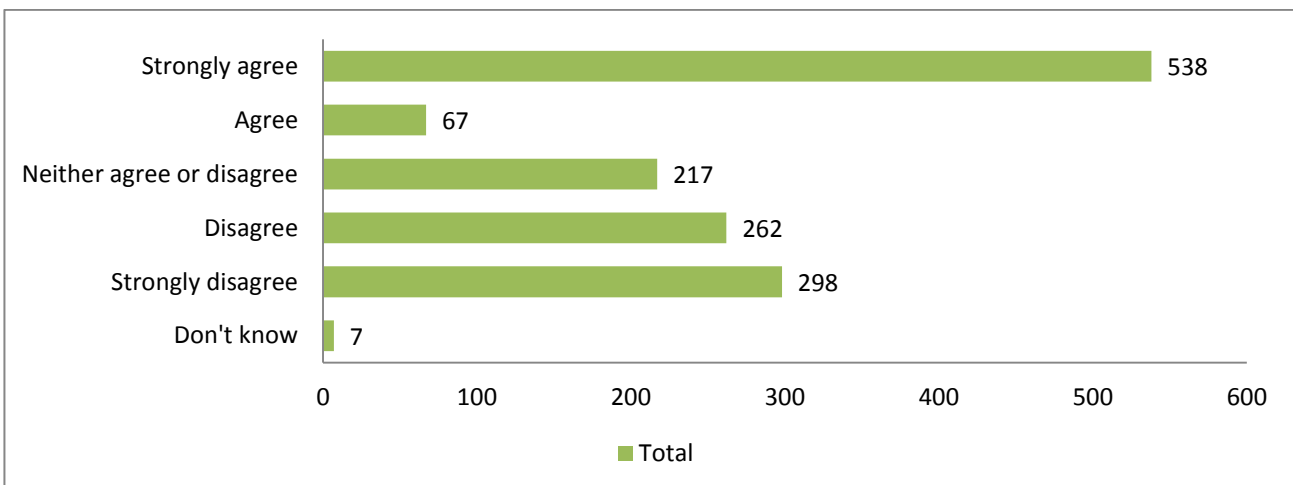
Overall 43% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 41% agreed or strongly agreed.



4.4.11 Historic buildings

538 (38%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be acceptable to locate a sexual entertainment venue near historic buildings, 298 (21%) strongly disagreed, 262 (18%) disagreed, 217 (15%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 67 (5%) agreed, and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 41 (3%) did not respond.

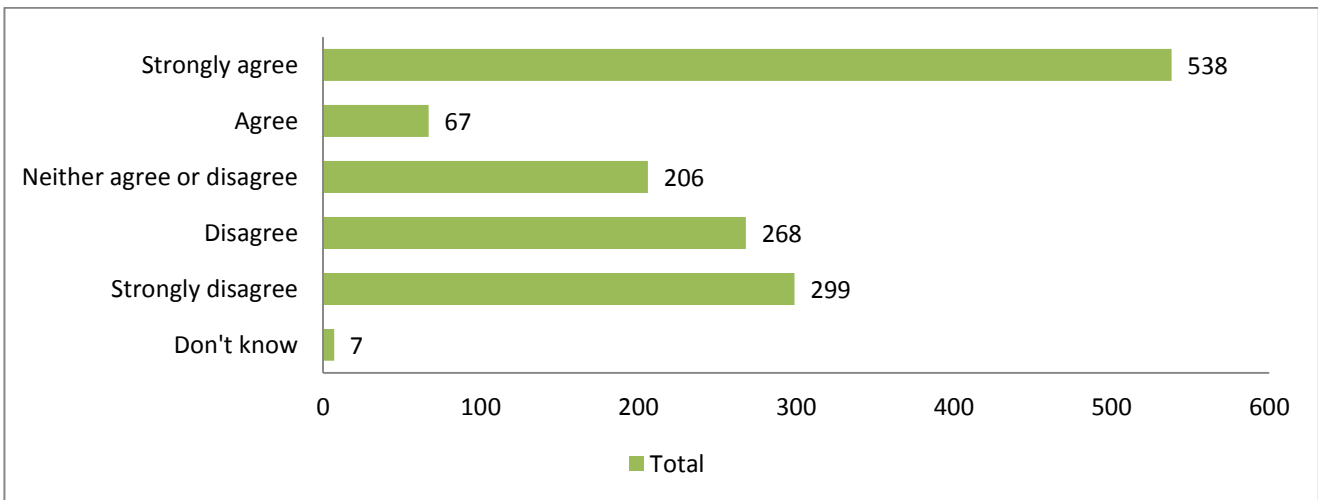
Overall 43% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 39% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.12 Sports centres/facilities

538 (37%) strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near sports centres/facilities, 299 (21%) strongly disagreed, 268 (19%) disagreed, 206 (14%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 67 (5%) agreed, and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 45 (3%) did not respond.

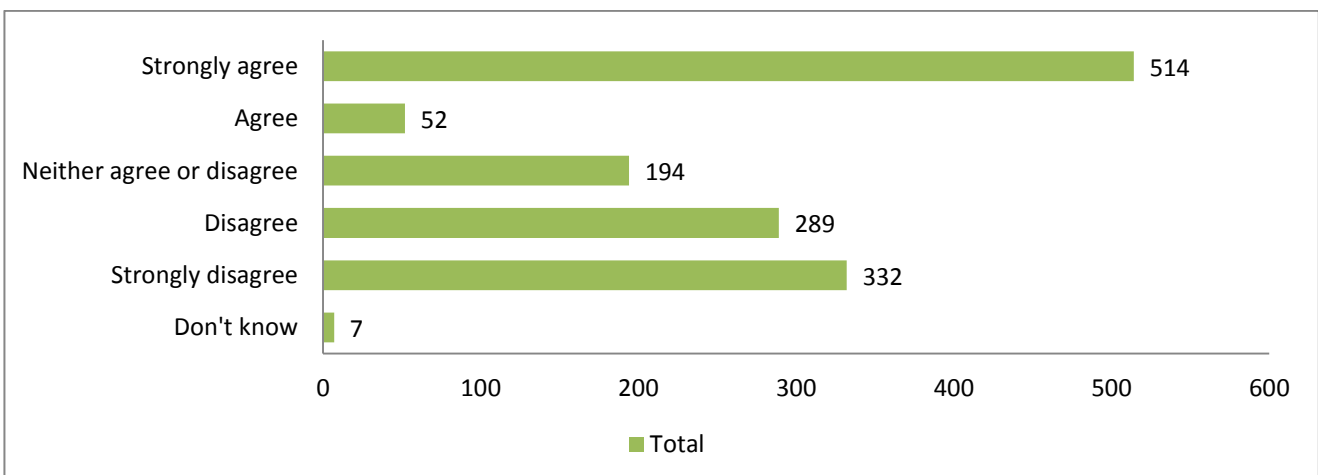
Overall 42% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement, and 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



4.4.13 Transport Hub (bus or train stations etc)

514 (36%) strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near transport hubs, 332 (23%) strongly disagreed, 289 (20%) disagreed, 194 (14%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 52 (4%) agreed, and 7 (less than 1%) did not know. 42 (3%) did not respond.

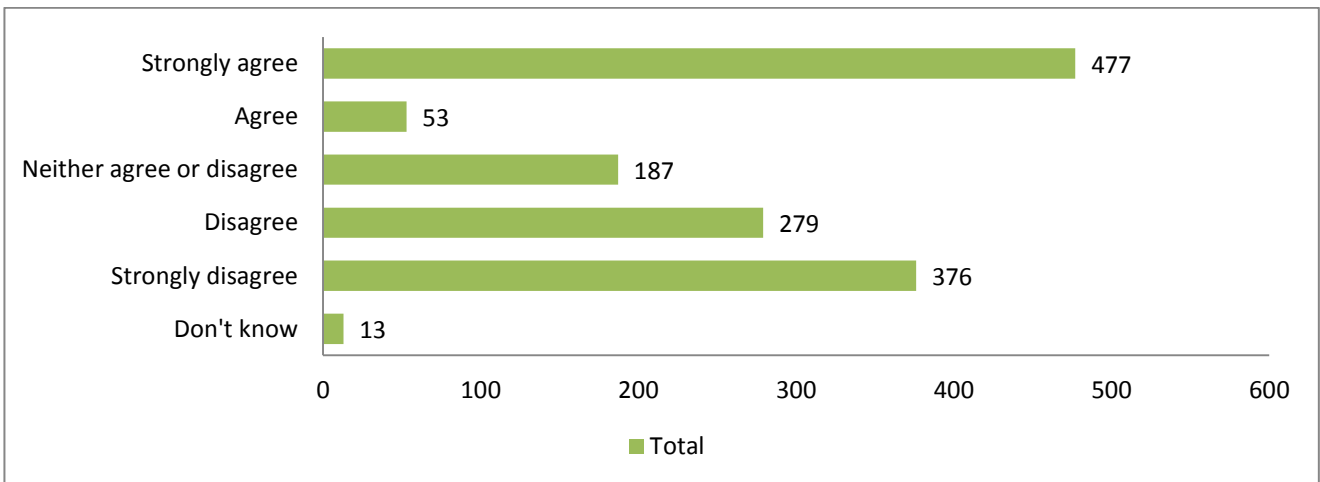
Overall 43% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, 40% agreed or strongly agreed.



4.4.14 Financial institutions such as banks

477 (33%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near financial institutions, 376 (26%) strongly disagreed, 279 (20%) disagreed, 187 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 53 (4%) agreed, and 13 (1%) did not know. 45 (3%) did not respond.

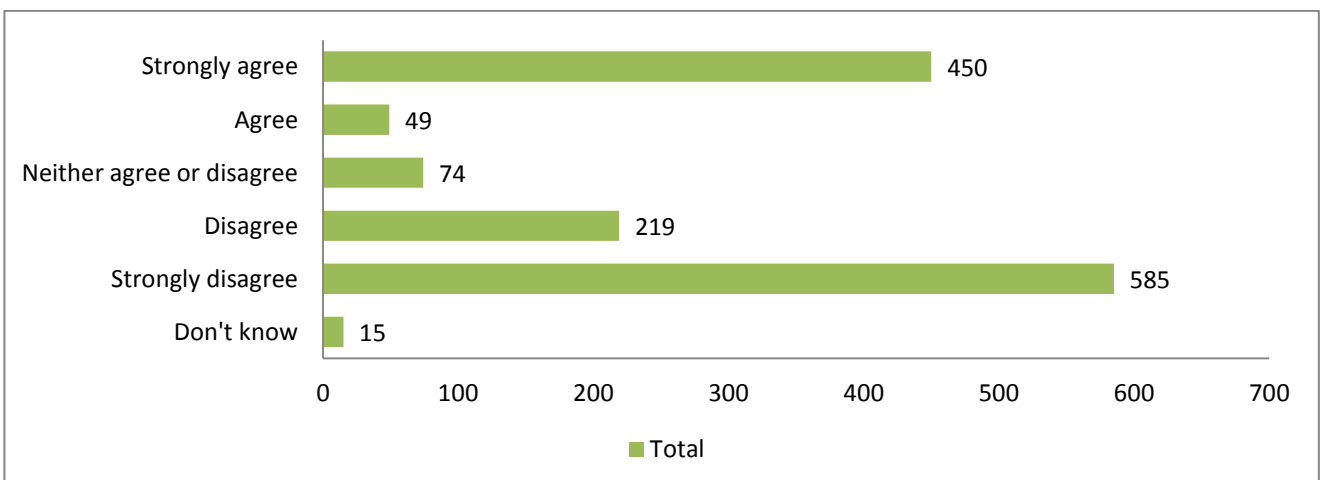
Overall 46% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement and 37% agreed or strongly agreed.



4.4.15 Late night entertainment areas

585 (41%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue near a late night entertainment area, 450 (31%) strongly agreed, 219 (15%) disagreed, 74 (5%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 49 (3%) agreed, and 15 (1%) did not know. 38 (3%) did not respond.

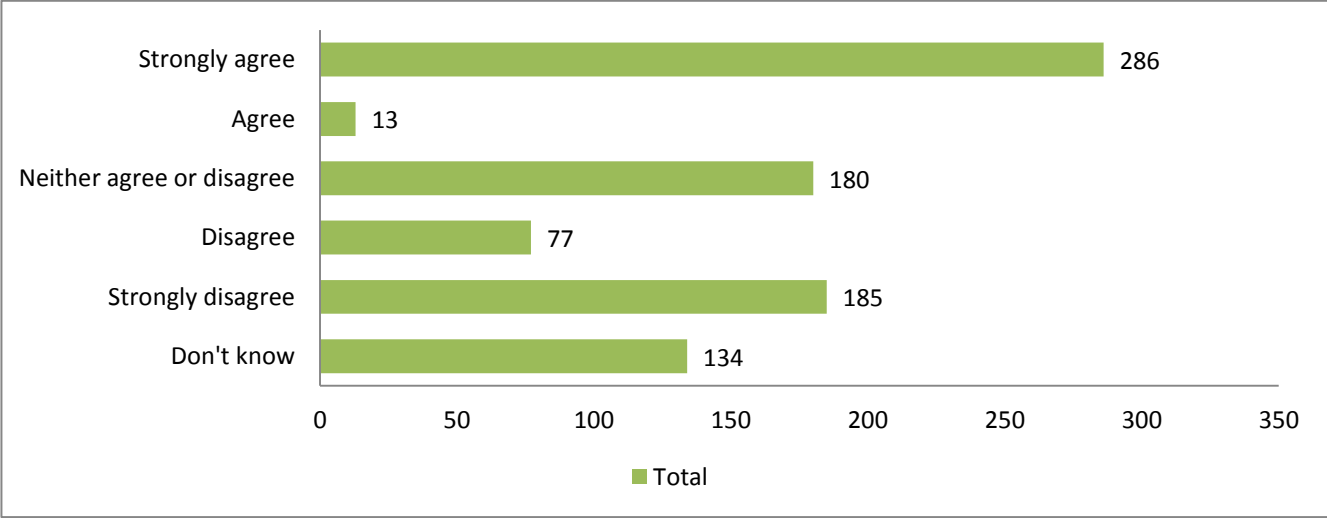
Overall 56% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement, and 34% agreed or strongly agreed.



4.4.16 Other

286 (20%) respondents strongly agreed that it would not be appropriate to locate a sexual entertainment venue in a place not listed above, 185 (13%) strongly disagreed, 180 (13%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 134 (9%) did not know, 77 (5%) disagreed, and 13 (1%) agreed. 555 (39%) did not respond.

79 other options and comments were given by respondents alongside this question. A summary of the responses has been included in **Appendix B** to this report.



5. Survey responses to the questions – Sex Cinemas

5.1 Bristol does not currently have any sex cinemas. It would be acceptable to have sex cinemas in Bristol?

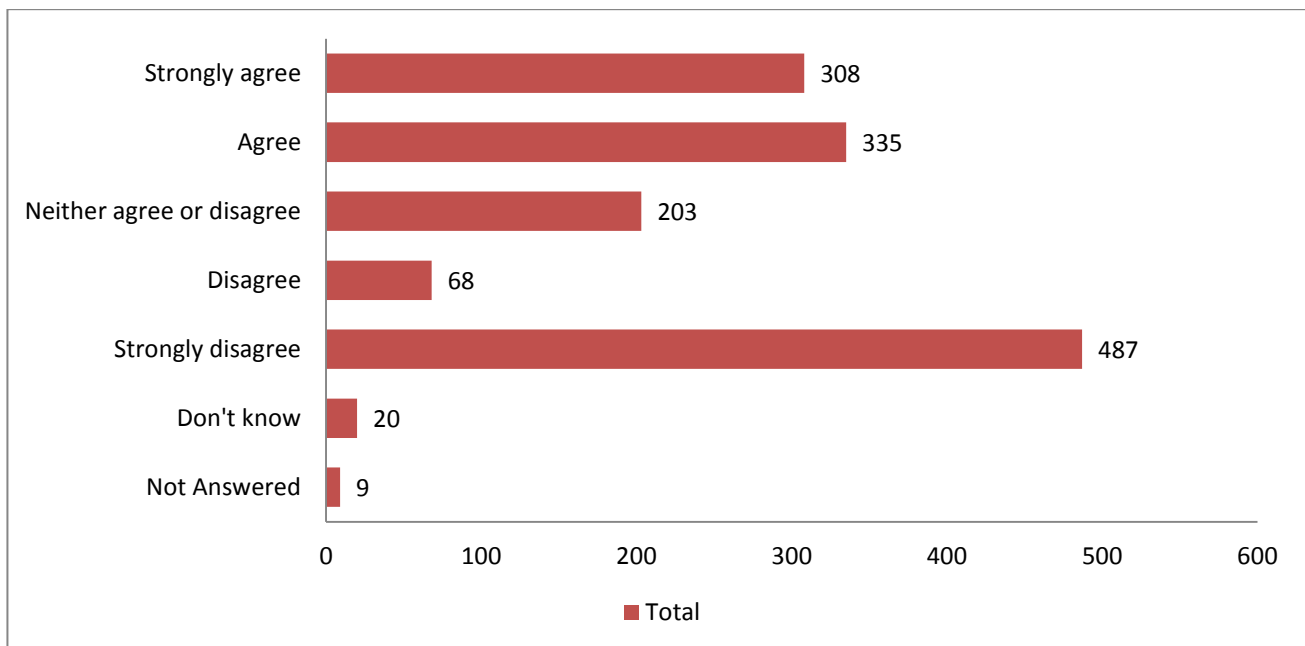
Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement that it would be acceptable to have sex cinema in Bristol

They were given were given the options below:

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't know

487 (34%) respondents strongly disagreed that it would be appropriate to have sex cinemas in Bristol, 335 (23%) agreed, 308 (22%) strongly agreed, 203 (14%) neither agreed nor disagreed, 68 (5%) disagreed, and 20 (1%) did not know. 9 (1%) did not respond.

Overall 45% of people agreed or strongly agreed with the statement and 39% disagreed or strongly disagreed.



6. How will this report be used?

This report will be used by the working group to assist them in producing a draft of the sex establishment policy. The draft policy will then be published for consultation to further inform the final policy.

The latest consultations can be found online at www.bristol.gov.uk/consultationhub, where you can also sign up to receive automated email notifications about consultations.

Appendix A

..I don't use sex shops and am not personally keen on them..so I don'tsee the use of them
almost completed this and found nowhere to put comments -why not? what about zero tolerance, bcc signed up didn't they? see BWV
Although I do not disagree with sex shops in principle I feel it is important to regulate these shops to ensure they are selling products for all genders and sexualities and that they do not focus solely on heterosexual pornography that exploits women.
Anwhere at all
Anywhere
Anywhere
Anywhere is fine, discretion is key. If venues such as these arent in Bristol, Bristol will just lose the revenue and income and cause further unemployment as these places will definitely open else where. Sex shops, sex workers, and the demand for anything sex related is human nature, we are born to mate as all mammals are. To try and condemn people or ban people for wanting to partake in any kind of sex related activity be it a strip club, a brothel or a sex shop it is an outrage. I find it hard to believe that not a single member of any bristol council members have any interest or joy in sex or sex related activities. It seems to just be women in the council against it, which screams jealousy rather than pity.
Anywhere there are alleyways and enclosed paths
anywhere, sex shops currently available encourage rape culture & are inherently sexist, including using objectifying images on their packaging and shop fronts
Areas of deprivation. Areas where poorer/uneducated/ vulnerable people could be influenced by presence of sex places& those who work in them or use them.
Areas of concentrated social housing with related socioeconomic issues
As a woman I do not feel sex shops have a place on the streets. IF they sell items that are not degrading or physically harming then someone can purchase the items online
Bars and off licences , supermarkets and shops where alcohol is sold .
Booking shops
Businesses should be located in areas where they will reach the most customers, no matter what they sell.

Council chamber
Everywhere.
Food shop
For me a catagorical difference between selling sex toys (very little to object to) and sellung pornography (typically misogynistic)
Hospitals, care facilities, rehab centres and homeless shelters
Hotels and Accommodation
I am starting to feel that perhaps they should be banned
I think they're acceptable everywhere.
If Ann Summers is ok, why not a local business?
in any area of the city
Industrail areas
Industrial Area
Industrial area away from all schools shops bars residential areas but only in the evening. Not during the working day.
Industrial Areas
'It all depends'.... The above questions are impossible to respond to without knowing more about the establishments, and the restrictions placed on them. At the moment, I know of no problems or issues caused by thesespremises. The first section, asking for nymbers, is poor. There should be more room here for comment.
It depends on the opening times and access crossing over to the area itself
It is never acceptable to promote the exploitation & objectification of women and girls
It should not be acceptable to Have sex shops anywhere!
It should not be acceptable to locate these anywhere. They feed into the narrative that this is ok when in fact all forms of the sex trade disadvantage women and girls.
It's fine anywhere.
Just needs to be in a sensible place and not advertised in a way that children would find out what the venue is

Lawrence weston, shirehampton, sea mill, avonmouth, henbury, southmead
Nature reserves, city farms.
Near high streets, or night club areas
NEVER appropriate ANYWHERE
next to council offices
No Sex shops anywhere. It allows an illegality to persist and the Council policy should not condone this in any way!
no sex trade in bristol
NOT Acceptable near other Community Centres, drop-in centres etc...
Off licences or any shop or bar where alcohol is sold.
People can feel vulnerable in late night / entertainment areas - the addition of a sex shop only adds to the percieved 'seediness' of an area and makes it worse
Places frequented by the public
Places of education should be split into ages, under 16 areas Agree, over 16 areas Disagree.
Properly run sex shops would be unobtrusive and acceptable anywhere.
Questions are not specific enough
Regardless of location, such shops should be discreet and have blacked out windows
Residential areas which border trading estates
Sex is a fact of life, people need to learn that it is not wrong to indulge in sex within a loving couple
Sex is natural; there are therefore no places it is inappropriate to have a sex shop.
Sex shops anywhere are unacceptable. They normalise abusé and prop up rape culture
Sex shops are horrible things to look at and walk past where ever they are located. It is ridiculous to say that because they would seem out of place in one part of the city where you would not want to see them that they would be better suited being somewhere else where other people who also loathe them will have to endure seeing and being around them. The window displays are often sexualised mannequins of women. This objectifies women and makes us feel uncomfortable. Every day I have to walk past the one on Colston Street on my way to and from work. As do the many women and school children who walk that way. The one on Bond Street right by the Megabus stop also makes for a really uncomfortable

experience, having to stand there waiting for your bus while men walk past and stop to leer in the windows and then at you. I don't want to have to deal with this sexism while I am waiting for the bus or walking to work. Men don't have to! I don't think the solution is moving them out of my own sight so I don't have to see them anymore either because then some other poor women will have to. Why are women put in the situation of feeling objectified and uncomfortable in public spaces in 2018? Because of men's desires to make us feel that way? It is unacceptable.

Sex shops are no different to any other retail, and should be allowed to establish wherever market forces allow. It is not for the council to dictate how the market should operate.

Sex shops are not inappropriate. You don't protect anyone by pretending they don't exist.

Shops devoted to pornography/sexual abuse/rape culture have no place in our society

Shops like Ann Summers which are targeting both genders are acceptable in shopping areas.

Should be allowed ANYWHERE

The hours these places are open , wouldn't make no difference to them if a sex shop ect was next door

There should be a zero tolerance approach to sex shops in Bristol

They should be allowed wherever they want.

We've got enpugh..we dont need any more..and we don't need any lapdancing/stripclubs

You can't ring fence it needs to be decided on a application process . We are not a nanny state

Appendix B

Again, Anywhere is fine, discretion is key. If venues such as these arent in Bristol, Bristol will just lose the revenue and income and cause further unemployment as these places will definitely open else where. Sex shops, sex workers, and the demand for anything sex related is human nature, we are born to mate as all mammals are. To try and condemn people or ban people for wanting to partake in any kind of sex related activity be it a strip club, a brothel or a sex shop it is an outrage. I find it hard to believe that not a single member of any bristol council members have any interest or joy in sex or sex related activities. It seems to just be women in the council against it, which screams jealousy rather than pity.
Again, I dont see how it is possible to place limits without some further detail on the premises, their hours of operation, oversight etc. etc. . Oversight is essential., especially where employees welfare is concerned. I do not want exploitation of employees in my city. Or anywhere else.
Any Community centres, drop-in centres, play activities, like Boing, Playspace etc...
Any place
Anywhere
Anywhere
Anywhere people go for any other reason
Anywhere where it makes sense to have them. Busy late night areas seem sensible
Anywhere, they encourage sexual harassment of women. Studies show women in the industry and near the vicinity of the venue are much more likely to be raped or sexually harassed near a venue of objectification by the customers of the venue than a street without such a venue..
ANYWHERE
As previous other (education).
Best place for them is with the other bars and clubs in the city centre
Bristol
bristol should not facilitate sex trade
city centre is a good location
Comments as above
Council offices
Everywhere else
Flower market late at night
Hospitals, care facilities, rehab centres, homeless shelters, animal shelters, zoo
How can u judge the 1-8+ depends on size of area
I am raising a daughter and I do not want her to grow up in this city believing women are sex objects. I want her to see a positive view of women all around her in pur lovely city.
I don't believe these venues are acceptable in the city at all. They are exploitative and encourage sexual violence.
I would like to see a zero cap on SEVs. They are contrary to gender equality, contribute to sexual assault and harassment of women outside as well as inside venues. You may quote me if you wish - Thangam Debbonaire MP
If you attempt to hide this industry you are saying it is dirty, it is not dirty people with small minds make it dirty.
I'm old enough to remember when, in the late 1980s, some women leaving The Scarlet Coat Lesbian nightclub were subjected to an unprovoked physical attack by straight men leaving

the She strip club next door in Fairfax St. At least two of the women were hospitalised & The Scarlet Coat (our one and only club) never re-opened.
in any place in the city
Industrial
It depends how the opening hours and access impinge on the locality. Also there should be equality but I have huge concerns as a gay man that many older men visit the monthly fetish night (which operate just under the SEV radar) are predatory on younger men/models that advertise the nights. I don't imagine it's any different for men who seek younger women.
It is never acceptable to normalise women as disposable objects to be abused & purveyed for the pleasure and profit of men.
It is unacceptable to locate a 'sexual entertainment venue' anywhere in a city that values and seeks to promote equality between women and men
It should not be acceptable to locate these anywhere. They feed into the narrative that this is ok when in fact all forms of the sex trade disadvantage women and girls disproportionately. By normalising these activities and behaviours we teaching our young boys that women are objects - THIS IS NOT OK.
LET SEX ENTERTAINMENT WORKERS DO THEIR JOBS SOMEWHERE SAFE AND CLEAN
Major routes where women may need to walk to, to get home and areas that are isolated for workers when they leave.
nature reserves, city farms
Near alleyways or enclosed paths
Needs to be in a sensible place and not advertised in a way that would be noticeable to children
no appropriate location for a sexual entertainment venue
No SEVs anywhere - they exploit women and encourage objectification of women leaving to VAWG
Not near Lawrence Weston, Avonmouth, Henbury, Southmead, Shirehampton.
Not suitable in deprived areas or near any charity/addiction centre/place working with any vulnerable people
Of this type of venue is not appropriate next to a school or a church or a women's refuge, what makes it APPROPRIATE to have it anywhere??
Once again the hours they are open would not interfere with anyone
Other?
Paying for access to women's bodies is not acceptable anywhere in Bristol
Places of work .
Places where alcohol is bought and sold
Questions are not specific enough regards what is meant by sexual venue?
see also https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/sex-power-2018
Sex entertainment just encourages people to feel that their unwanted sexual advances are ok because it has been authorised by the local authority. all of these areas have families who would prefer this sort of "entertainment" to be anywhere. I take exception to the view that it would in any way be acceptable in a poor area of the city. The questionnaire does not suggest it would be acceptable in a wealthy residential area, I assume because those wealthy people would not like it. Guess what, the less wealthy don't like it either!
Sex entertainment venues are not acceptable anywhere. They normalise abuse and prop up rape culture
Sex is natural; there are therefore no areas it is inherently inappropriate to have consensual sexual venues

Sexual entertainment venues are a gross violation of women's rights, and are not acceptable in any location. They encourage human trafficking and degrading behaviour towards women.
Sexual entertainment venues legitimise objectification of women in a way which normalises sexual harassment and abuse
Shops, Local high streets
The number option at the start of this is unfair as there is no example to give you reference and feels like a leading question or badly thought out at the least
The paid rape of women is never appropriate. Johns do not care if women are coerced/trafficked or not.
The presence of sexual entertainment venues is not a threat or a problem, anywhere
The right place for these venues are obviously in the city centre.
There should be a zero tolerance approach to sexual entertainment venues in Bristol
These establishments only make the world more toxic for women. They objectify women and have no place in our society
These should not acceptae anywhere.
These venues contribute to sexism in society and research shows more rapes and sexual assaults occur near them
These venues exist to serve men. Men's desires to objectify, demean and sexualise women. How are other women meant to be OK with this? I have lived in and around the Bristol area for four years now. The first time I walked through Old Market I cried knowing that women were being bought and sold like pieces of meat to men who have no respect for them whatsoever in a city I live in. A city that some people would say is on the more 'progressive' side at that. One place was advertising 'two girls' for £75. I felt physically sick and ended up just going home instead of to the gig I was planning on attending because I was so upset. It ruined my night knowing that my sisters were inside those doors at the mercy of men with a few quid who wanted to rent the inside of their bodies to masturbate into. When I got home I looked up some of the places I saw on google maps and men were leaving reviews about the women they encountered there, rating and comparing them like meals in a restaurant. One man complained that one of the women was not 'compliant' enough in letting him do whatever he wanted to do to her. This is disgraceful and should be stopped. These venues are not helping further women's opportunities in an already difficult life. Thwy are putting them in danger at the hands of abusive men. Men's demand for prostitutes and strippers is the driving force behind sex trafficking.
These venues have no place in our city
They are acceptable anywhere
They should not be located anywhere
This is a very biased survey and a deliberate attempt to trick the public. Shame on you BCC
Town hall
We should not have venues if this sort anywhere in our city. We should be doing everything possible to discourage the objectification of women.
We shouldn't have them. They perpetuate the idea that women exist to entertain / arouse men.
Where the public would like entertainment
Where women are, at any time, vulnerable tp men.
You have not put a comments section. I believe this questionnaire does not take into account the current situation of the number of sex shops and strip clubs in Bristol currently. Right now I believe the locations of the shops and clubs is an ideal balance. The clubs are very well run in Bristol which should be a great reflection for our city. The clubs in particular are discrete and provide good fun for people

Licensing Service

Sex Establishment Policy Review



Consultation Survey Responses and Results

Final report v1.2

12 November 2020



www.bristol.gov.uk

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4.10 If you have further comments on the proposed number of sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas in the defined localities, please provide them.	54
5. Additional responses	56
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1. Summary

S1 Sex Establishment Policy Review

The Council adopted additional parts of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in 2011 which gave it the ability to control and regulate Sex Establishments. Five premises operated as venues offering sexual entertainment at that time. A policy was developed at that time which resulted in three sexual entertainment venue premises becoming licensed under the legislation, along with the four existing sex shops already covered by the same Act.

Currently there are two licensed sexual entertainment venues and two licensed sex shops within Bristol City Council's administrative area. There are currently no licensed sex cinemas.

The Council is undertaking a review of the policy and as part of this review the Council engaged with the public and stakeholders in a variety of ways, inviting comments from previous stakeholders, through a questionnaire requesting general views on sex establishments as well as opinions about specific locations in the Council's administrative area, and finally through a 12 week consultation by way of a number of questions seeking views on the draft policy published alongside it.

S2 Consultation

The consultation was open for 12 weeks between 16 August 2019 and 10 November 2019 and sought responses from the public to questions around the policy approach as well as specific areas of the policy. 1,046 responses were received.

The consultation was available online, and paper copies of the questions and alternative accessible formats were available on request. The questionnaire was publicised through media, social media and communications with the public including relevant responsible authorities, equalities groups, and stakeholders.

Additional comments were also received outside of the consultation questions, details of which are included in this report.

A total of 49 responses were received to the consultation outside of the 12 week consultation period which have been included within the results below. These were submitted between 11 November 2019 and 11 December 2019, with the majority being submitted within one week of the closing date.

The questions were also distributed to the Citizen Panel for response and those results are included separately in this document. The survey was sent to 1,213 panel members and 425 completed it, giving a 35% response rate.

S3 Scope

This report presents the findings of the sex establishment’s consultation. It includes the overall responses to the consultation.

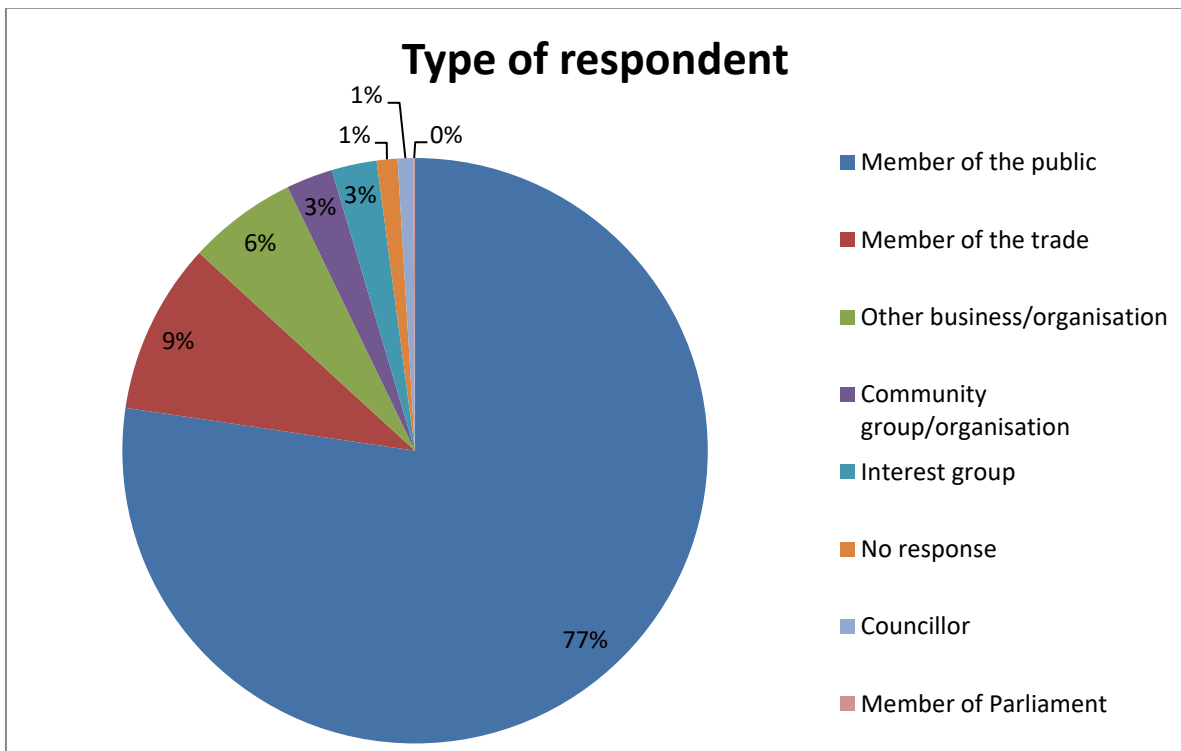
The results are broken down into consultation responses to the survey, and Citizen Panel responses and which are displayed in separate graphs.

2. Response rate and respondent characteristics

2.1 Response rate

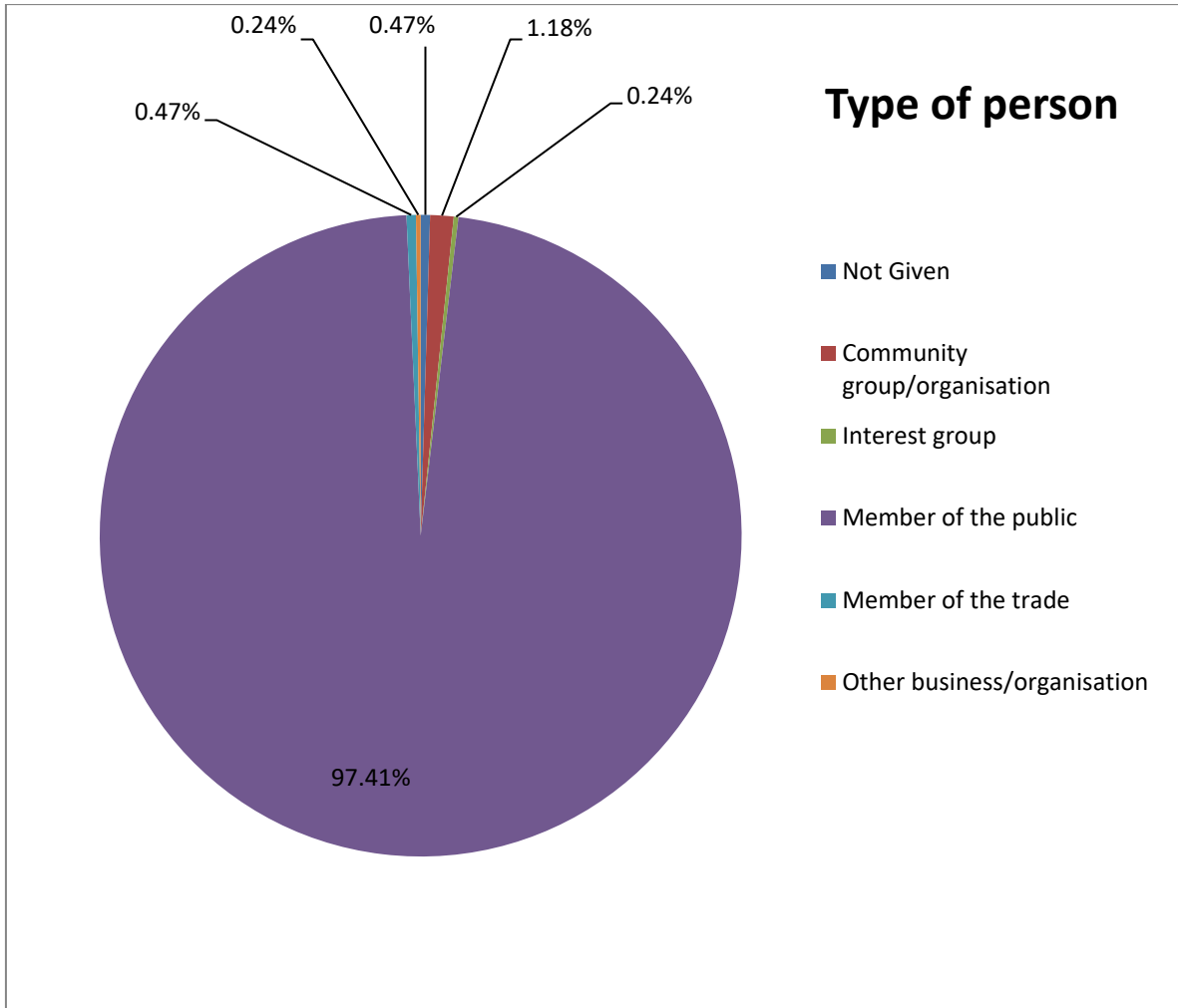
1046 responses were received to the consultation via the online and paper based survey.

The majority of respondents were members of the public at 77%. 9% of respondents were members of the trade. 6% were from other businesses or organisations. 6% were from community groups/organisations or interest groups. A total of 9 councillors and 1 MP answered the survey.



425 responses were received from the Citizen Panel, representing 35% of the membership.

The vast majority of respondents were members of the public.



2.2 Respondent characteristics

Consultation

The majority of people answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions.

The majority of respondents were between the ages of 25-44 with a total of 45% in these age ranges.

50% of respondents were female. 33% of respondents were male, and 17% either preferred not to say, or included a comment without saying which sex they are. A total of 7 respondents were with transgender or non-binary.

A full breakdown of consultation respondent characteristics is found in Table 1 below.

Location

It is important to note that of 1046 respondents to the consultation only 60% of the responses were from within the Bristol postcode area. 231 respondents (22%) did not give their postcode or a valid postcode. The remaining respondents come from across the UK, and 4 from the USA.

Postcode location	Count	Percentage
Bristol	635	61%
Bath	40	4%
Newport	10	1%
Taunton	6	0%
Cardiff	12	1%
Other / Not given	343	33%
Grand Total	1046	

Citizen Panel

The majority of people answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions.

More than 50% of the respondents were between the ages of 55-74.

The majority of respondents (50%) were male. 46% were female, and 4% were of another sex or preferred not to say.

A full breakdown of Citizen Panel respondent characteristics is found in Table 2 below.

2.3.1 Table 1: respondent characteristics - all responses to the survey

	Respondent characteristic	Number of responses to questionnaire	% responses to equalities question
Age	18-24	81	8%
	25-34	254	24%
	35-44	215	21%
	45-54	151	14%
	55-64	141	14%
	65-74	51	5%
	75-84	10	1%
	85 or over	3	<1%
	Not given	140	13%
Gender	Female	523	52%
	Male	340	34%
	Prefer not to say	129	13%
	Other	17	2%
Transgender	Yes	13	1%
	No	858	86%
	Prefer not to say	131	13%
Ethnicity	White British / English / Irish / Scottish	743	71%
	Other White	49	5%
	Mixed / Multi ethnic group	27	3%
	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	18	2%
	Asian / Asian British	12	1%
	Gypsy / Roma / Irish Traveller	5	<1%
	English	1	<1%
	Other ethnic group	1	<1%
	Not given	190	18%
Disability	Yes	95	9%
	No	789	75%
	Prefer not to say	123	12%
	No response to question	39	4%
Religion	No religion	572	55%
	Christian	172	16%
	Buddhist	9	1%
	Hindu	3	<1%
	Jewish	9	1%
	Muslim	9	1%
	Sikh	1	<1%
	Any other religion or belief	33	3%
	Not given	238	23%
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual (straight)	629	60%
	Bisexual	102	10%
	Gay Man	32	3%
	Gay woman/lesbian	27	3%
	Other	6	<1%
	Not given	250	24%

2.3.2 Table 2: Citizen Panel respondent characteristics - all responses to the survey

	Respondent characteristic	Number of responses to questionnaire	% responses to equalities question
Age	18-24	3	<1%
	25-34	36	8%
	35-44	43	10%
	45-54	73	17%
	55-64	103	24%
	65-74	113	27%
	75-84	39	9%
	85 or over	2	<1%
	Not given	13	3%
Gender	Female	195	46%
	Male	213	50%
	Other	1	<1%
	Not given/ Prefer not to say	16	4%
Ethnicity	White British / English / Irish / Scottish / Other	342	81%
	White Minority Ethnic	40	10%
	Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME)	14	3%
	Not given / prefer not to say	29	7%
Disability	Yes	56	13%
	No	350	82%
	Prefer not to say	14	3%
	No response to question	5	1%
Religion	No religion	204	48%
	Christian	158	37%
	Buddhist	7	2%
	Hindu	1	<1%
	Jewish	4	1%
	Muslim	1	<1%
	Sikh	1	<1%
	Any other religion or belief	16	4%
	Not given / prefer not to say	32	8%
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual (straight)	342	80%
	Bisexual	13	3%
	Gay Man	11	3%
	Gay woman/lesbian	9	2%
	Other	3	1%
	Not given / prefer not to say	47	9%

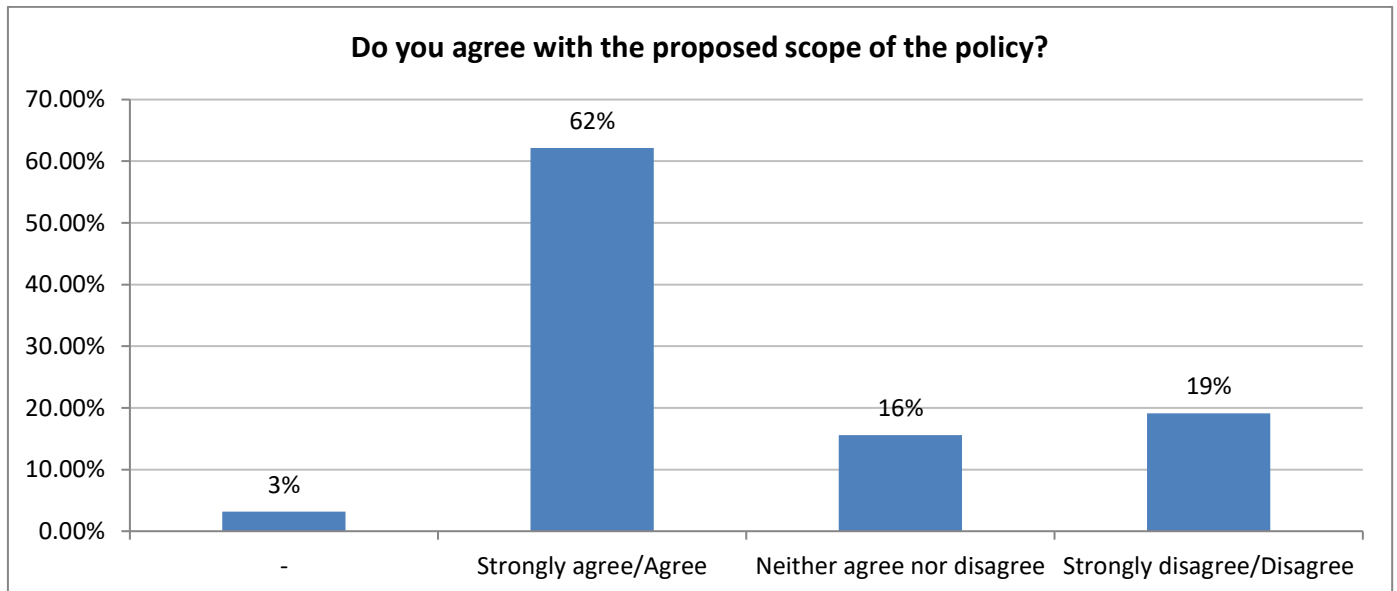
3. Survey Responses to the questions

3.1 Introduction

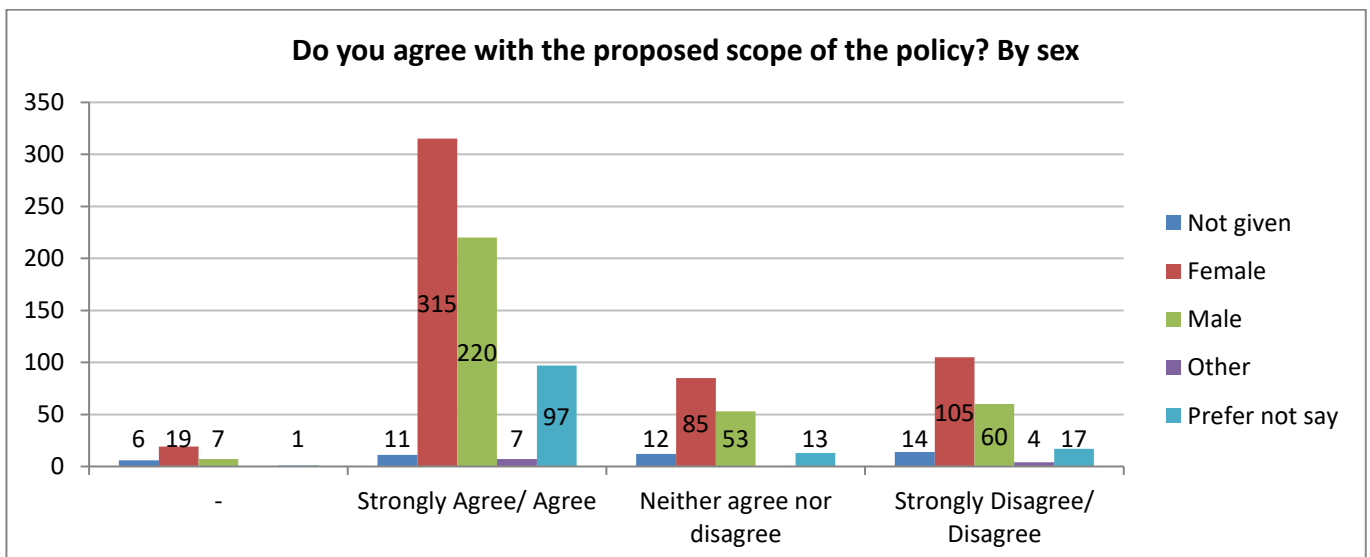
The consultation survey had a number of questions relating to the proposed policy overall as well as specific elements of the policy such as conditions, and numbers of premises in defined localities. There were a number of supporting documents provided with the survey, including the proposed policy, equalities impact assessment, proposed conditions, summary of changes, and plain English descriptions.

3.2 Do you agree with the proposed scope of the policy?

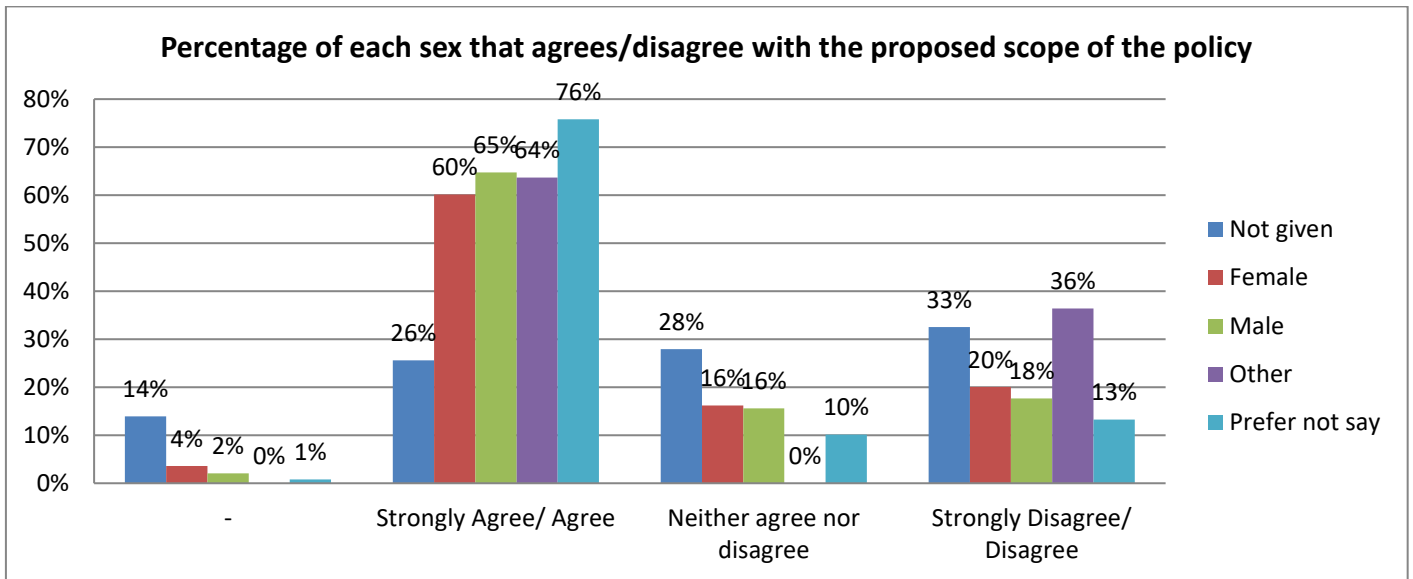
Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the proposed scope of the policy. Overall, the majority of people (62%) agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed policy. 16% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 19% disagreed, or strongly disagreed with the policy.



Looking at the split by sex, it can be seen that the majority of respondents were women, and agreed with the proposed policy.

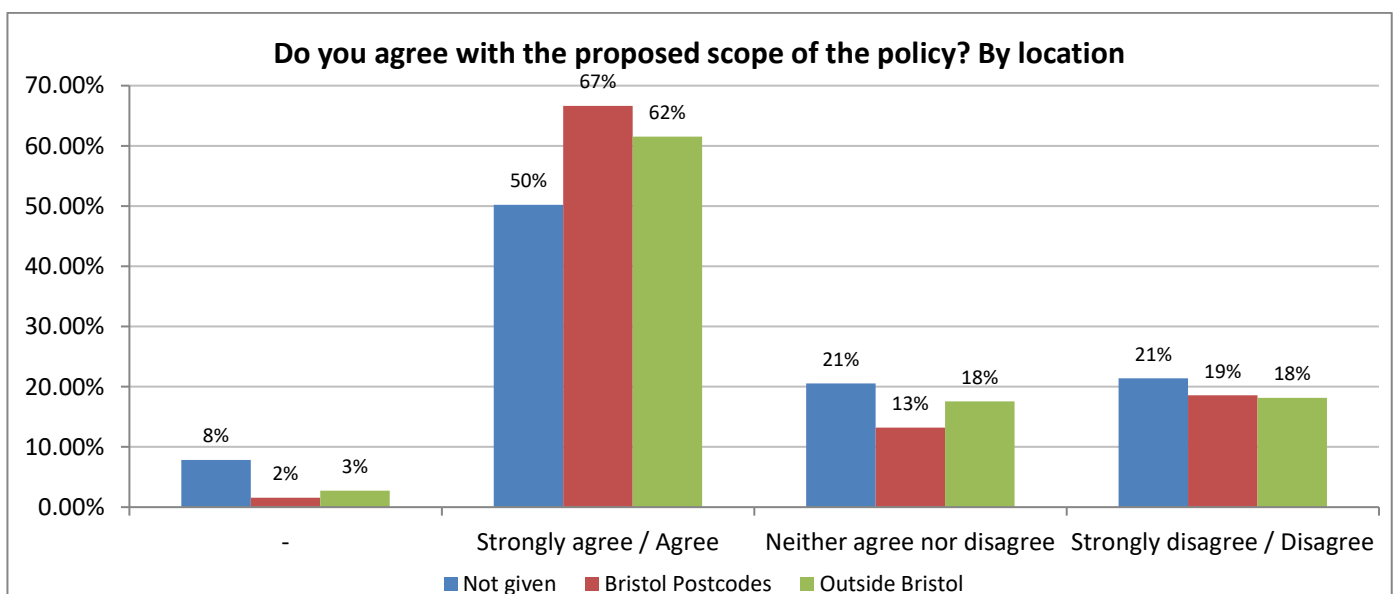


By looking the percentage that each sex agreed/disagreed with the proposed policy, it can be seen that almost all the sexes agreed with the proposed scope of the policy more than disagreed with it.



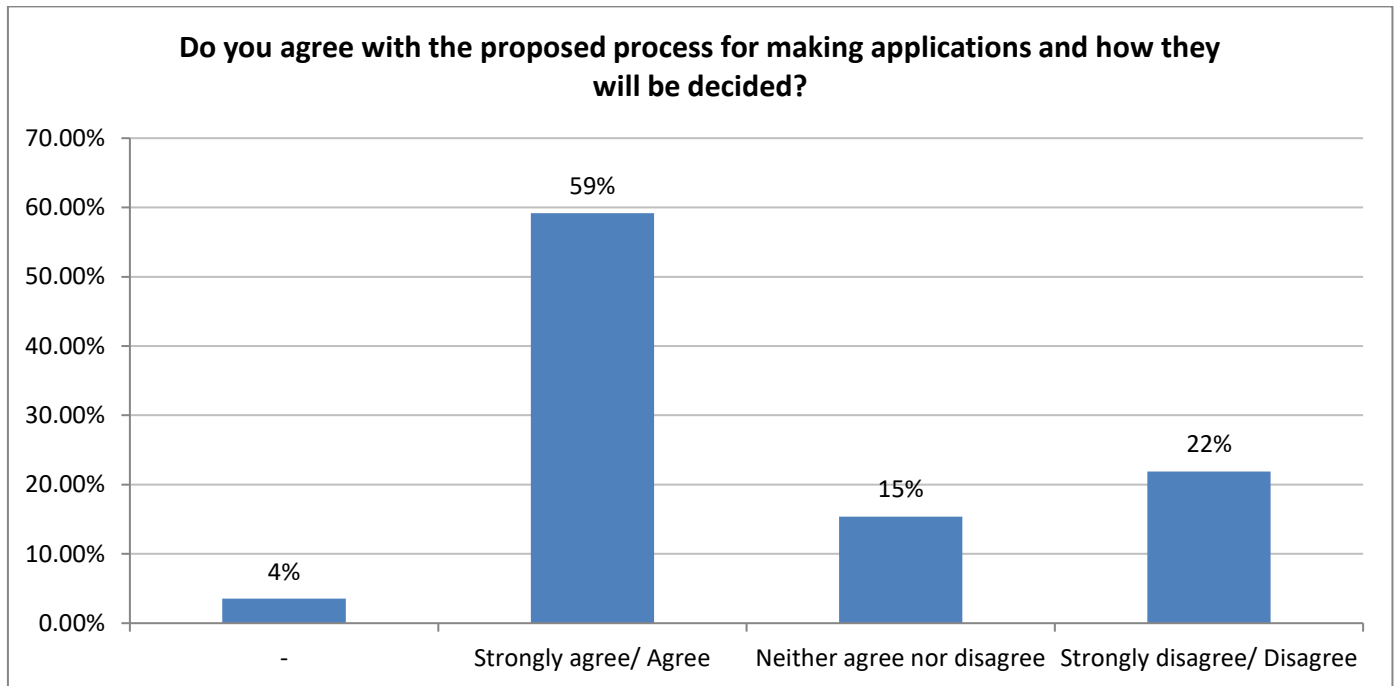
Response	Female	Male
Not responded	4%	2%
Strongly Agree/ Agree	60%	65%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	16%
Strongly Disagree/ Disagree	20%	18%

When respondents were grouped by location (Bristol Postcodes vs non-Bristol postcodes) it can be seen that those from Bristol are more likely to agree with the scope of the proposed policy than those who live outside Bristol. Those who have not given their postcode are the least likely to agree with the scope of the proposed policy.

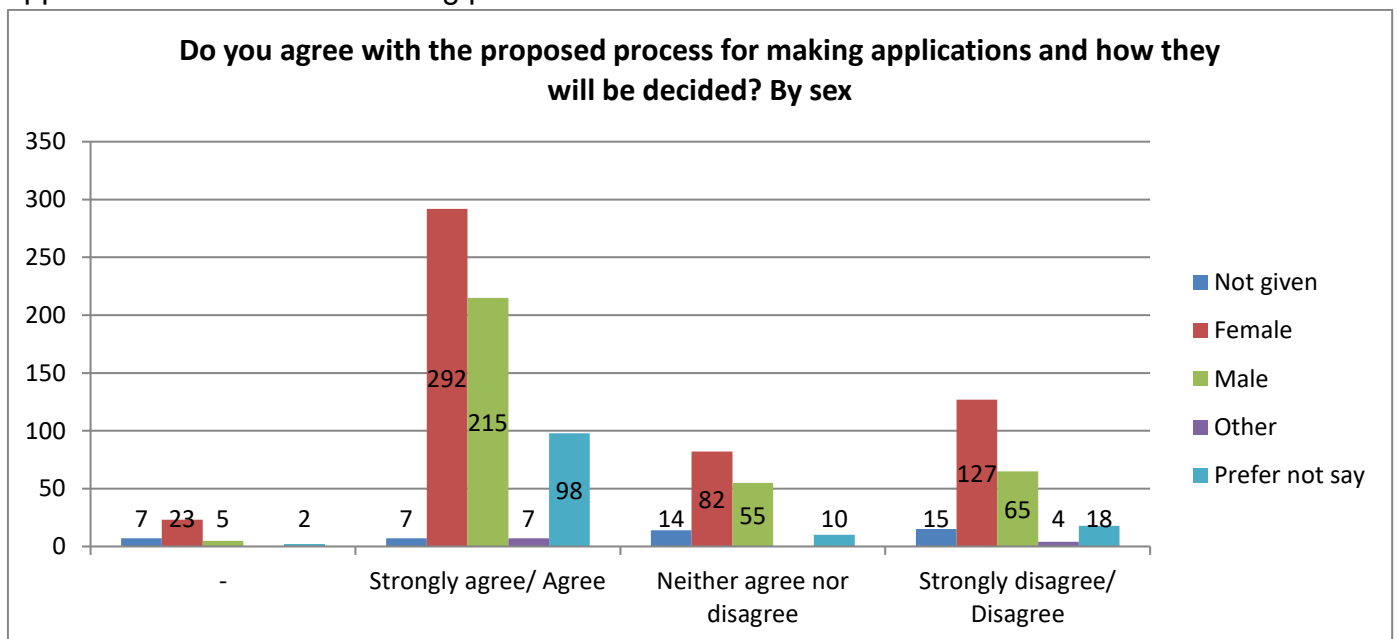


3.3 Do you agree with the proposed process for making applications and how they will be decided?

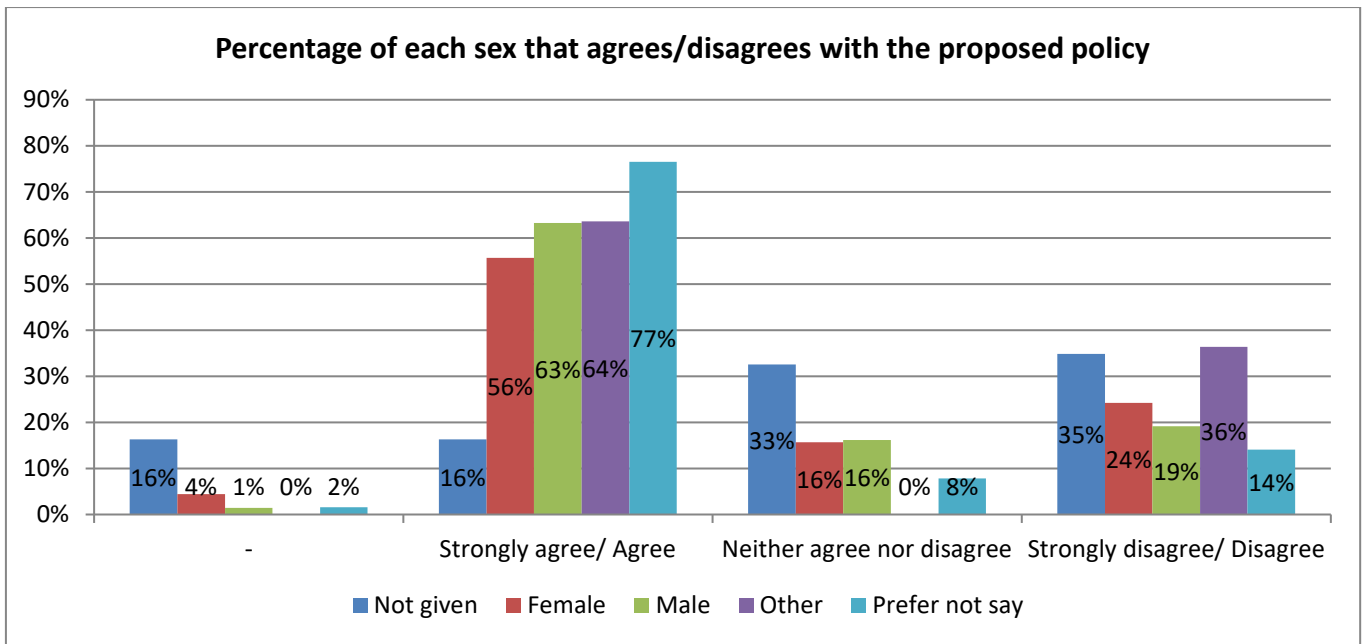
Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the application and decision making process set out in the proposed policy. The majority of respondents (59%) agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed process.



Looking at the split by sex, it can be seen that the majority of all sexes agreed with the proposed application and decision making process.



By looking the percentage that each sex agreed/disagreed with the proposed process, it can be seen that the majority of people agreed with the proposed process.



Response	Female	Male
-	4%	1%
Strongly agree/ Agree	56%	63%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%	16%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	24%	19%

3.3.1 Comments

There were a total of 244 comments on this question. The main themes of the comments were:

Theme	Number of mentions	Explanation
Licences should last longer	56	These were related to the policy wanting licences renewed every year which is expensive, costing both the venue and the council money. This was linked to the worker's rights comments with respect to job security and fear of loss of income.
Supporting SEV worker's rights and choices	33	These were both in relation to the fact that the dancers have chosen to work in the sex industry, and that the policy should be based more on ensuring the working rights of the dancers.
SEVs are sexist	31	These were in relation to the belief that SEVs contribute to increased sexual abuse, domestic violence and exploitation of women and girls. These comments also bring up that SEVs create a culture of objectification and commodification of women's bodies. They believe that

Sex Establishment Policy Review – Consultation responses

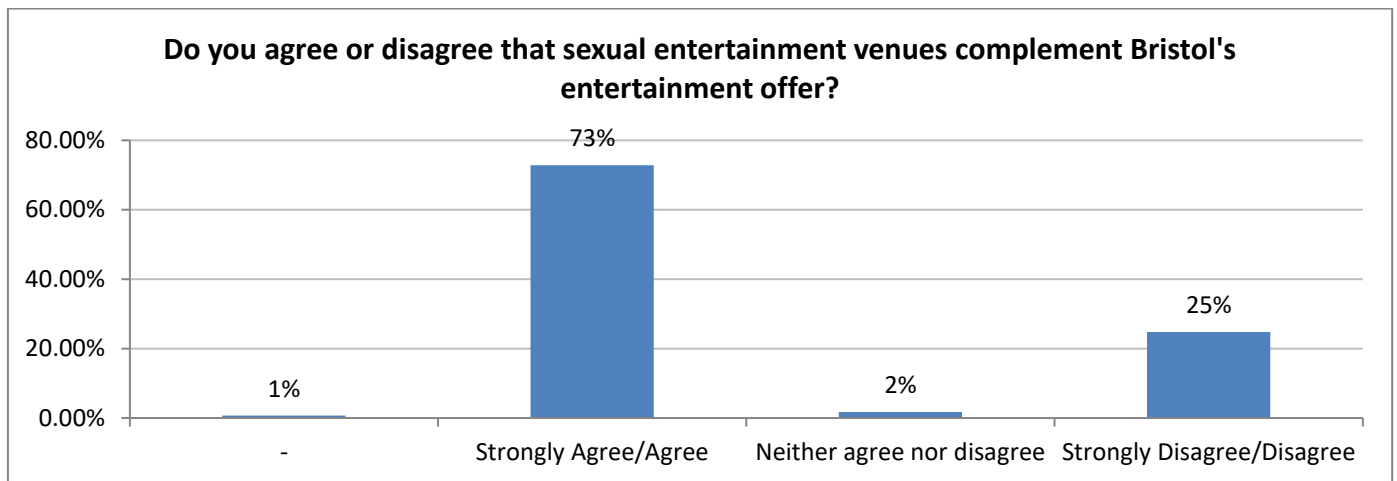
		these venues are not part of the type of society Bristol should be.
Supportive of SEVs	27	Many of these comments were linked to supporting the workers in the venues and that they should be able to have a livelihood. The money they bring into the city was also mentioned.
Against SEVs	23	These comments were linked to the view that SEVs perpetuate a misogynistic society and increased sexual violence and exploitation.
Supportive of a nil cap	23	These comments were linked to the view that SEVs perpetuate a misogynistic society and increased sexual violence and exploitation. They therefore thought there should be no SEVs.
Want to change some of the language of the policy	19	These comments wanted some of the wording of the policy changed
Issues with committee or hearings	13	These comments raised issues with the current or proposed committees or hearings held.
The current policy is working, don't change it	10	
Regulating of SEVs is important	8	
There should be public access to SEV applications	8	
There should be the ability to object to applications online	8	
Experienced managers should be allowed to run SEVs	6	
Unlicensed brothels and massage parlours	6	
Issues with the survey or consultation	5	
Licensing fees too high	3	
Supporting proposed policy	3	
Freedom to choose to visit SEVs	1	
Query about number of SEVs in certain areas	1	

Want more SEVs	1
Against proposed policy	1

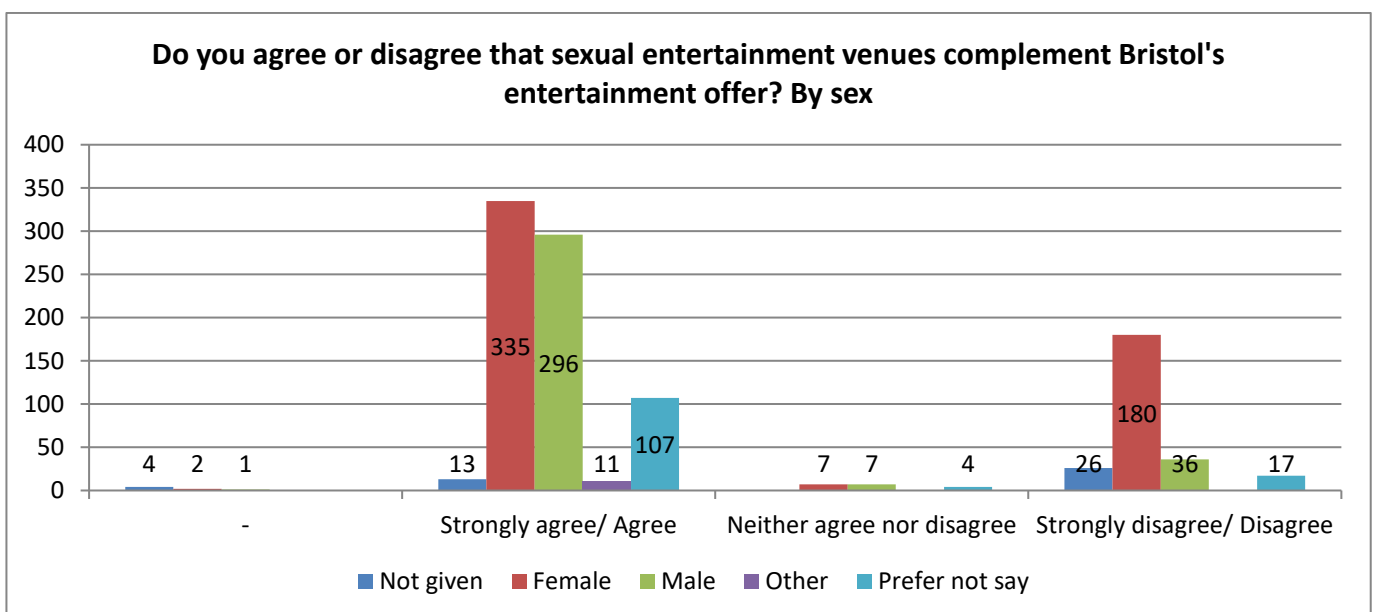
The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix A**.

3.4 Do you agree or disagree that sexual entertainment venues complement Bristol's entertainment offer?

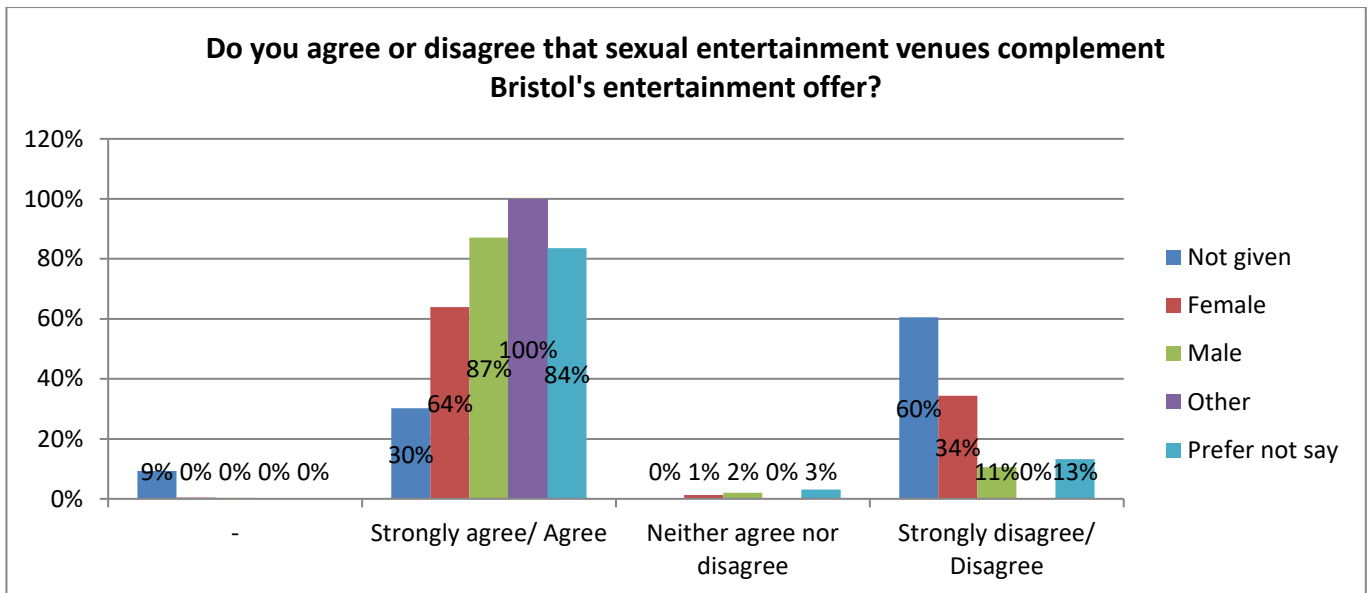
This question focused solely on sexual entertainment venues, and whether respondents felt they complemented Bristol's entertainment offer. 73% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that SEVs compliment Bristol's entertainment offer.



Looking at the split by sex, it can be seen that the majority of all sexes agreed that SEVs complemented Bristol's entertainment offer. More females than males agreed with this statement, and more females than males disagreed, however both groups overall agreed more than disagreed.



By looking the percentage that each sex agreed/disagreed with the statement, it can be seen that there is a large difference between male and females respondents. 87% of men and 63% of females agree with the statement. Both sexes agree with this statement more than in any other question, but males agree with this statement much more than females.



Response	Female	Male
Not responded	<1%	<1%
Strongly agree/ Agree	64%	87%
Neither agree nor disagree	1%	2%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	34%	11%

3.4.1 Comments

There were a total of 293 comments in response to this question. The main themes were:

Theme	Number of mentions	Explanation
Agree with question	136	These comments agreed with the idea that SEVs complement Bristol's entertainment offer.
SEVs are sexist	80	These comments reiterate the belief that SEVs are sexist and promote sexual exploitation.
Against SEVs	48	These comments are linked with the view that SEVs are sexist, and so are against having SEVs in Bristol.
SEVs bring in people and money to Bristol	44	These comments support SEVs and that they bring in people and money. Lots of these comments mentioned

		stag/hen parties and the tourism and money that goes along with this.
Disagree with question	42	These comments are related to SEVs being “repellent”, “seedy” or “tacky”. Some of them are also directly linked to the belief that SEVs are sexist.
Supporting SEVs	11	These comments range in reasons for supporting SEVs.
SEV worker’s rights	10	These comments expressed that the dancers choose to work there, and the possibility of their work going underground is the licenced SEVs are banned.
Sexual harassment, abuse, violence	7	These comments are linked with the SEVs are sexist comments, linking SEVs with sexual harassment, abuse and violence.
SEVs need regulation	6	
Unlicensed brothels	5	These comments were about the fact the SEVs are legal and BCC are focused on putting conditions on these licences, however there are no licences or repercussion for the illegal brothels or massage parlours in the city.
Banning SEV will make them go underground	4	
SEVs for disabled customers	2	<p>There were two comments relating to disabled access to sexual entertainment:</p> <p>There are some people in our society for who a normal sexual relationship is unlikely. I refer principally to those with disabilities; I am not sure where, in this policy, their provision is provided for.</p> <p>Sex venues are important for people who for various reasons are unable to have a full sex life.</p> <p>These proposals don't take into account the sexual entertainment needs of disabled people.</p>
Same limitations don’t apply to male stripping	1	

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix B**.

3.5 Do you agree or disagree that the proposed policy approach supports these aims [of the European Charter of Equality of Women and Men in Local Life]?

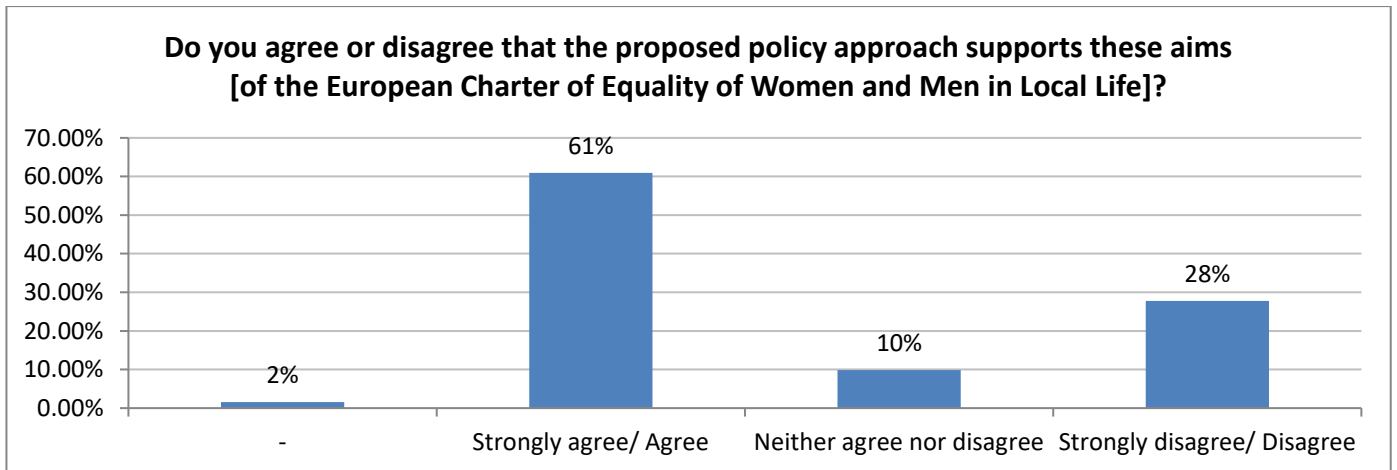
A statement accompanied this question as follows:

Bristol has signed up to the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life and has a duty to consider the need to promote equality for persons with “protected characteristics” and to have due regard to the need to i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; ii) advance equality of opportunity; and iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. Protected characteristics include

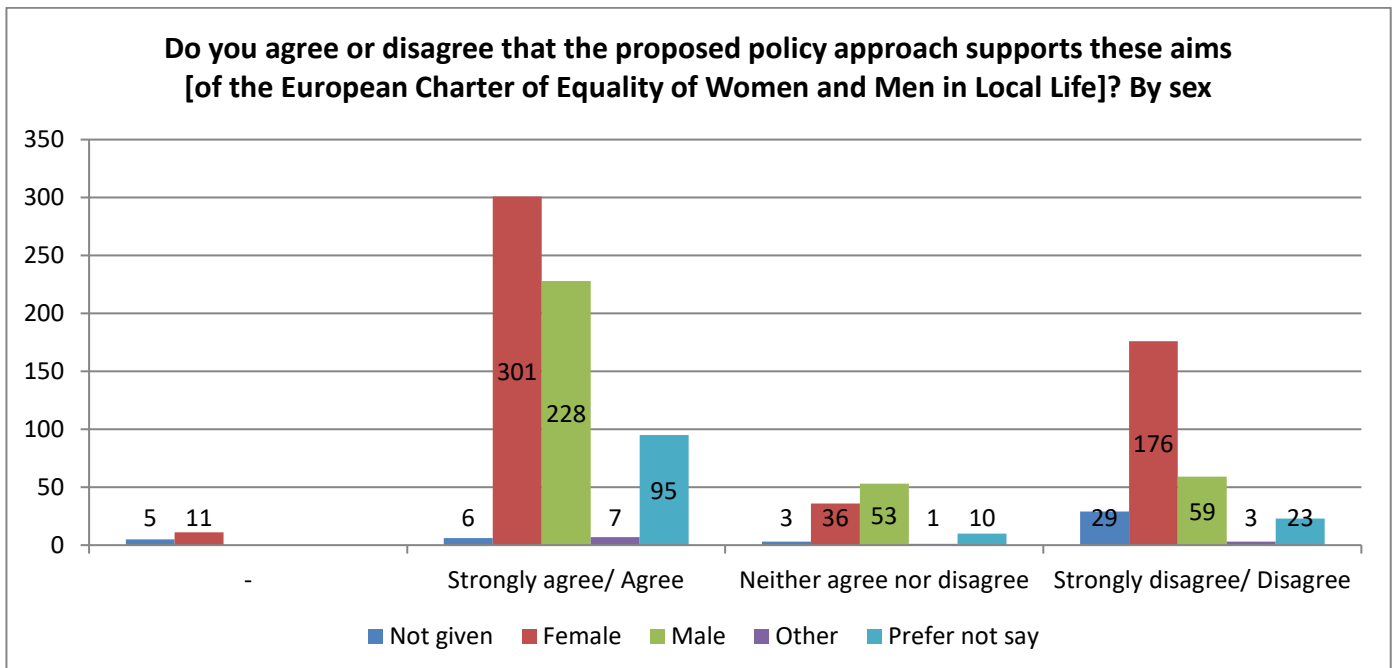
age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that the proposed policy approach supports these aims.

The majority of respondents (61%) believe that the proposed policy supports the aims of the European Charter.

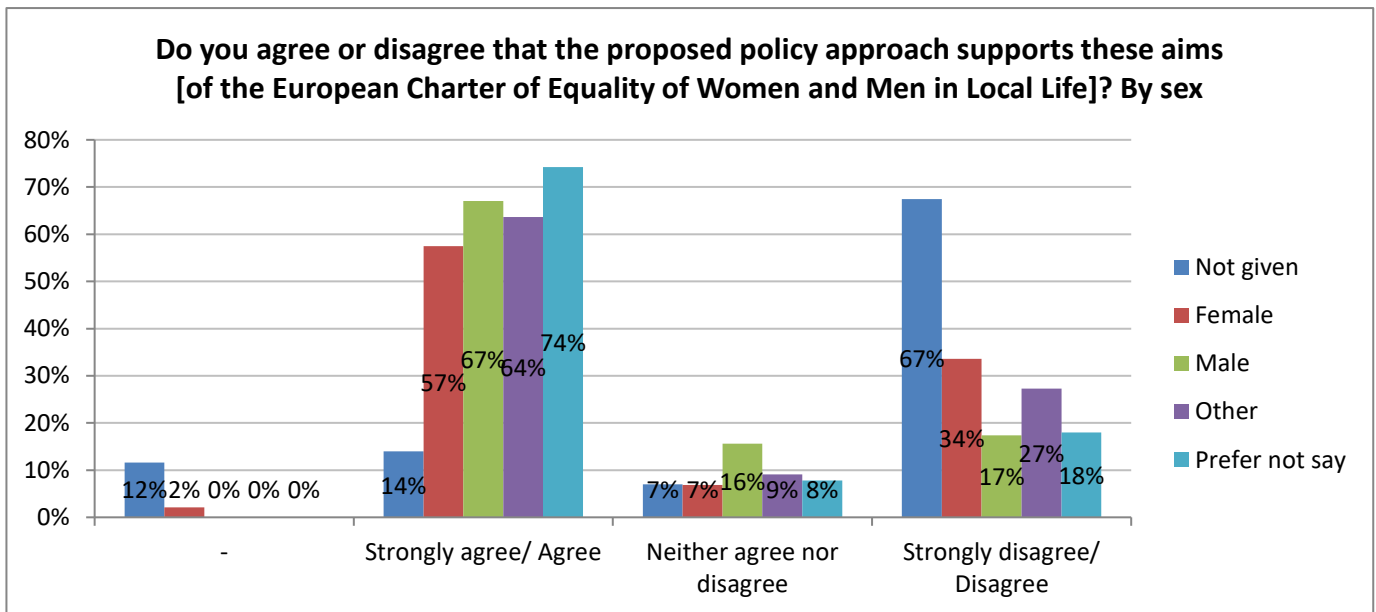


Looking at the sex-split, it can be seen that females are more likely than males to say that the policy does not support the European Charter of Equality. Equally females are more likely than males do say that the policy does support the Charter.



Looking at just the male and female responses, it can be seen that although the majority of women agree that it supports the statement, 34% of females disagreed. There is a 10% difference

between males and females who agree/strongly disagree with the statement, and females disagree with the statement twice as much as males.



Response	Female	Male
Not responded	2%	0%
Strongly agree/ Agree	57%	67%
Neither agree nor disagree	7%	16%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	34%	17%

3.5.1 Comments

There were a total of 217 comments on this question. The main themes were:

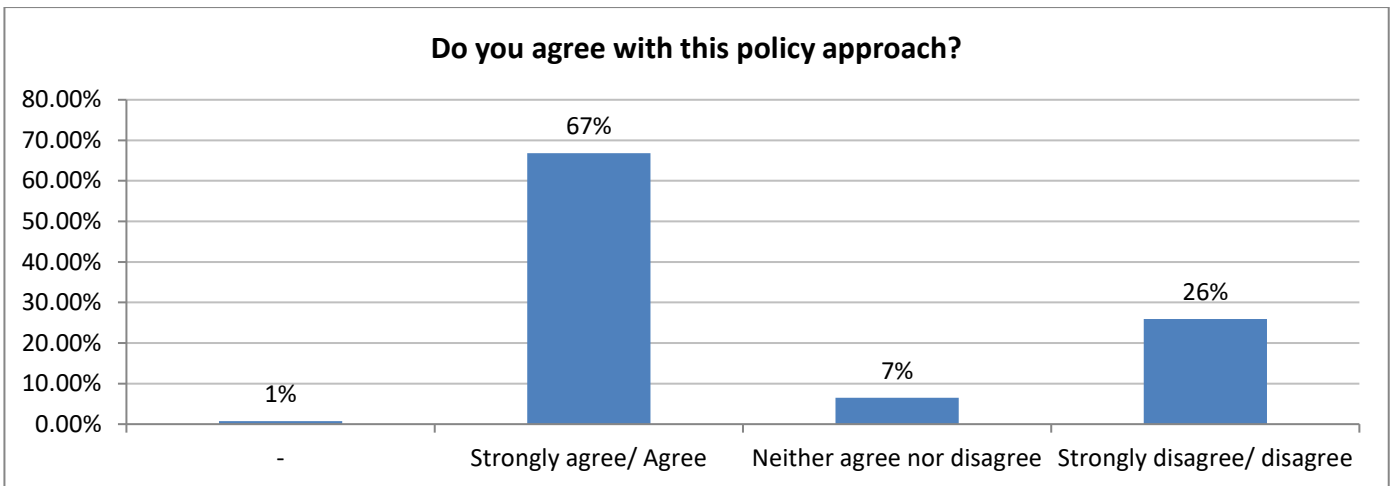
Theme	Number of mentions	Explanation
Against charter	89	These comments say that supporting SEVs goes against the charter as by allowing SEVs to exist in Bristol, there is an unsafe environment for women, thereby not creating an equal society.
SEVs are sexist	87	As this question is directly related to the idea that SEVs could go against gender equality, there are many comment reiterating how licensing SEVs are contributing to the inequality between genders.
SEV worker's rights	58	There were many comments about how the workers at SEVs are mostly women, and that their rights as women should be

		protected. Many comments pointed out that dancers choose to work there and want the right to a secure job.
Male dancers	23	These comments pointed out that there are many conditions that female dancers must adhere to, but not as many for male dancers, which would suggest some level of inequality.
SEV dancers dance by choice	16	This is linked to the SEV worker's rights comments, that those who choose to dance have a much right to as those who do not.
Supporting a nil cap	15	These comments all linked back to the belief that SEVs are sexist.
Charter irrelevant to consultation	5	A number of comments said that the charter and policy were unrelated.
Unlicensed massage parlours	5	Multiple comments mention the fact that BCC are focusing on the SEVs rather than the massage parlours in the city
Supports charter	4	These comments link with the worker's right's comments, about women having the right to work there and choose to do so.
Dependant on administration	3	These comments say it depends how the policy is administered as to whether it supports or goes against the charter.
Current policy good, don't change it	2	
Disabled access to sexual entertainment	2	

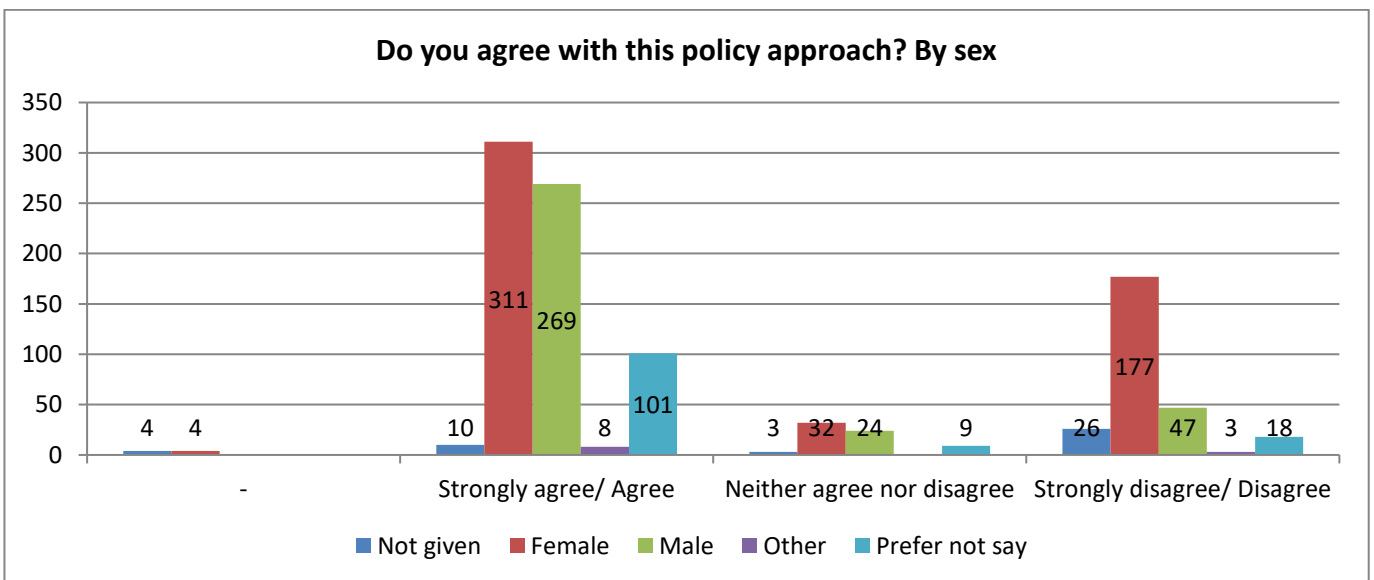
The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix C**.

3.6 Historically we have had licensed a small number of SEVs with the aim of safeguarding people in Bristol by strictly regulating lawful activity. Do you agree with this policy approach?

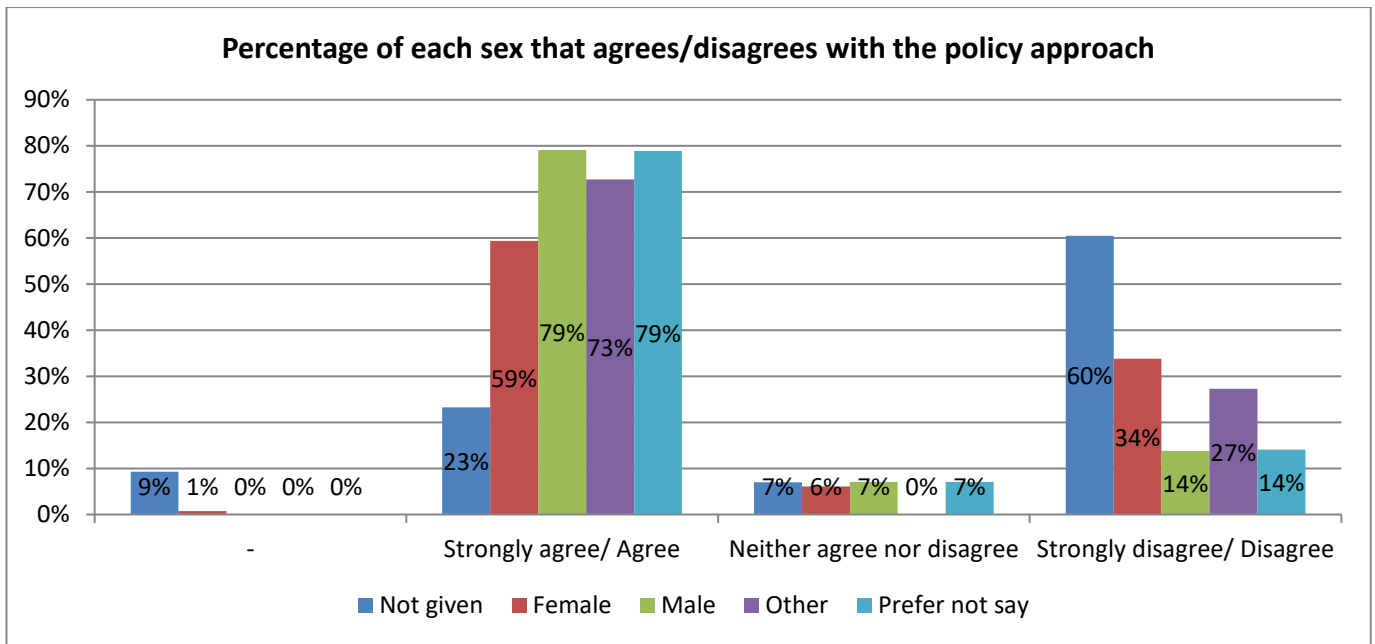
67% of people agreed with the current way of regulating the SEVs by strictly regulating lawful activity.



By looking at the split by sex it can be seen that females disagreed more than males with the current approach, though overall more men and women agreed with the approach than did not.



Looking at the percentage of each sex, it can be seen that there is a 20% difference between the percentage of females and males who agree with the policy approach.



Response	Female	Male
Not responded	1%	0%
Strongly agree/ Agree	59%	79%
Neither agree nor disagree	6%	7%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	34%	14%

3.6.1 Comments

There were a total of 254 comments. The main themes were:

Theme	Number of mentions	Explanation
SEVs need to be regulated	67	The majority of comments agreed that, whether they were for or against SEVs, the ones that exist should be regulated so that the workers are protected.
Limited number of SEVs	58	These comments agreed that there should be a limit (a small number) on the number of venues that could exist in Bristol.
Zero cap/ no licensed SEVs	55	These comments supported a nil cap in Bristol. These comments are linked to the SEVs are sexist comments.
SEVs are sexist	54	These comments support the belief that SEVs are contributors to sexism and violence in society.
Other	39	These comments range from agreeing/disagreeing with the approach, to supporting the Nordic model for SEVs.

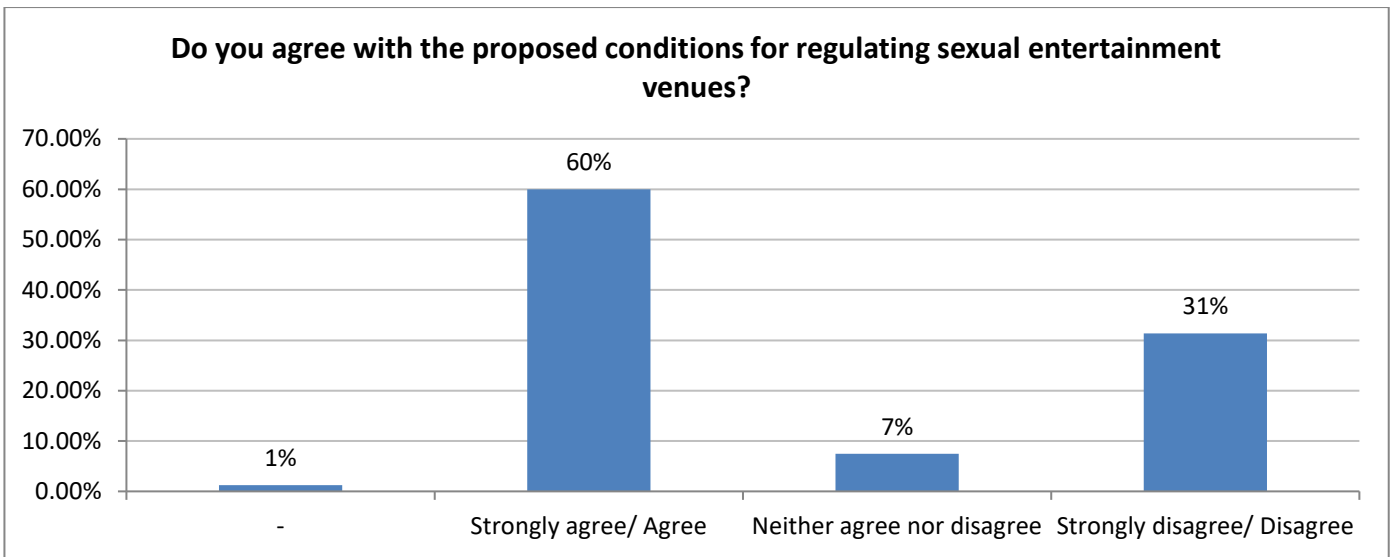
SEVs will just go underground	14	These comments said that if there is a nil cap the SEVs will just go underground and be unregulated.
Worker's rights	14	The comments supported the rights of workers to choose to work in these venues, and the job insecurity is a large issue.
Non-licenced massage parlours/venues. Links with sex trafficking	14	These comments reference the illegal massage parlours and that BCC is not looking into these venues. They also reference sex trafficking the link with unlicensed brothels.
More SEVs	12	These comments support more SEVs being licensed in Bristol.
Keep current policy	5	
SEVs won't go underground	5	These comments support the theory that SEVs won't go underground if there is a nil cap. These comments are all linked with the nil cap comments.
The restrictions are too strict	5	
Safeguarding by BCC not needed	4	
Male dancers	3	Comments point out there are no conditions on male dancers, which is viewed as unequal.
Too many SEVs in Bristol	1	
Disabled access to sexual entertainment	1	
Not for BCC to decide	1	

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix D**.

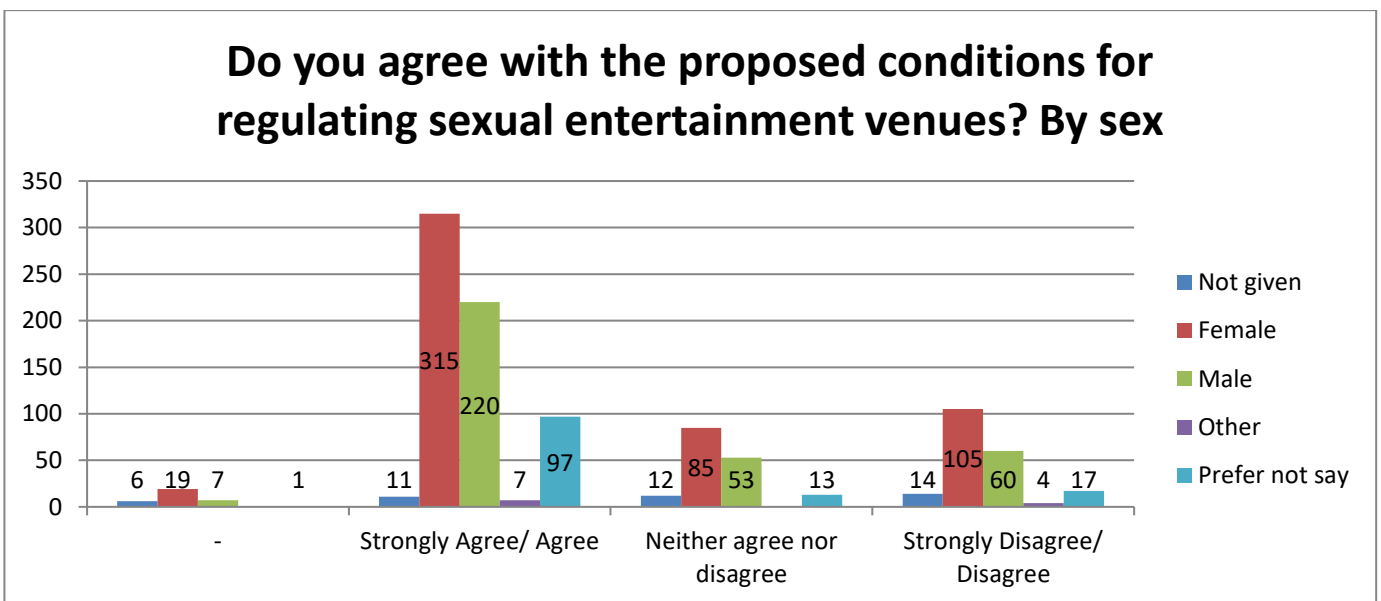
3.7 Do you agree with the proposed conditions for regulating sexual entertainment venues?

Respondents were asked specifically about the proposed conditions relating to SEVs. A copy of the proposed conditions was available at the time of consultation.

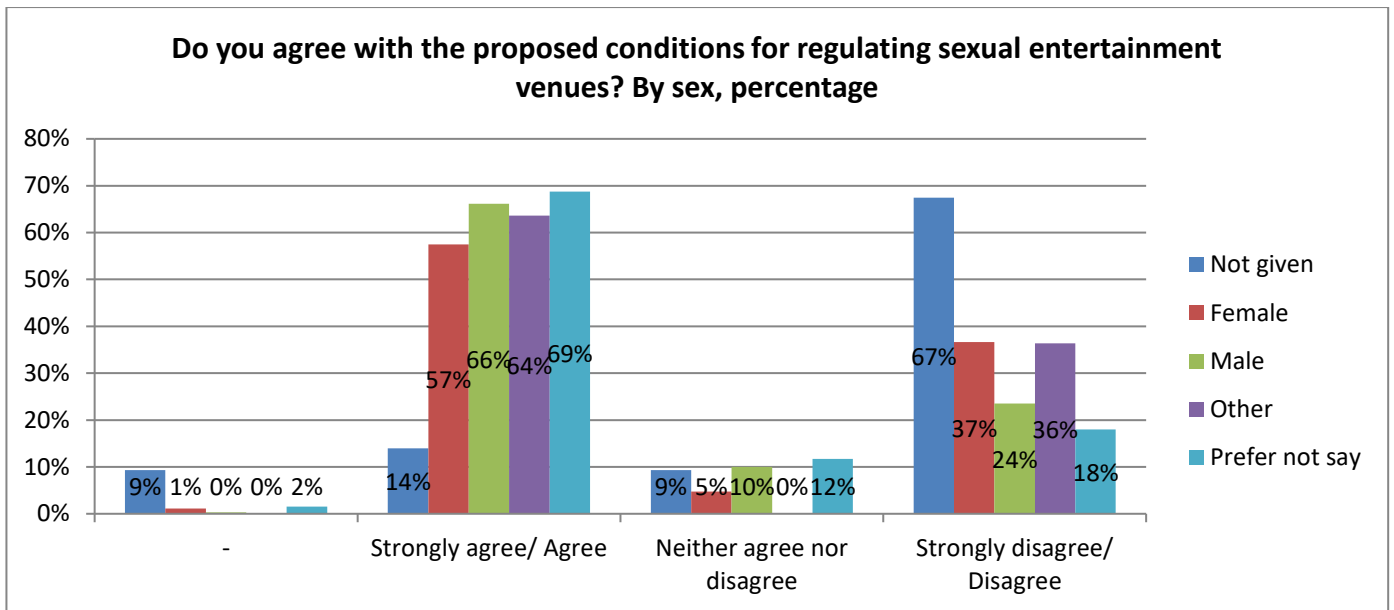
The majority of respondents (60%) agree with the proposed conditions however this is fewer, by about 22 people, than the number who agreed with the proposed policy.



Looking at the sex-split, can see that the majority of all sexes agree with the proposed conditions.



By looking at females and males only, it can be seen that males agreed with the proposed conditions 10% more than females.



Response	Female	Male
Not responded	1%	<1%
Strongly agree/ Agree	57%	66%
Neither agree nor disagree	4%	10%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	37%	24%

3.7.1 Comments

There were a total of 167 comments for this question. The main themes were:

Themes	Number of mentions	Explanation
Zero cap	39	These comments were in favour of having no SEVs in Bristol. These were mostly linked with the belief that SEVs are sexist.
SEV worker's rights	34	These comments mostly supported the idea that conditions were positive for the workers in the SEVs. However some pointed out flaws with the policy and that BCC should work with the workers to make sure the conditions helped them.
Conditions too strict	30	
Other	25	These comments were mostly referring to previous comments, or about how if the venues were not abiding by the conditions they would be shut down.
Keep the current policy	22	

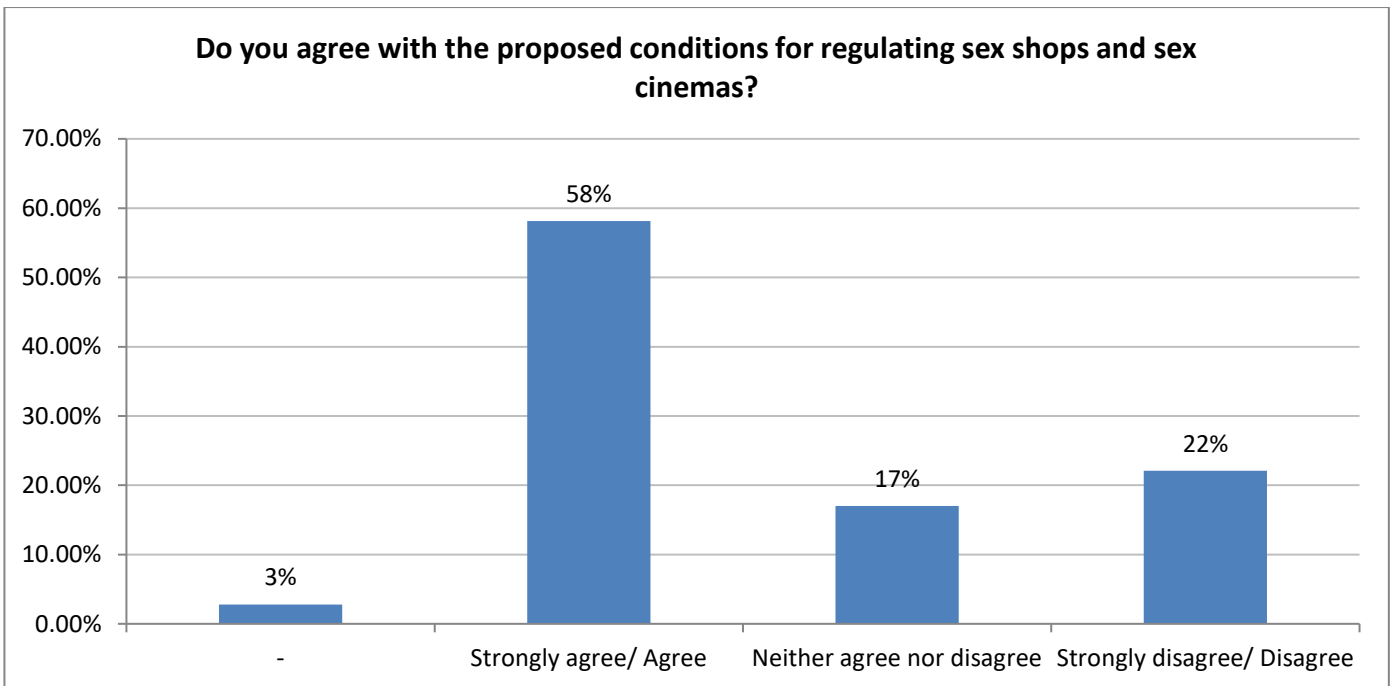
Change wording of the proposed conditions	17	These comments had suggestions for how to change the wording of the conditions.
There is a need for regulation	17	These comments supports the idea that there needs to be regulation for SEVs.
SEVs are sexist	17	These comments reiterated the idea that SEVs promote inequality.
Allow SEVS to exist	6	
Touching	5	These comments were mostly in relation to changing the wording around touching.
SEVs are highly regulated	5	
Male dancers	4	These comments related to conditions being applied to female dancers not male dancers.
Breaches happen even with conditions	3	
Change language around the marketing of SEVs	2	
Don't ban SEVs	1	
Non-licenced brothels	1	

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix E**.

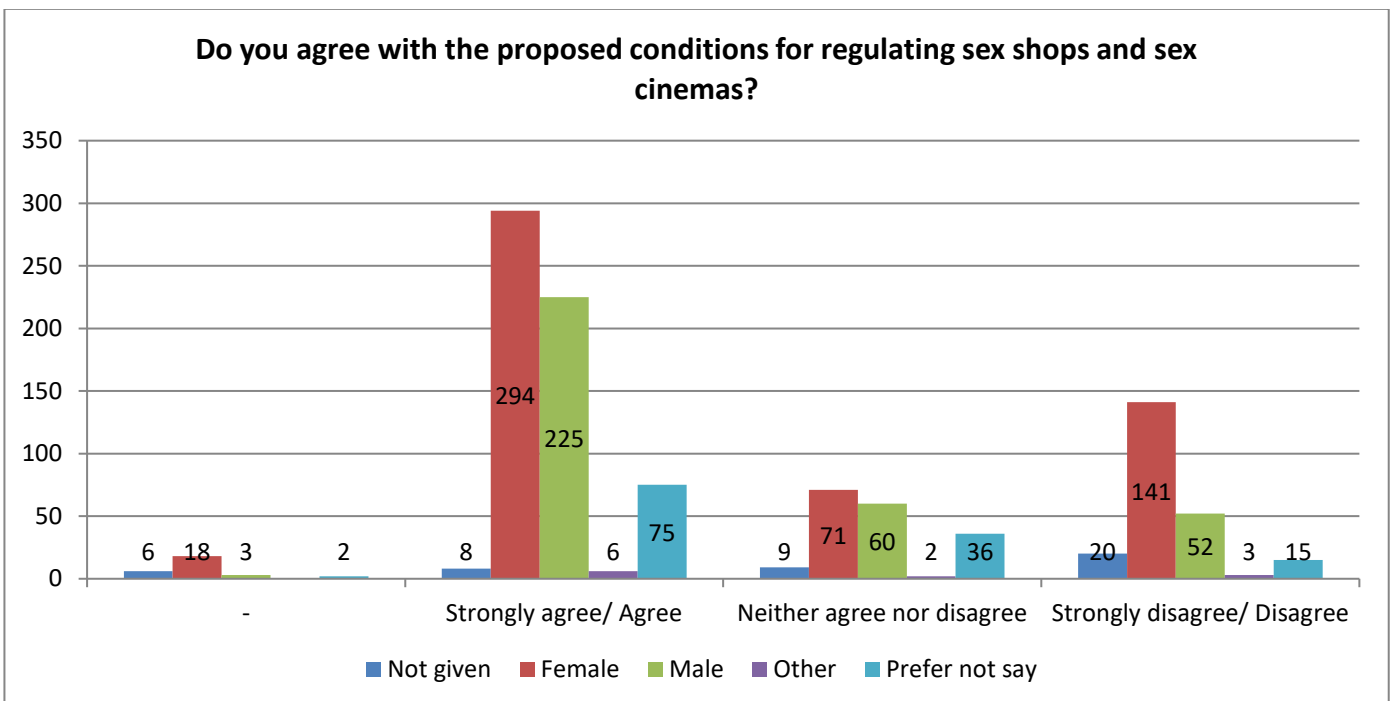
3.8 Do you agree with the proposed conditions for regulating sex shops and sex cinemas?

Respondents were asked specifically about the proposed conditions relating to sex shops and sex cinemas. A copy of the proposed conditions was available at the time of consultation.

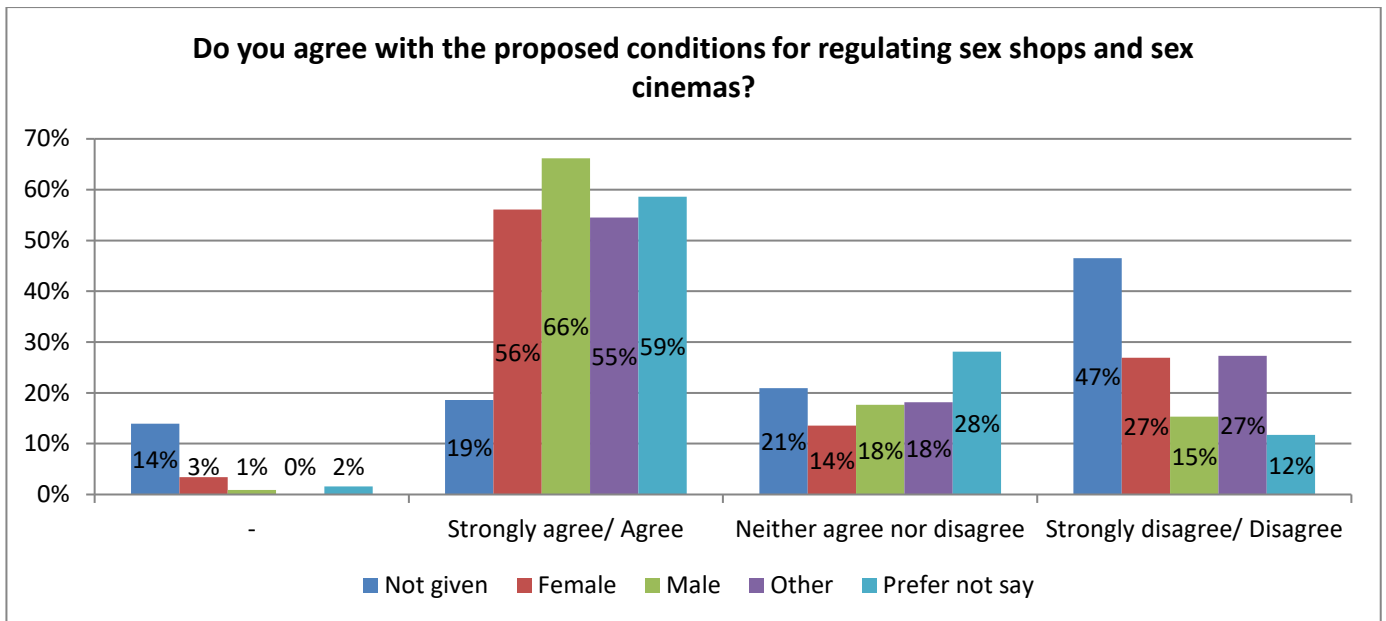
The majority of people agreed with the proposed conditions on sex shops and cinemas (58%). However this is less than the number of those who agreed with the proposed policy.



By looking at the sex-split, can be seen that the majority of all sexes agree with the proposed conditions.



By looking at the percentages of each that males are more likely to agree with the proposed conditions than females, There is a 10% difference between the males and females.



Response	Female	Male
Not responded	3%	1%
Strongly agree/ Agree	56%	66%
Neither agree nor disagree	14%	18%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	27%	15%

3.8.1 Comments

There were a total of 84 comments for this question. The main themes were:

Theme	Number of mentions	Explanation
There should be a cap on the number of sex shops and/or cinemas	23	The majority of comments agree that there should be a limit to the number – whether they are for or against sex shops/cinemas. 17 wanted zero of both sex shop and sex cinemas. 5 said no sex cinemas, but were either ok with or didn't mention sex shops.
Sex shops/cinemas need regulating	17	These comments agreed that they should be regulated if they exist.
Other	14	These were mostly referring to previous comments made.
SEVs are sexist	11	These comments reiterate that licensing these venues promote sexual violence and inequality.
Non licensed brothels/venues, sex trafficking	6	These comments ask why there has been no mention of brothels/ massage parlours in the survey.

Do we have sex cinemas/ shops?	5	These respondents weren't aware of these venues in Bristol.
Bondage, restraints	3	These comments believed that bondage restraints should either not be sold, or be discreet.
Worker's/ venue rights	3	These comments want the worker's right prioritised.
Agree with conditions	2	
Keep the current policy	2	
Want more venues	2	
The conditions are too strict	2	
Change the wording of the conditions	2	
Disagree with conditions	2	
Sex shops should be treated like other shops	2	
Add conditions	2	These comments suggest conditions that should be added to the policy.
SEVs can't be regulated	2	

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix F**.

3.9 Do you agree with the proposed numbers for each locality?

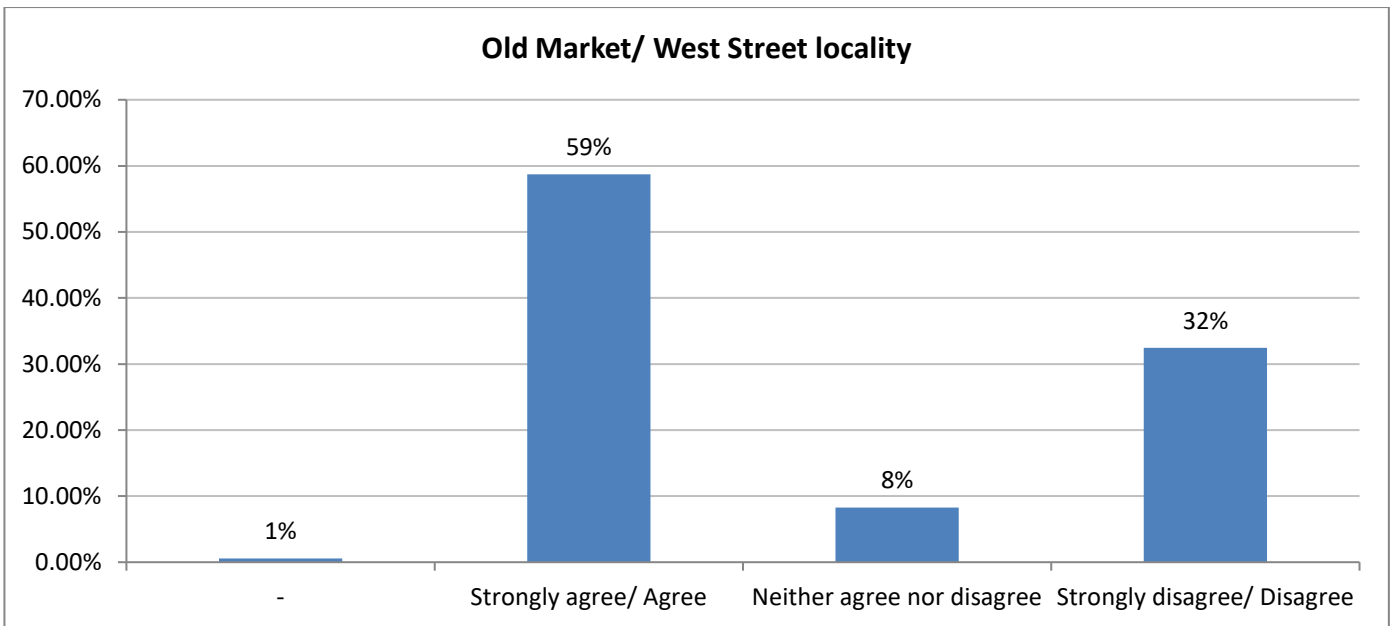
This question asked respondents to confirm whether they agreed with the proposed numbers of SEVs, sex shops and sex cinemas in the three currently defined localities of Old Market/West Street, City Centre, and Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley.

3.9.1 Old Market

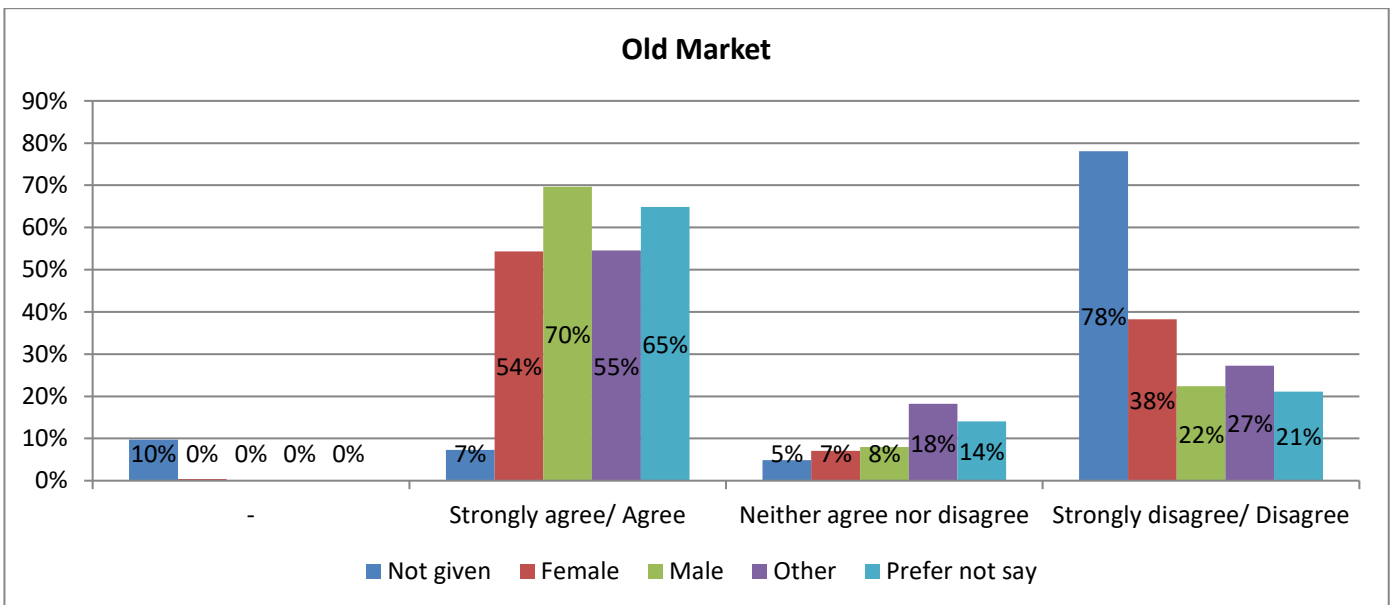
The proposed numbers for this locality are:

Type	Number
SEV	1
Sex Shop	2
Sex Cinema	0

The majority of respondents, 59%, agree with the proposed numbers of Sex Establishments in Old Market.



By looking at the percentage that each sex agreed/disagreed with the number of proposed Sex Establishments, there is a 15% difference between males and females agreeing with the number with 54% of females agreeing with the proposed number compared with 70% of males.



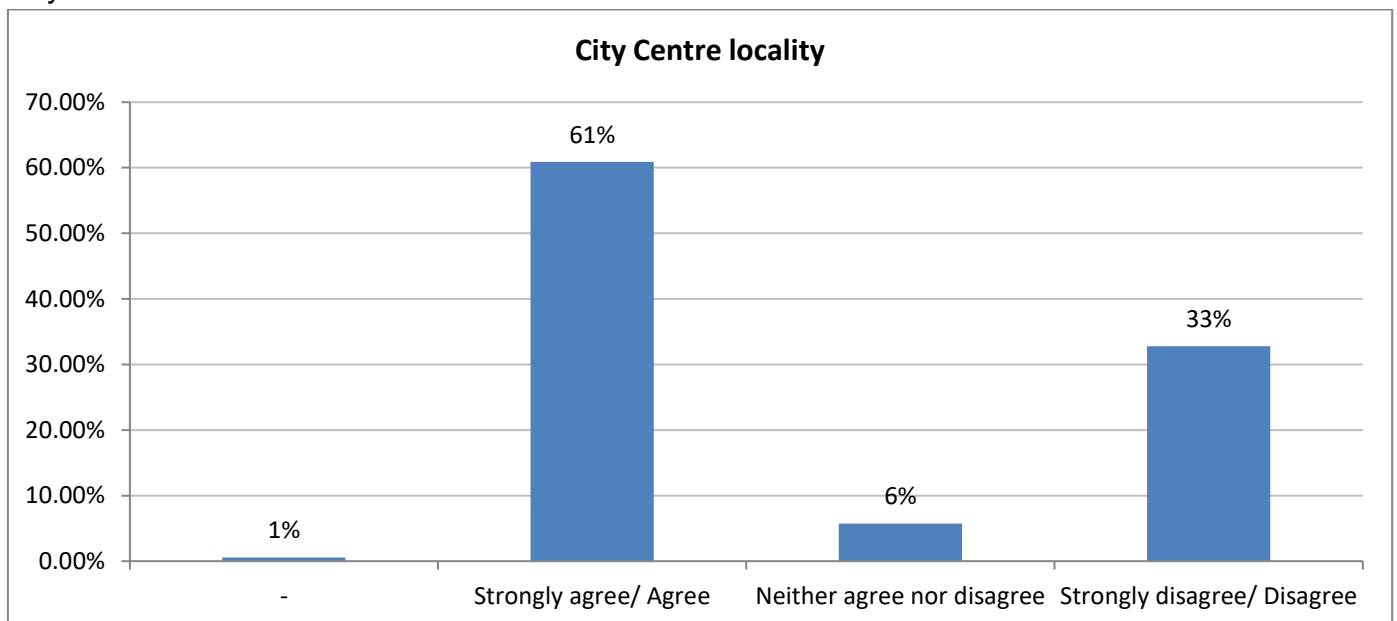
Response	Female	Male
Not responded	<1%	0%
Strongly agree/ Agree	54%	70%
Neither agree nor disagree	7%	8%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	38%	22%

3.9.2 City Centre

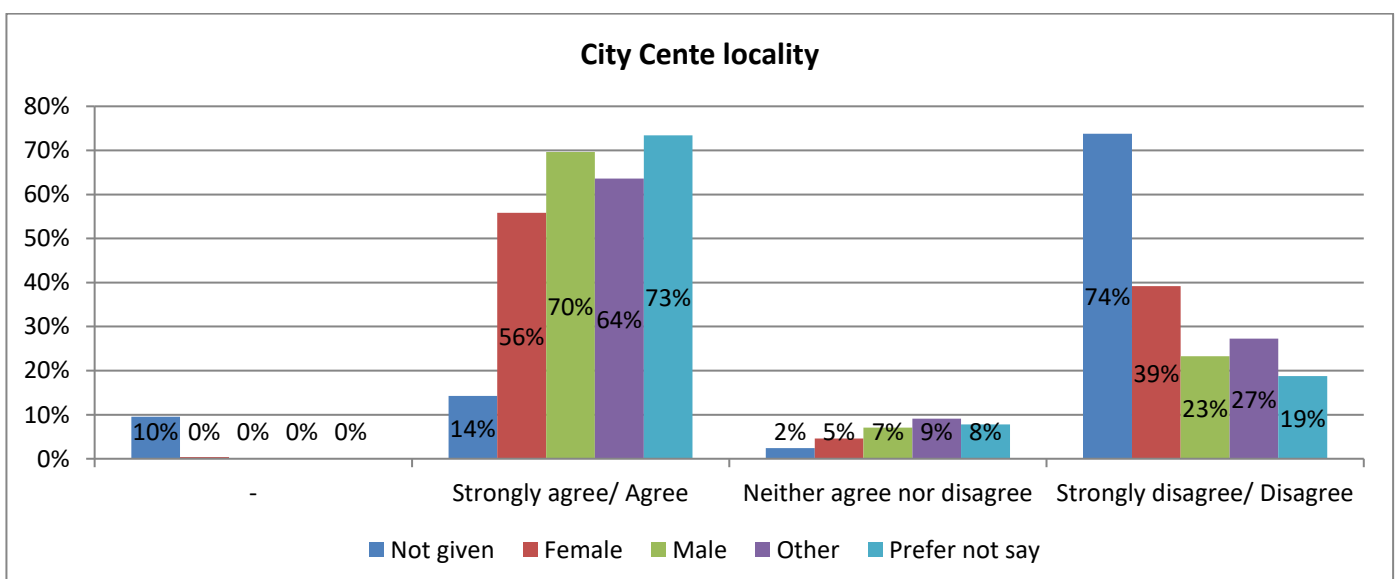
The proposed numbers for this locality are:

Type	Number
SEV	2
Sex Shop	2
Sex Cinema	0

The majority of respondents, 61%, agree with the proposed numbers of Sex Establishments in the City Centre.



By looking at the percentage that each sex agrees with the proposed number, can see that there is a 14% difference between males and females on whether they agree/disagree with the number of proposed Sex Establishments in the City Centre locality.



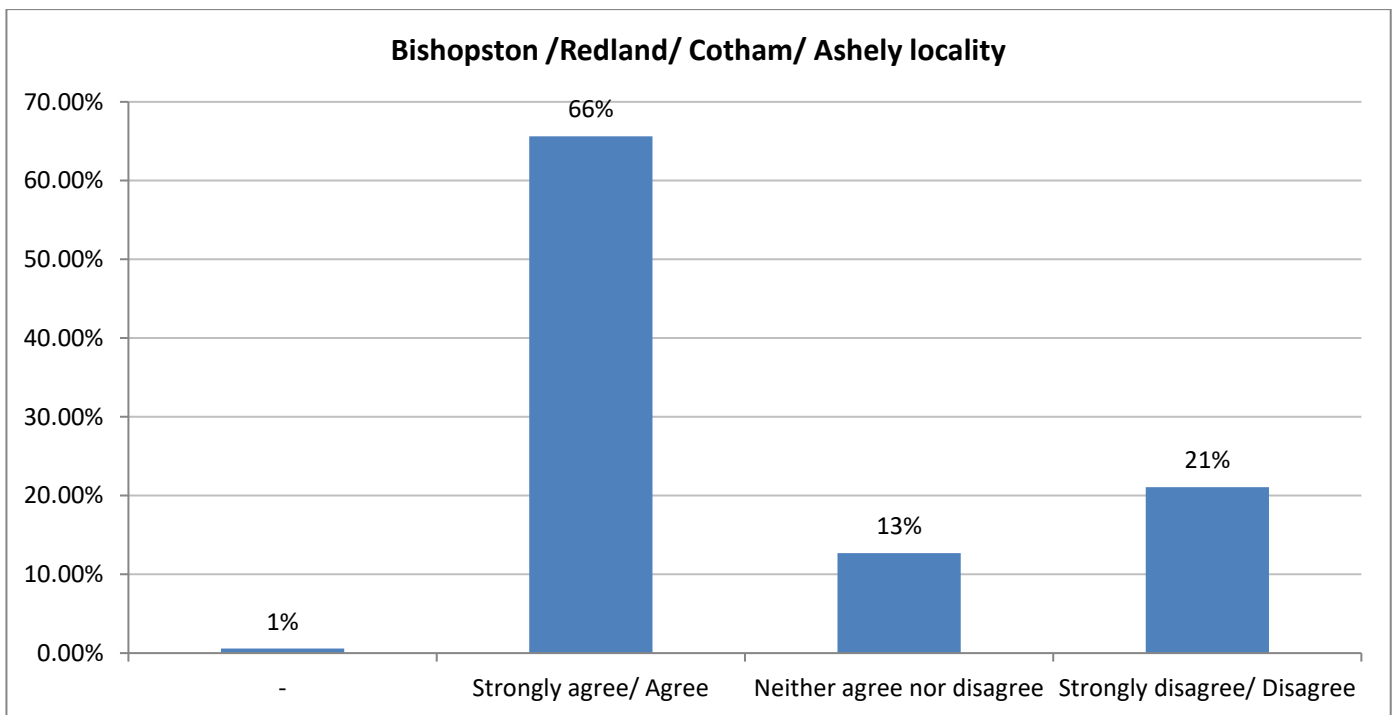
Response	Female	Male
Not responded	<1%	0%
Strongly agree/ Agree	56%	70%
Neither agree nor disagree	5%	7%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	39%	23%

3.9.3 Bishopston/ Redland/ Cotham/ Ashley

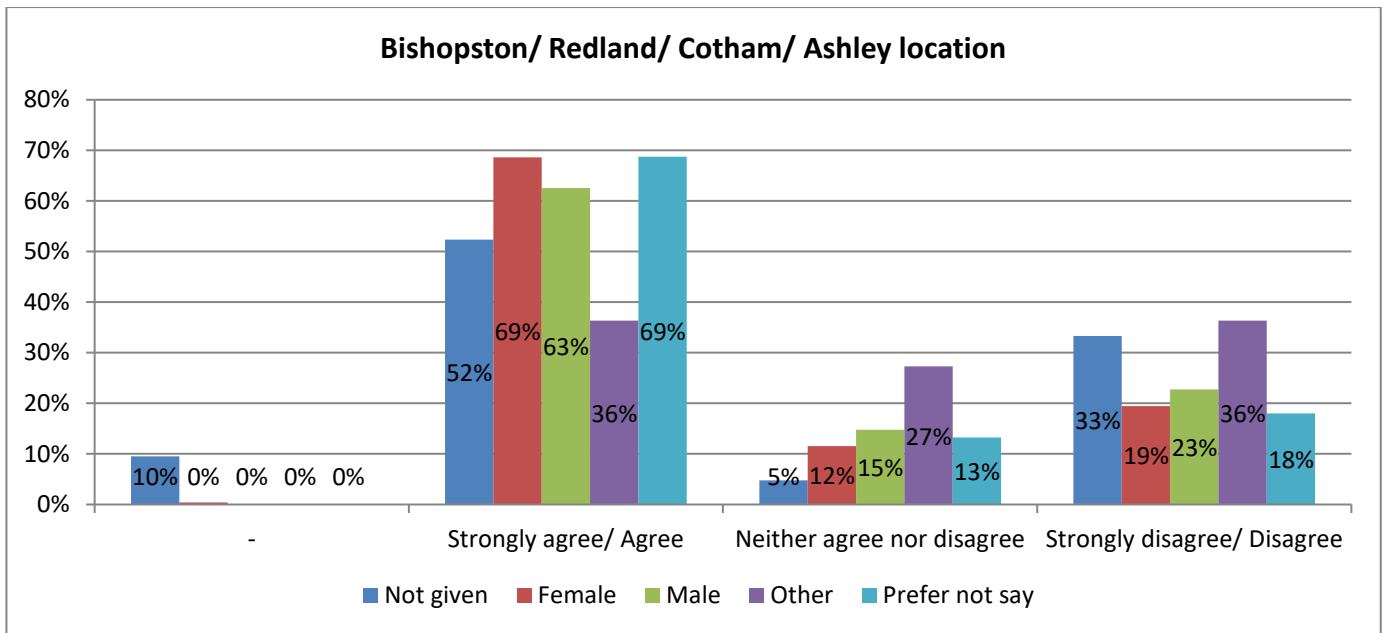
The proposed numbers for this locality are:

Type	Number
SEV	0
Sex Shop	0
Sex Cinema	0

A larger majority of respondents agreed with the numbers suggested for this locality.



By looking at the percentages per sex, females agree with this number more than males.



Response	Female	Male
Not responded	<1%	0%
Strongly agree/ Agree	69%	63%
Neither agree nor disagree	12%	15%
Strongly disagree/ Disagree	19%	23%

3.10 If you have further comments on the proposed number of sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas in the defined localities, please provide them.

This was a free-text box. There were 354 comments. The main themes were:

Theme	Number of mentions	Explanation
Supporting a zero cap	127	These comments were against having any SEVs/ sex shops. These were mostly linked with the idea that SEVs contribute to violence against women.
SEVs are sexist	88	
Venues belong in city centre	74	These comments supported SEVs existing in the city centre, as opposed to other places. They were of the opinion that this was the best and most obvious place to put them.

More SEVs, or no cap on number	51	These comments varied from the belief that there shouldn't be any limits to a couple more would be OK.
Location issues	20	These comments were asking about why only the specific three areas were chosen for allowing/refusing SEVs. These comments are sometimes linked with the 'Class issues' comments: the "more affluent" areas have none, whereas the "lower class areas" have some.
SEV worker's rights	20	These comments were mostly about the rights of the workers in SEVs to choose their work, and that working in a regulated legal club was safer than working in an illegal one. There were a couple of comments that pointed out that dancers are not employed by the clubs, and so do not have the same employee rights as other workers in the club (i.e. bartenders etc).
Other	12	These comments were either referring to previous comments, or were unrelated to the question.
Keep the current SEVs, or current number of SEVs	11	These comments want to keep either the current policy, the current number of SEVs, or the current venues at their locations.
Brothels or massage parlours	11	These comments were mostly about the fact that there are existing illegal brothels or massage parlours, and they are not capped, so why should legal venues be capped.
Well run places are ok	10	These comments pointed out that the SEVs that currently exist are well run.
Trafficking	10	These comments linked SEVs with the practice of human/sex trafficking.
Class issues	9	These comments were commenting on the policy's consequence would be that the "more affluent" areas have none, and the "lower class areas" would have multiple SEVs.
Having SEVs in Bristol is ok	9	These comments believed that having SEVs was either fine, or beneficial to Bristol.
SEVs should be regulated	9	These comments supported having SEVs regulated.
Sex shops should be treated separately	6	These comments believed that sex shops were separate from SEVs. Most were not against sex shops, but were against SEVs.

Limiting the number is positive	7	These comments agreed with having a cap, however they did not say whether there should be more/less.
Disagreement with “feminists”	6	These comments were against the perceived notion that “feminists” are against SEVs, and that this is a bad thing.
Male dancers	5	These comments pointed out that the policy was not conditioning male dancers.
LGB+ equality	5	These comments supported the idea that some clubs should still be open so that members of the LGB+ community have access to SEVs.
Financial reasons for dancing	4	These comments were mostly against SEVs, and mentioned that some dancers may be doing so due to dire financial circumstances.
SEVs less disturbing than clubs	4	These comments supported SEVs by saying that their experience of SEVs was better than in normal nightclubs.
Supply & demand	3	
Sex cinemas fine	2	

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix G**

3.11 Additional submissions as part of consultation response

A number of documents were uploaded to support the individual consultation responses. Some of these responses contain personal information or were requested not to be made public. They are attached in full at **Appendix O**.

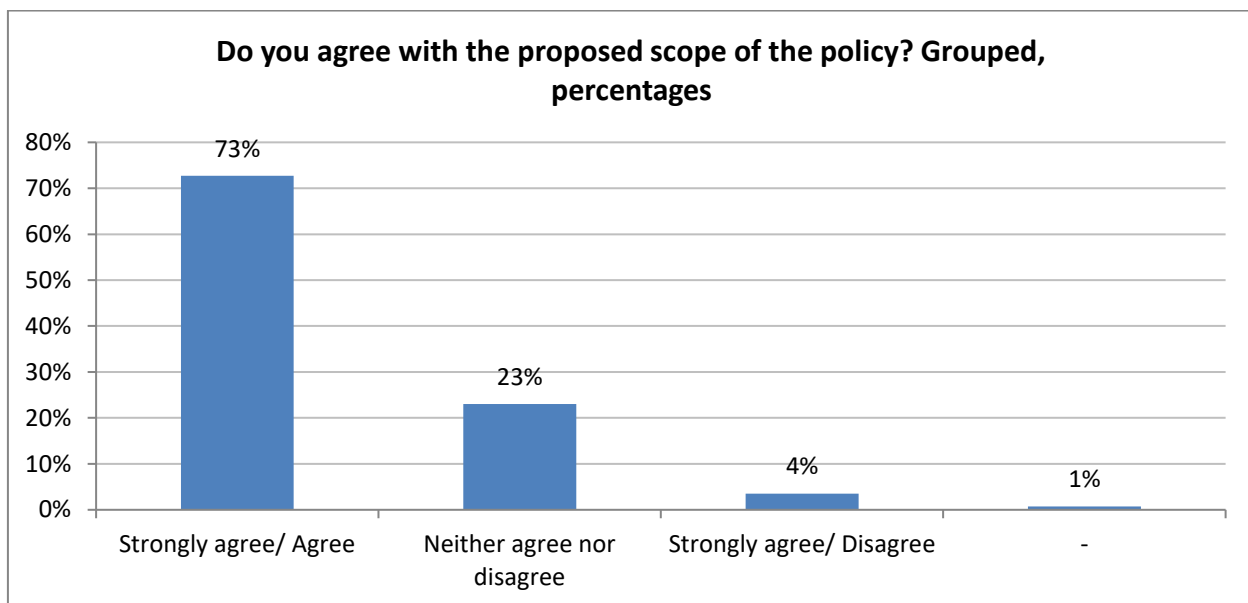
4. Citizen Panel Responses

4.1 Introduction

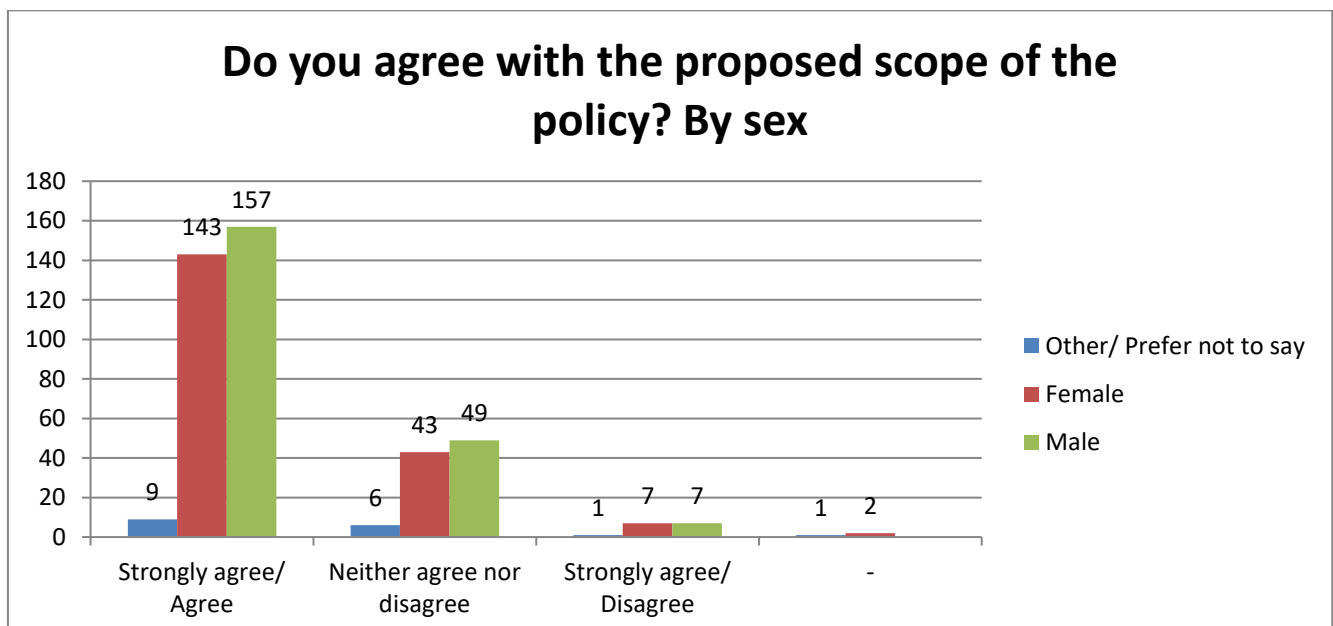
The consultation survey was made available to the Citizen Panel for one month during the consultation period. The questions provided were the same as in the wider consultation, and the same supporting documents were available to commenters.

4.2 Do you agree with the proposed scope of the policy?

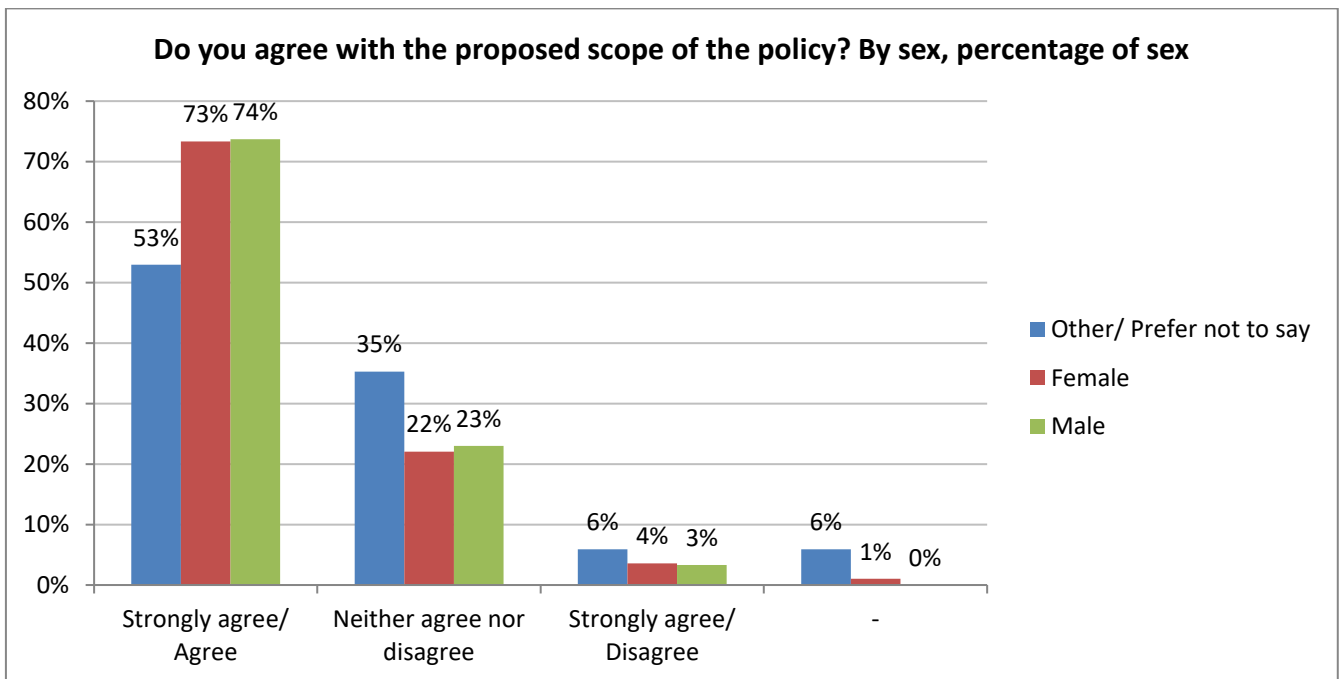
The majority of people (73%) agreed with the proposed scope of the policy.



When looking at the split by sex, the majority of respondents were men and agreed with the proposed scope of the policy.

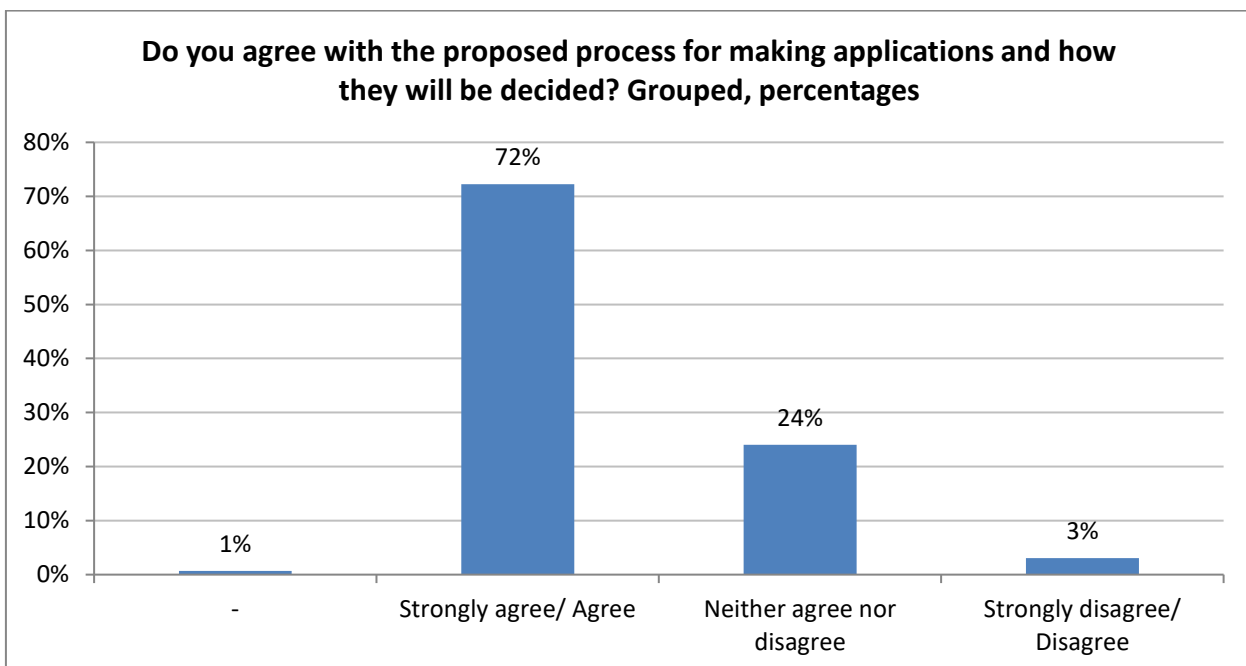


By looking at the percentage that each sex agreed/disagree with the proposed scope of the policy it can be seen that a similar percentage of both males and females agreed with the policy.

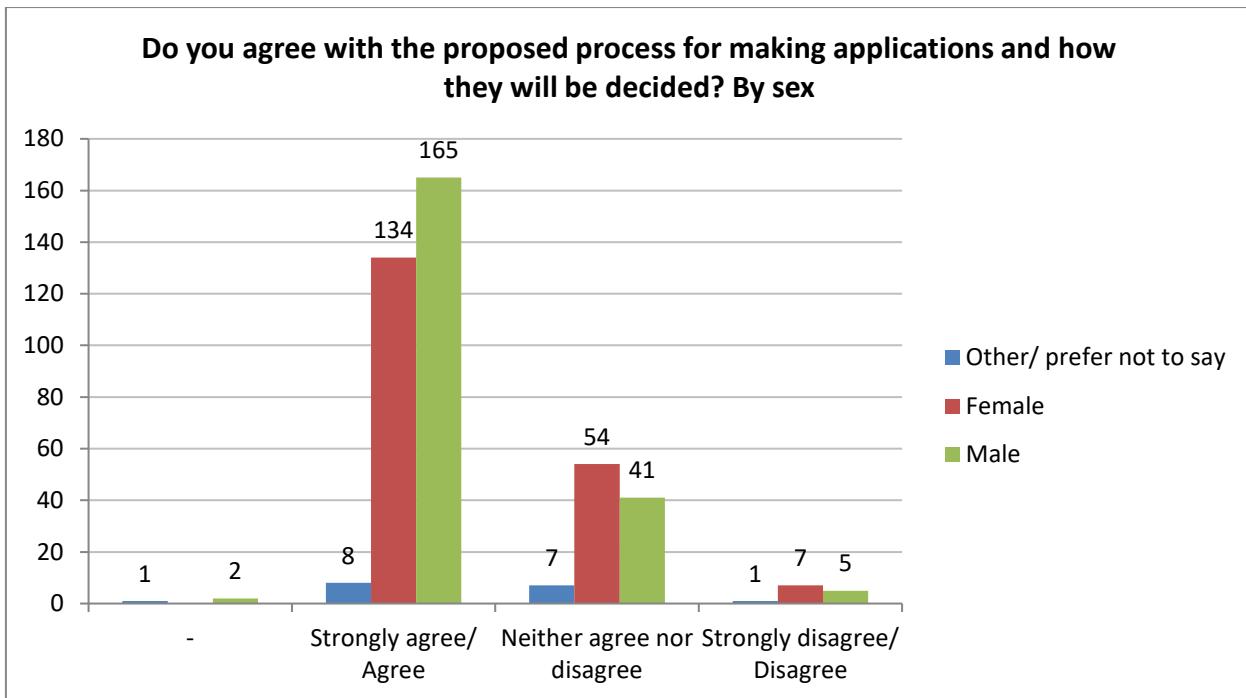


4.3 Do you agree with the proposed process for making applications and how they will be decided?

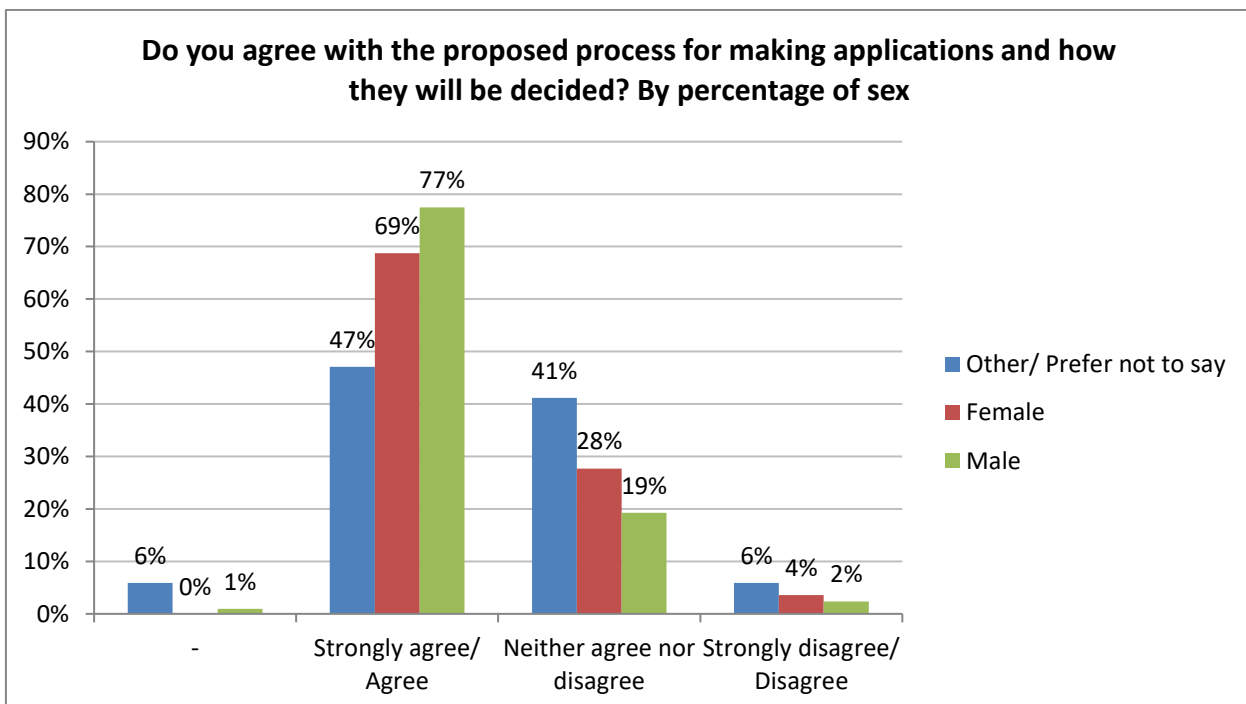
The majority of people (72%) agreed with the proposed process for making applications.



Looking at the split by sex, it can be seen that the majority of males and females agreed with the proposed application and decision making process.



Looking at the percentage of each sex that agreed or disagreed with the proposed process females disagreed with the proposed process more than males, at 28% compared with 19%.



4.3.1 Comments

There were a total of 70 comments for this question. The main themes were:

Topic	Number of comments	Notes
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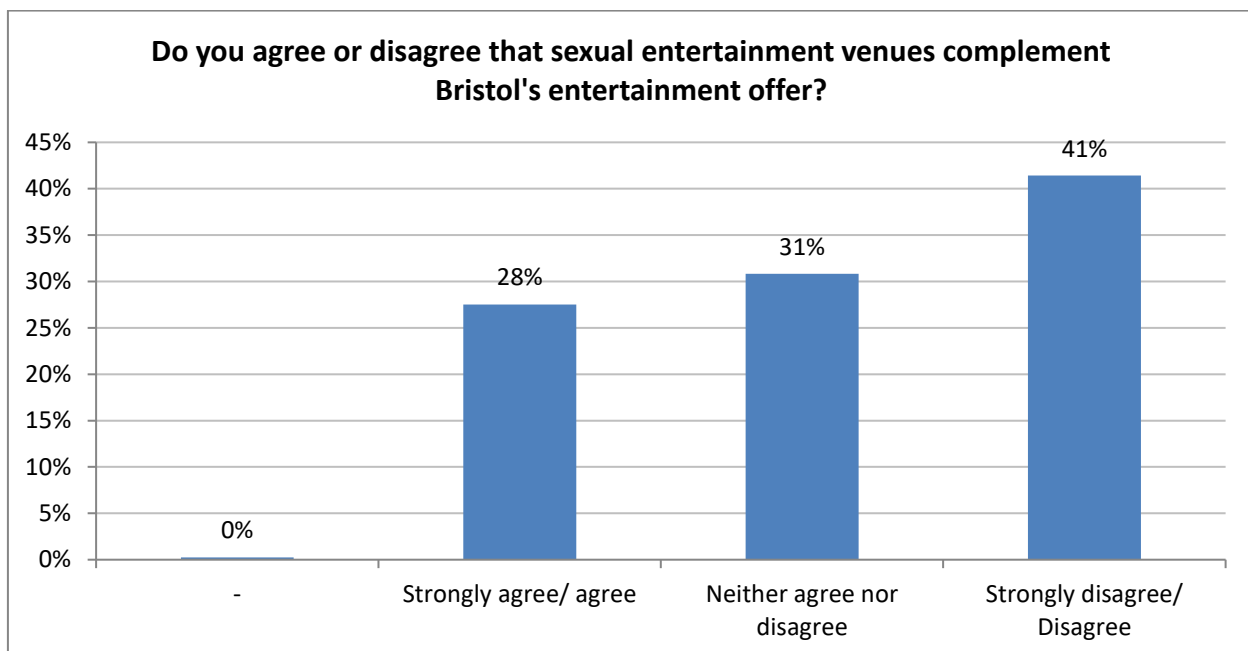
Other	11	
Importance of safety of any performers	10	These commenters believe that the performer's safety should be considered in the policy. These included making sure conditions are followed, the performers are not coerced into working there, and that their working conditions are safe.
Comments on specific policy points	10	
SEVs have a negative impact on women's rights	8	These comments linked SEVs to the objectification of women's bodies and sexual violence.
Comments on committee/decision maker	7	Mentioning the importance of a fair and balanced decision making process
The location is important	5	These comments believed that where the SEVs were was important, several suggesting they should not be in the City Centre but instead in industrial estates
Comments against SEVS	5	
Enforcement of policy is important	5	
Comments about the survey or the policy they were given to read being too long	5	
Should allow SEVs and be less restrictive	4	
Want SEVs regulated rather than 'pushed underground'	3	
Disagree with specific policy point	3	
DBS/ Other checks needed	3	
Comments about the waivers	2	These comments said the reasons for granting a waiver should be made public and there is no guidance on when a waiver may be applied for or granted.
The length of time that an SEV worker has been a resident here should be	2	

considered in the application	
No mention of massage parlours	2
Belief that neighbours should be informed of a new application	2
Sex shops should be treated differently to SEVs	1
Area doesn't feel safe with SEVs in	1
Too many SEVs opening up	1
Worries about trafficking/slavery	1

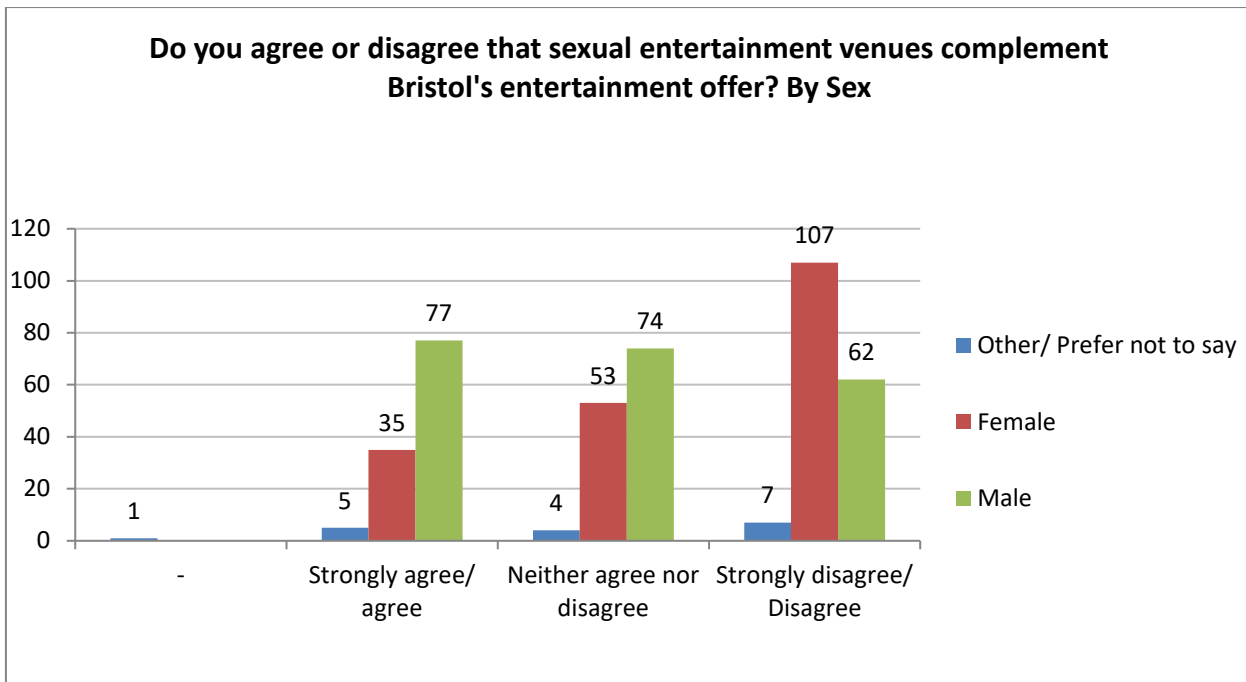
The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix H**.

4.4 Do you agree or disagree that sexual entertainment venues complement Bristol's entertainment offer?

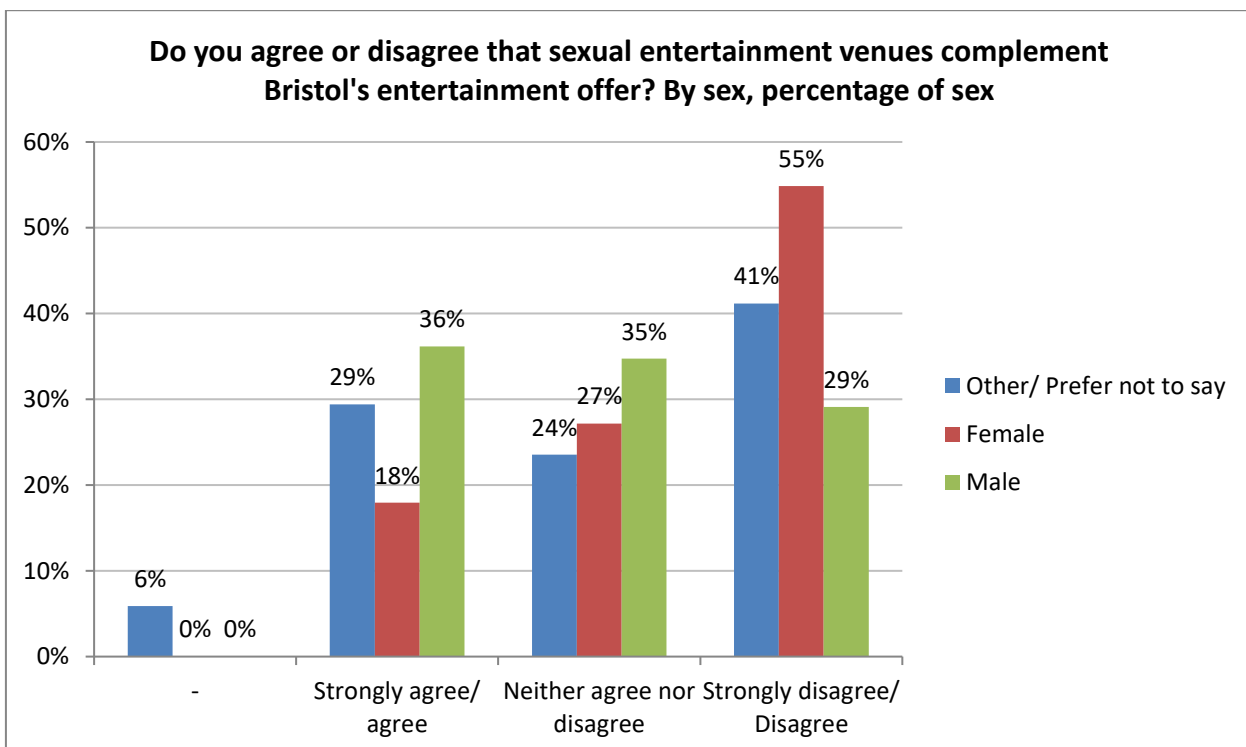
The majority of respondents (41%) disagreed with this statement, however a significant proportion neither agreed, nor disagreed at 31%. These are both higher than the number that agreed with the statement which was 28%.



When you look at the split by sex males are evenly spread across all responses, whereas females were more likely to disagree with the statement.



By looking at the percentage of each sex that agreed/disagreed with the statement it can be seen that the percentage of females who disagreed with the statement is almost double the percentage of males who disagreed.



4.4.1 Comments

There were a total of 90 comments for this question. The main themes were:

Topic	Number	Notes
SEVs do not compliment the entertainment offer	28	
SEVs have a negative impact on women's rights	24	
Other	19	
SEVs should be regulated	19	
SEVs do compliment the entertainment offer	15	
Would rather SEVs are regulated rather than 'going underground'	12	
The importance of worker's rights and protection	6	Both having regulation and reducing risk to performers
Comment on the locations	5	For example not near schools, maybe in industrial estates
Comments on impact on safety (public & worker's) due to SEVs in area	3	
No mention of massage parlours in policy	2	
Economic factors	2	Such as money coming into the city because of these venues
Children should not be exposed to inappropriate content	1	
Importance of SEVs for LGBT+ communities	1	

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix I**

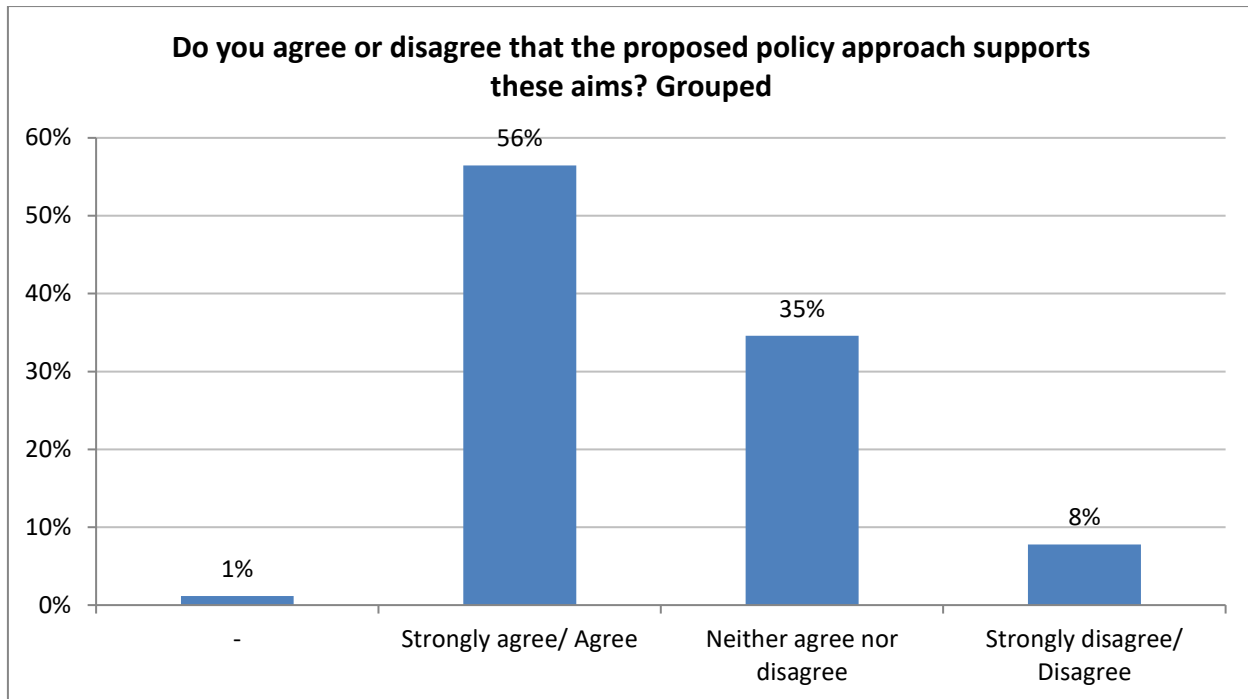
4.5 Do you agree or disagree that the proposed policy approach supports these aims [of the European Charter of Equality of Women and Men in Local Life]?

A statement accompanied this question as follows:

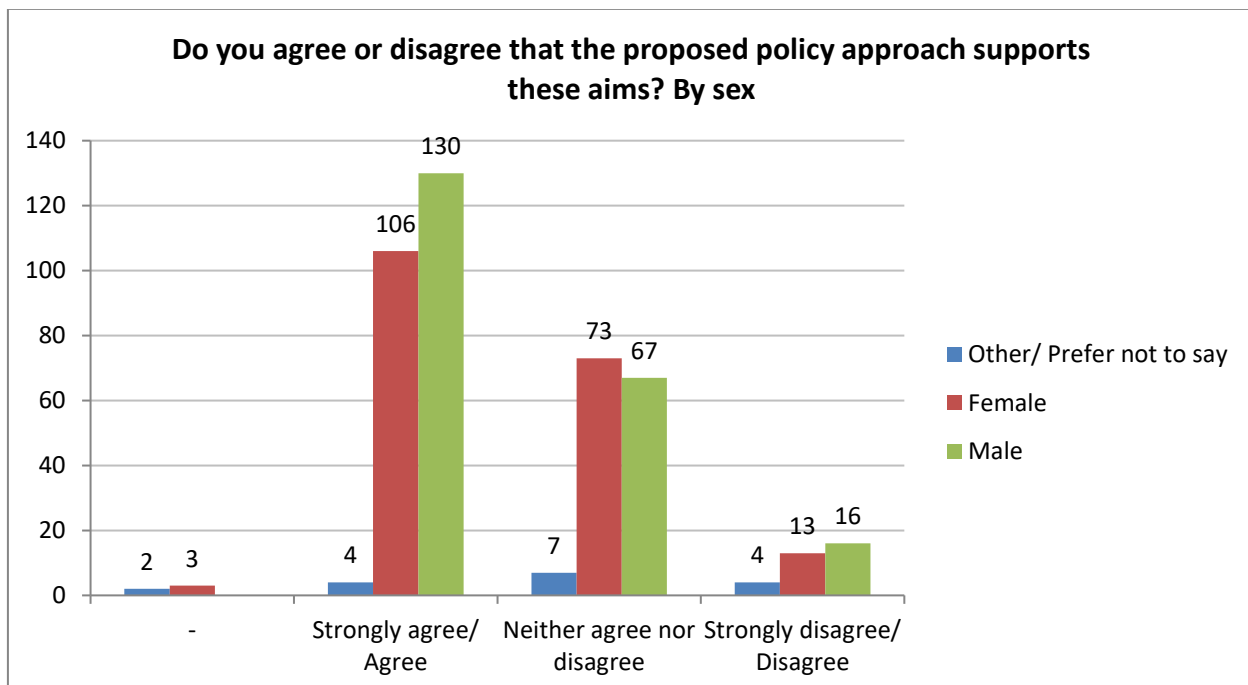
Bristol has signed up to the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life and has a duty to consider the need to promote equality for persons with "protected characteristics" and to have due regard to the need to i) eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; ii) advance equality of opportunity; and iii) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. Protected characteristics include age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that the proposed policy approach supports these aims.

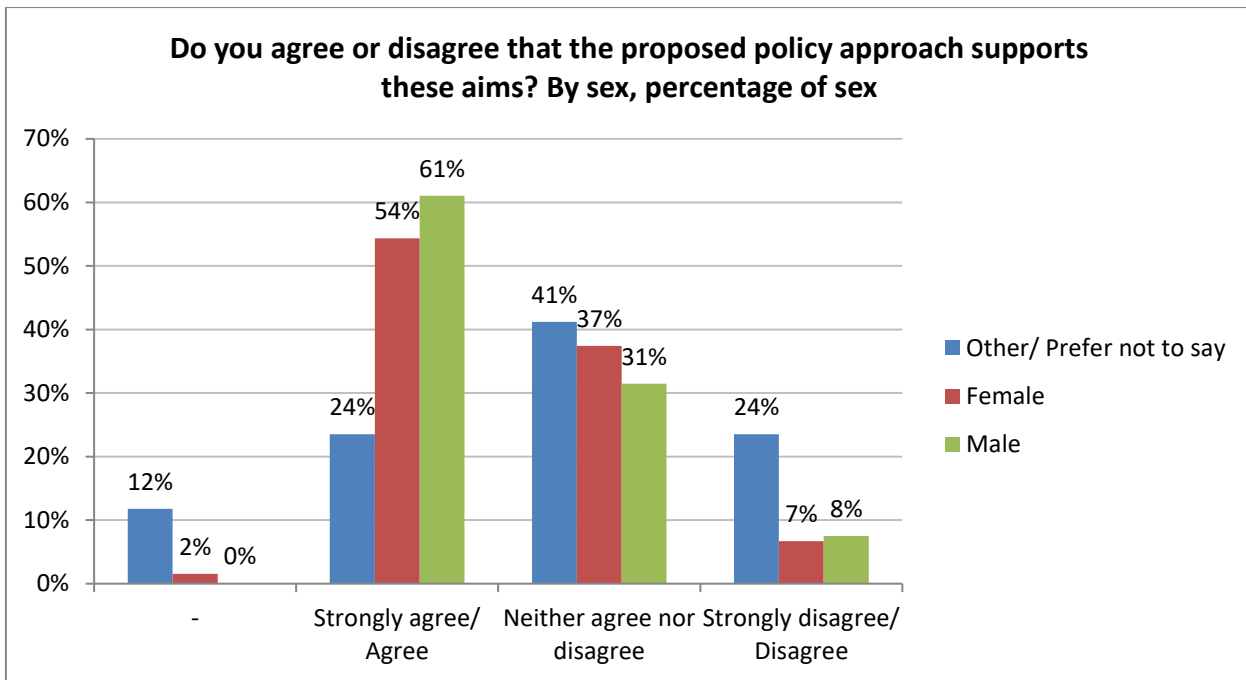
The majority of respondents (56%) agreed that the proposed approach supported the aims.



Looking at the split by sex it can be seen that the majority of males and females agreed that the proposed policy supports these aims.



By looking at the percentage of each sex that agreed/disagreed with the question it can be seen that a large percentage of all groups neither agreed nor disagreed with the question. The majority of males and females agreed that the policy supported these aims.



4.5.1 Comments

There were a total of 51 comments for this question. The main themes were:

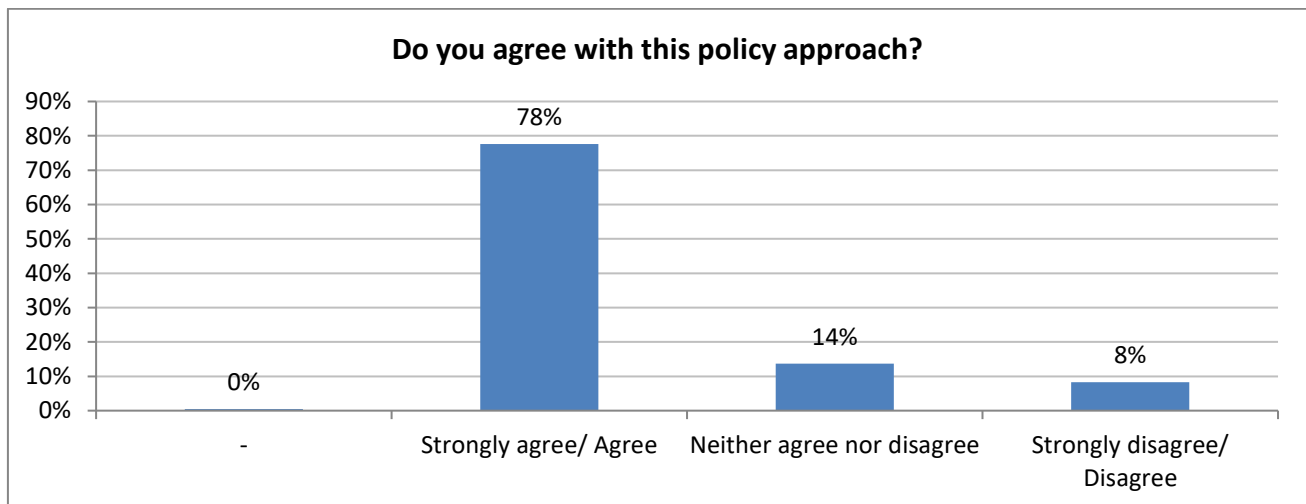
Subject	Number	Notes
Other	12	
The policy does not support the Equality Charter	11	This mostly comes from the idea that SEVs are by definition not able to promote equality.
References to women's rights	8	Including points that: The definition of nudity for women is different from for men, which is not equal SEVs have a negative impact on women's rights
References to workers & performers rights	6	
Agree that the policy promotes the Equality Charter	5	
regulated/ not underground good	4	
Comments on the survey itself	4	For example about the language used and the long policy document it's referring to
Comment on policy points	3	Change definition of nudity, should include 'consent' and 'education'
other' rights	3	
The policy should be enforced and the SEVs monitored properly	2	
Issues with the waiver clause	2	

The policy is too restrictive	1
The SEVs should not be near ‘a women’s refuge’, for example	1
SEVs can also be seen as spaces for LGBT+ people	1

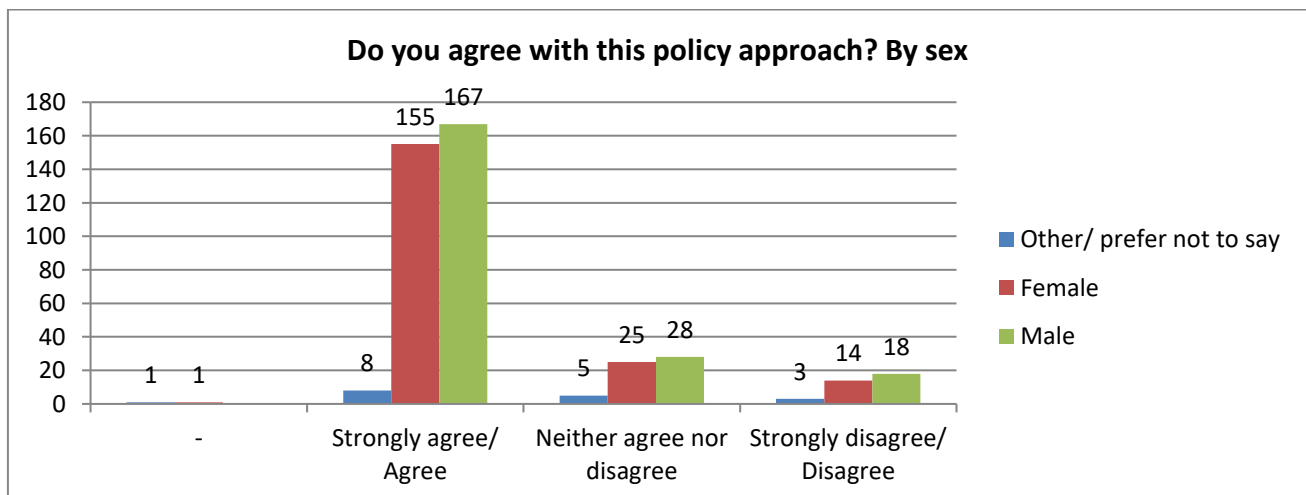
The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix J**.

4.6 Historically we have licensed a small number of SEVs with the aim of safeguarding people in Bristol by strictly regulating lawful activity. Do you agree with this policy approach?

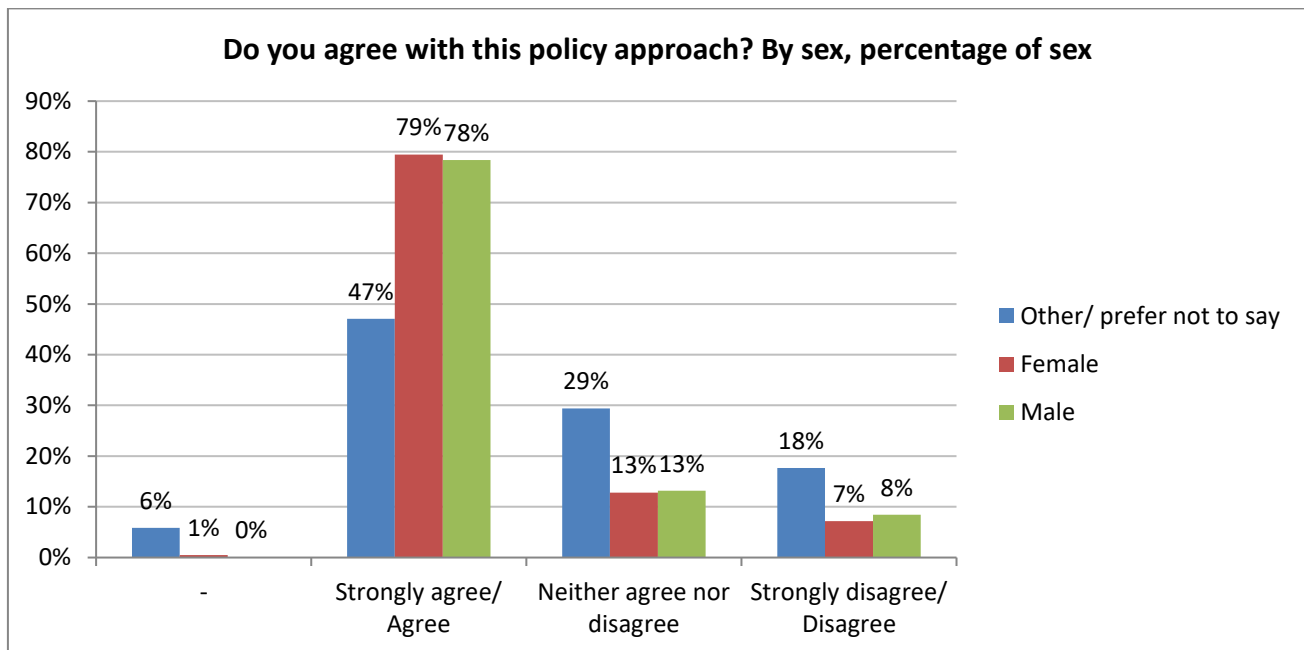
The majority of respondents (78%) agreed with the policy approach of strictly regulating a small number of SEV’s.



Looking at the split by sex it can be seen that the majority of all sexes agreed with the policy approach.



By looking at the percentages that each sex agreed/disagreed it can be seen that the percentage of males and females is similar that agreed is similar at 79% and 78% respectively.



4.6.1 Comments

There were a total of 58 comments for this question. The main themes were:

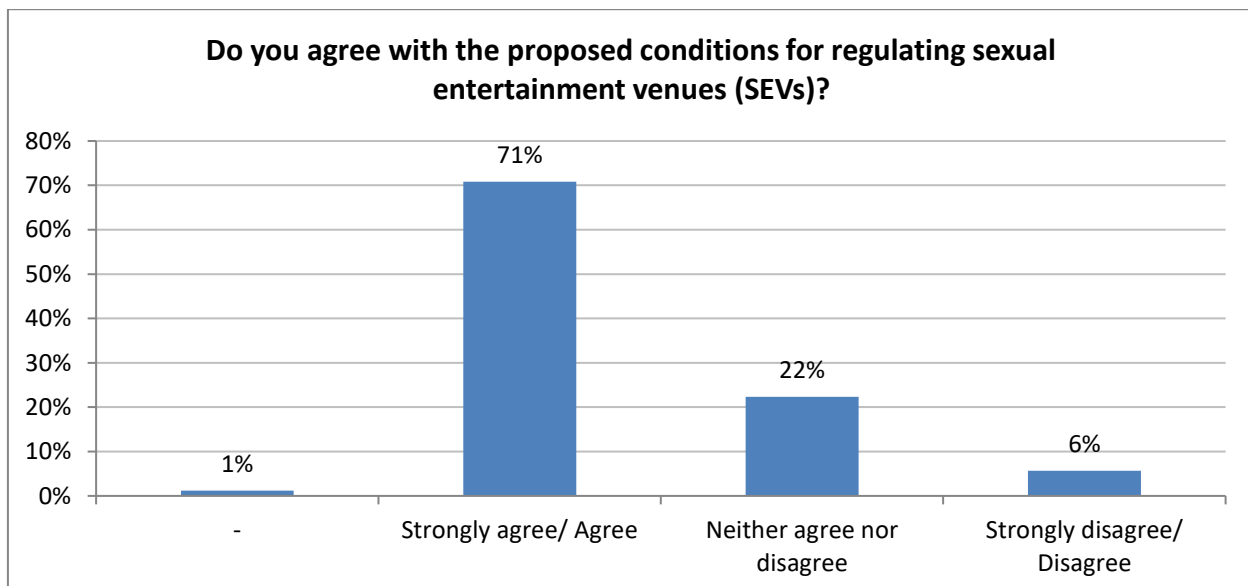
Subject	Number	Notes
Other	11	
Worker's rights	10	In general, agreeing it is important to protect the performers in their place of work, and that this policy appears to do this
No SEVS should be licensed	10	
The importance of regulating the SEVs so they do not go underground	8	
References to women's rights	7	Mostly around the idea that SEVS have a negative impact on women's rights
Enforcement of conditions and policy is important	5	
There needs to be a limit	5	These limits were not zero
There should be no limit	5	
The importance of the location	3	One comment was against any SEVs, one wanted them in other places, one thought it was ok so long as the local people were ok with it

when licensing them	
The policy is too restrictive	3
Some SEVs are aimed at the LGBT+ community, or more should be	2
No mention of massage parlours	2
References to a link between SEVs and possible crime	2
Surprise at the number of sex shops in the area	1
Well run businesses should be allowed, irrespective of the cap	1

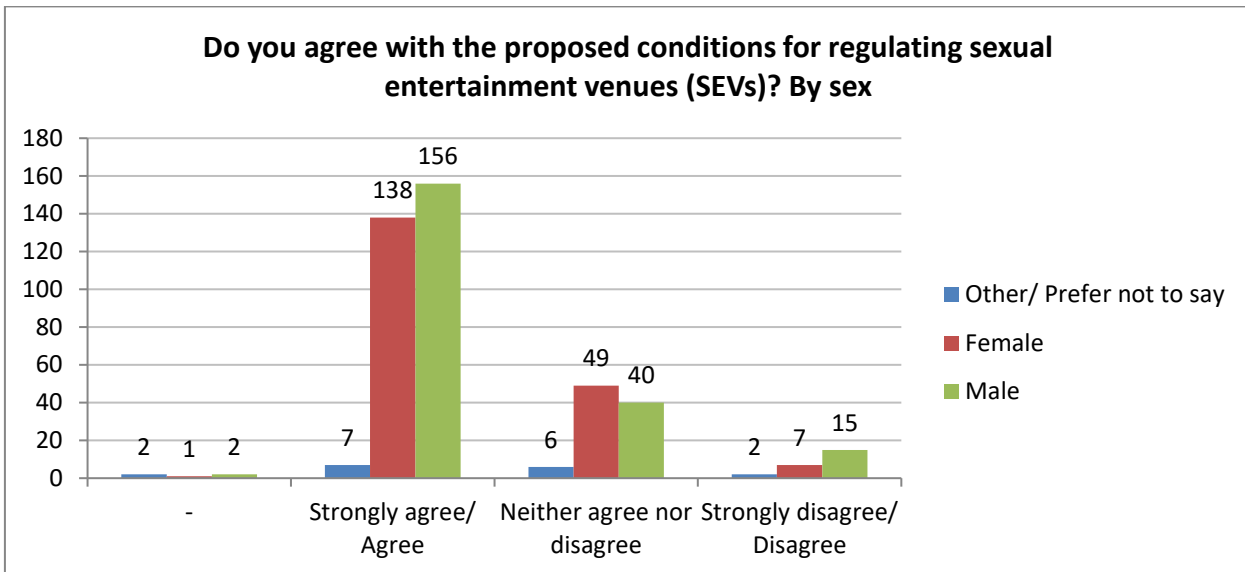
The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix K**.

4.7 Do you agree with the proposed conditions for regulating sexual entertainment venues?

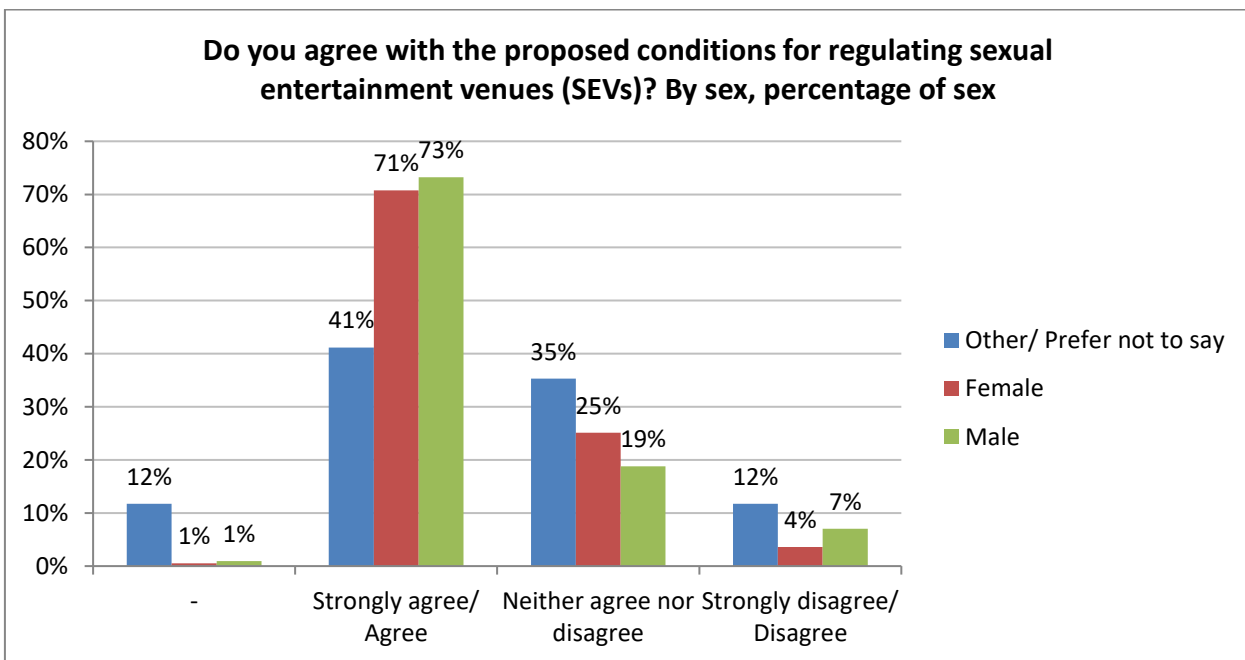
The majority of respondents (71%) agreed with the proposed conditions for regulating sexual entertainment venues.



When looking at the split by sex it can be seen that more females than males neither agreed nor disagreed with the conditions.



By looking at the split by sex it can be seen that those in the other/prefer not to say category were relatively evenly split between agreeing and neither agreeing nor disagreeing. Both males and females predominantly agreed with the proposed conditions.



4.7.1 Comments

There were a total of 34 comments for this question. The main themes were:

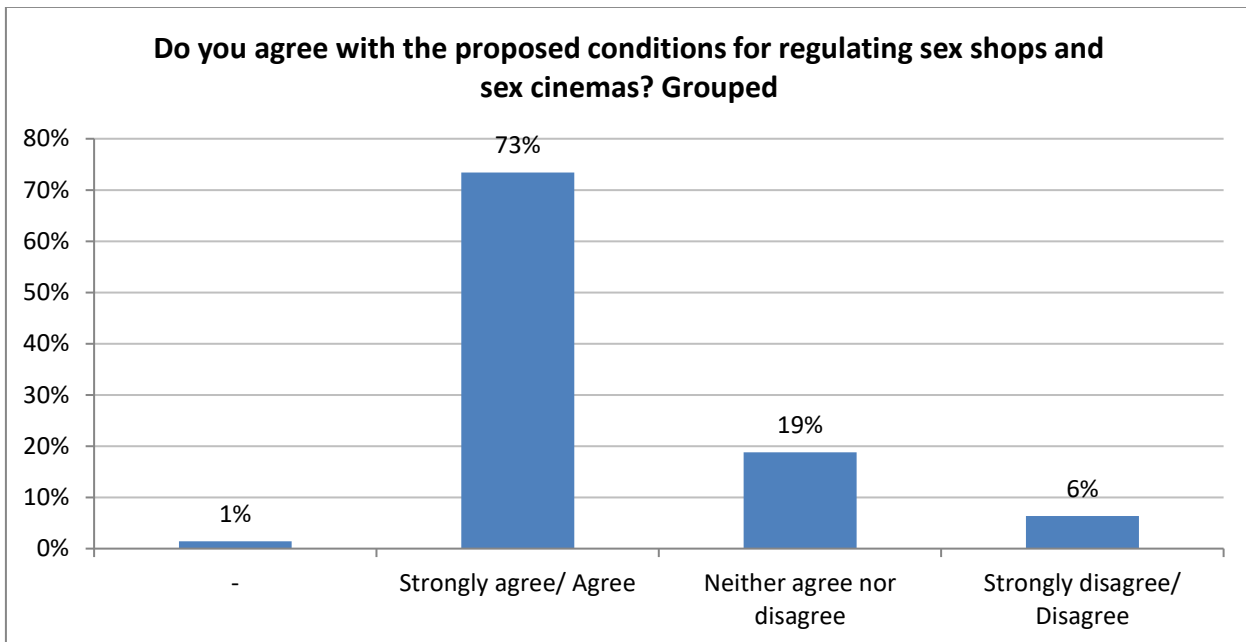
Subject	Number	Notes
Other	11	
Specific policy suggestions	8	
There should be no SEVs	5	

References to women's rights	4	Including mentions of the 'restraints' or 'acts of force'
The importance of enforcement	4	
If we have SEVs then the conditions are good ones	3	
Wanting worker's rights to be protected	2	
The importance of venues being regulated	2	
Not within 2 miles of any school	1	
The link between SEVs and sexual assaults	1	
The policy is too restrictive	1	

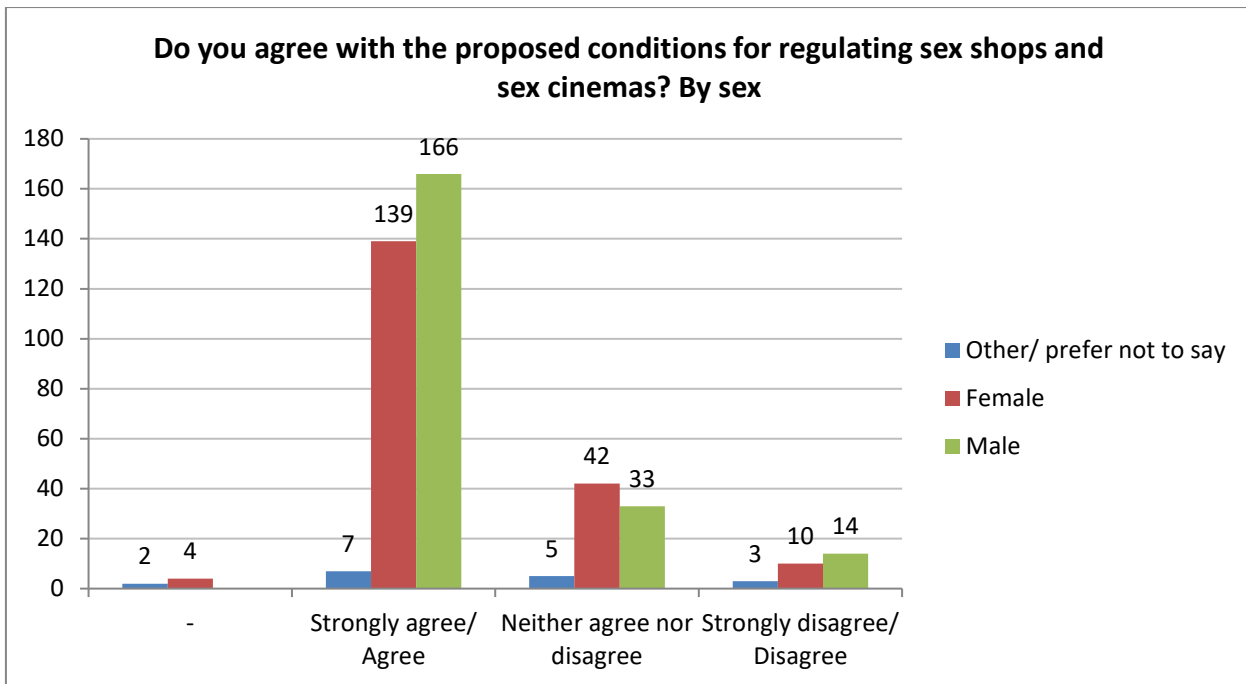
The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix L**.

4.8 Do you agree with the proposed conditions for regulating sex shops and sex cinemas?

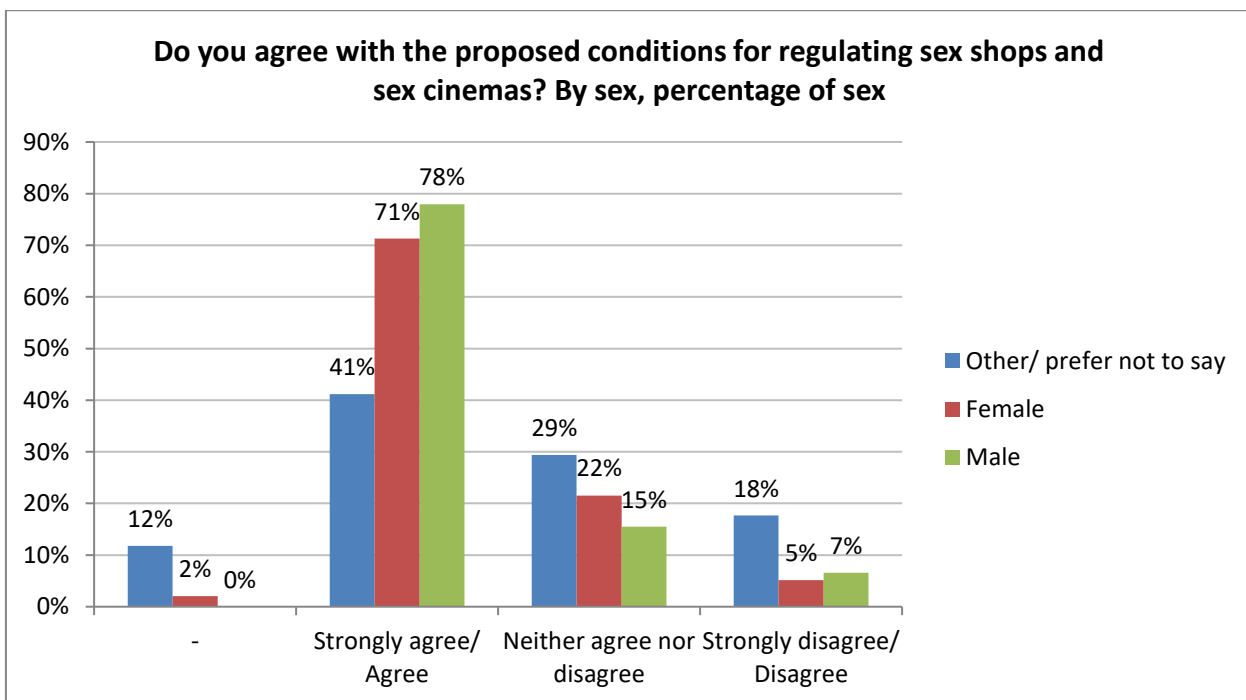
The majority of respondents (73%) agreed with the proposed conditions for regulating sex shops and sex cinemas.



Looking at the split by sex it can be seen that the majority of all sexes agreed with the proposed conditions for regulating sex shops and sex cinemas.



By looking at the percentage that each sex agreed/disagreed with the proposed conditions it can be seen that females and those in the other/prefer not to say category disagree with the proposed conditions more than males.



4.8.1 Comments

There were a total of 26 comments for this question. The main themes were:

Subject	Number	Notes
Sex shop policy suggestion	6	

References to SEVs or Sex establishments having a negative impact on women’s rights	4
Sex cinema policy suggestion	3
Don’t want any sex establishments	3
Regulation of sex establishments is important	3
The conditions should be enforced	3
Other	2
Comments agreeing with the conditions	2
Comments about letting the market regulate the number of SEVs	2
Not within 2 miles of any school	1
Disabled accessibility	1
The policy is too restrictive	1
Comment about the survey itself	1

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix M**.

4.9 Do you agree with the proposed numbers for each locality

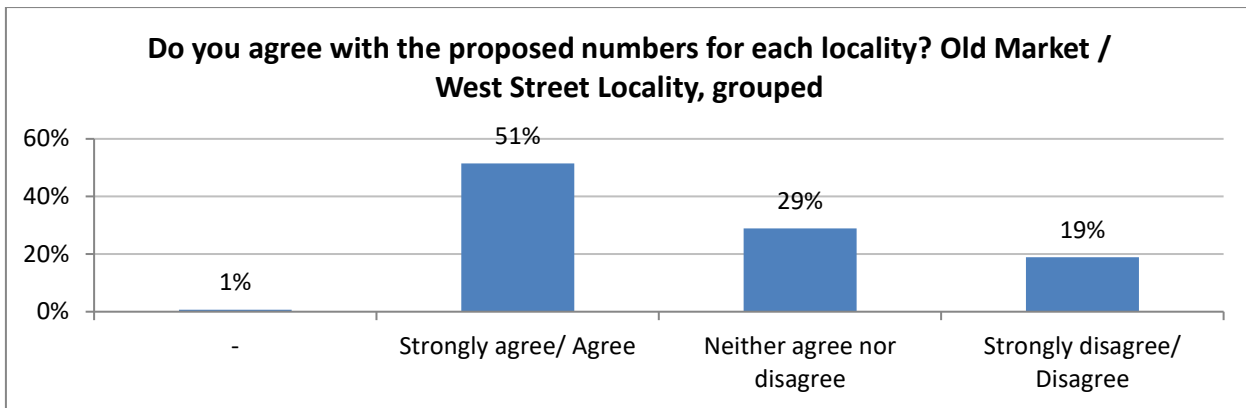
This question asked respondents to confirm whether they agreed with the proposed numbers of SEVs, sex shops and sex cinemas in the three currently defined localities of Old Market/West Street, City Centre, and Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley.

4.9.1 Old Market

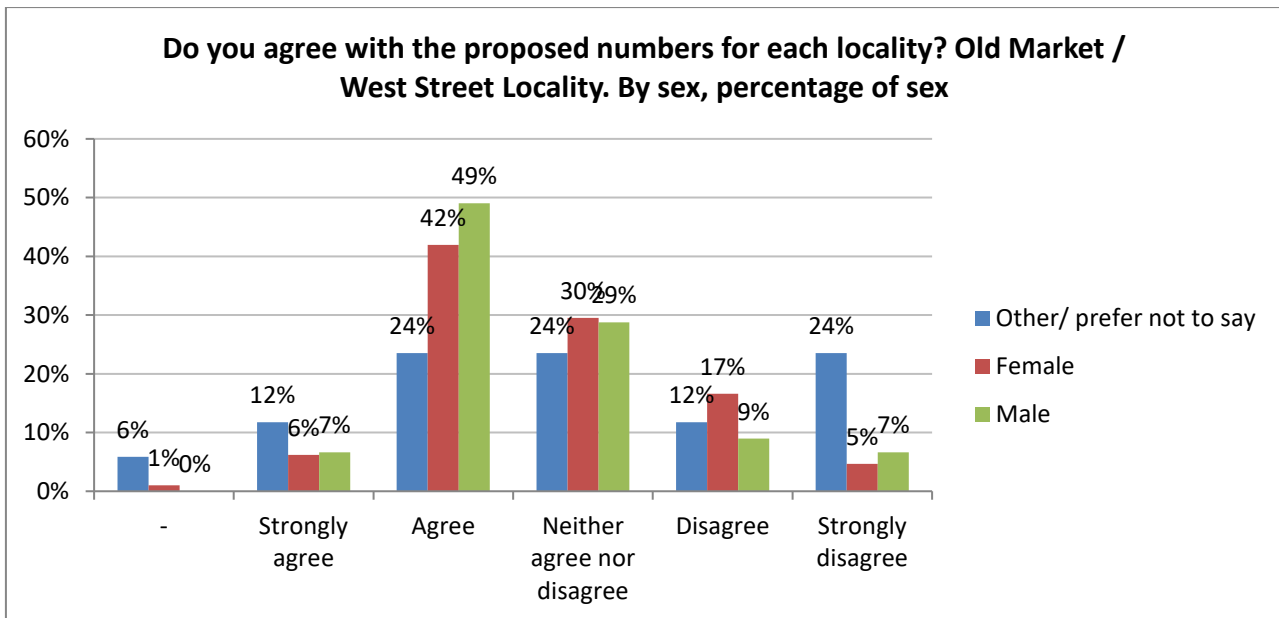
The proposed numbers for this locality are:

Type	Number
SEV	1
Sex Shop	2
Sex Cinema	0

The majority of respondents (51%) agreed with the proposed numbers for the Old Market locality, however a significant proportion (29%) neither agreed nor disagreed.



By looking at the percentage that each sex agrees/disagrees with the proposed number the majority of all sexes agree with the proposed numbers and a significant percentage neither agree nor disagree.

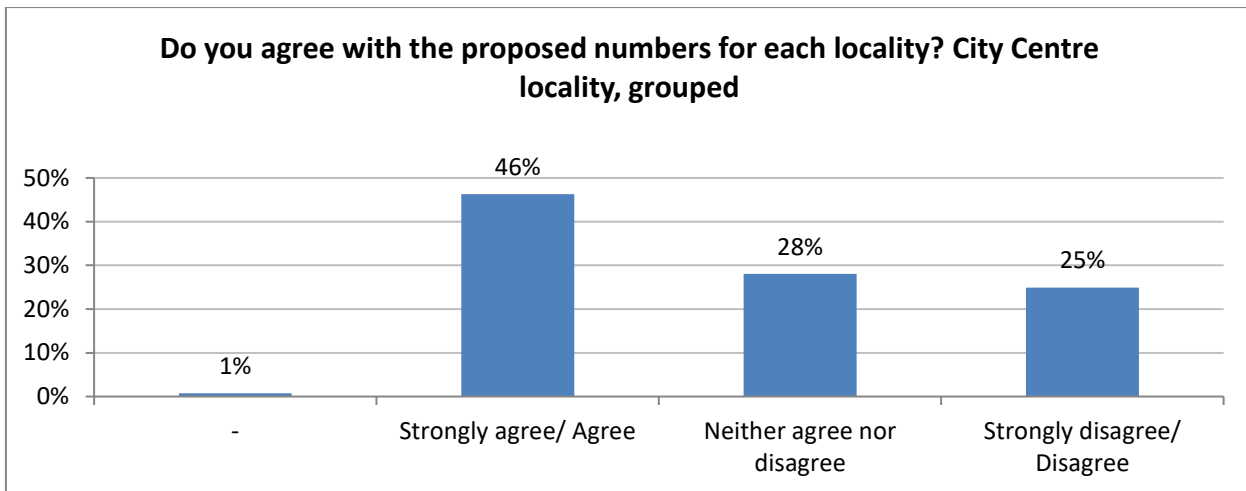


4.9.2 City Centre

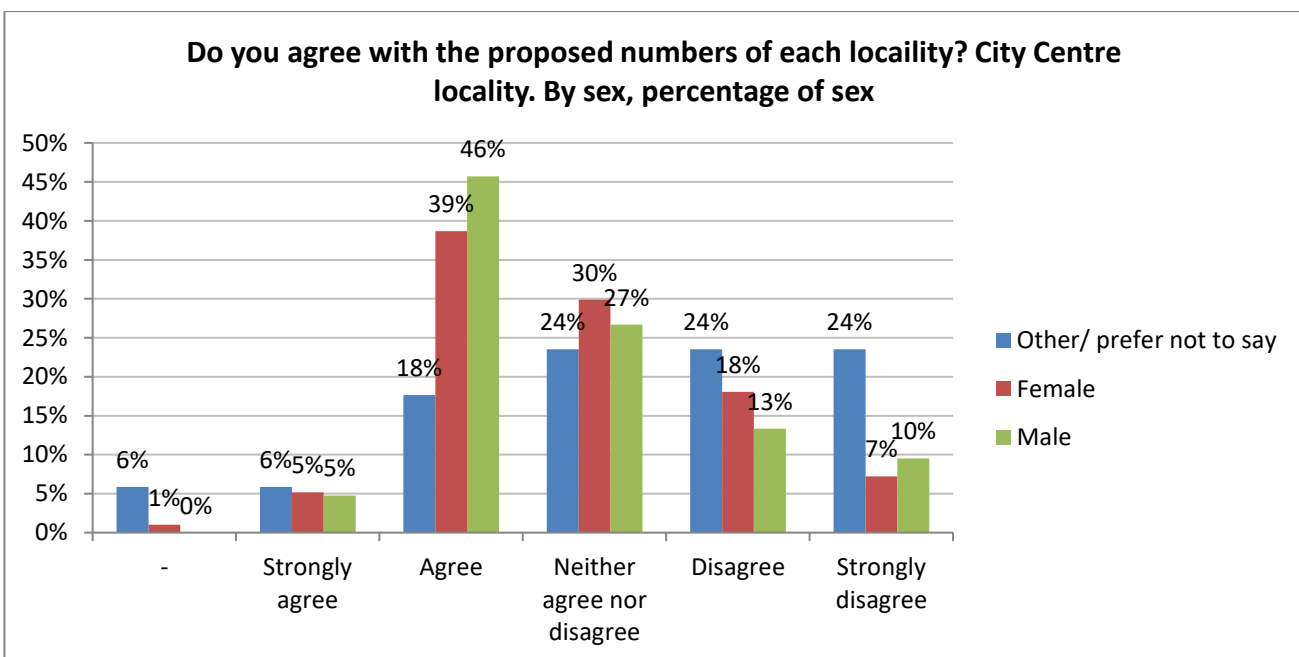
The proposed numbers for this locality are:

Type	Number
SEV	2
Sex Shop	2
Sex Cinema	0

The majority of respondents (46%) agreed with the proposed numbers for the city centre, however the remainder of responses were fairly evenly split between neither agree nor disagree, and disagree at 28% and 25% respectively.



By looking at the percentages of each sex that agreed/disagreed with the proposed numbers a significant number of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposals, with the majority of respondents agreeing with the proposals.

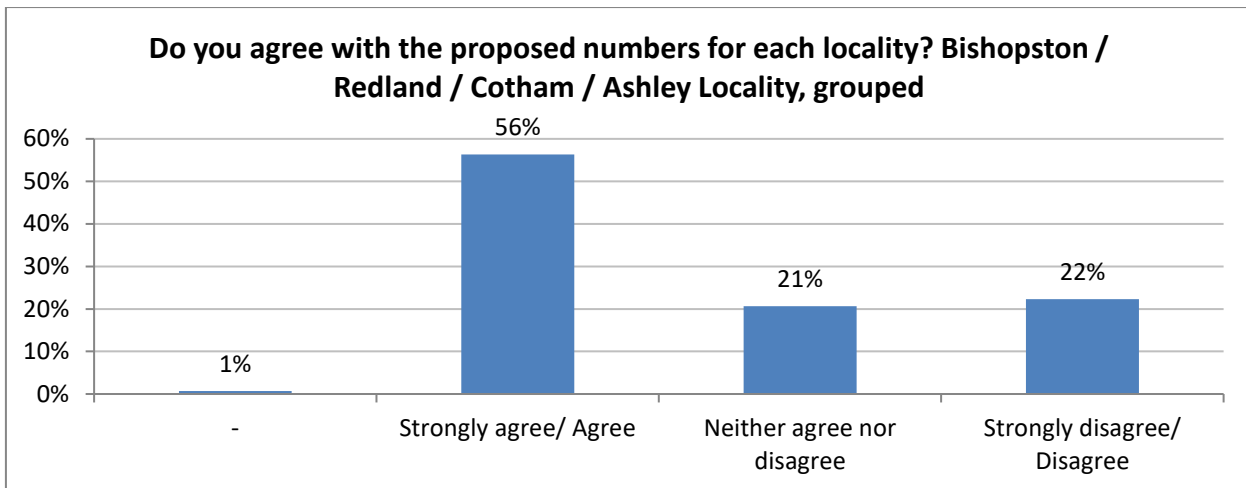


4.9.3 Bishopston/ Redland/ Cotham/ Ashley

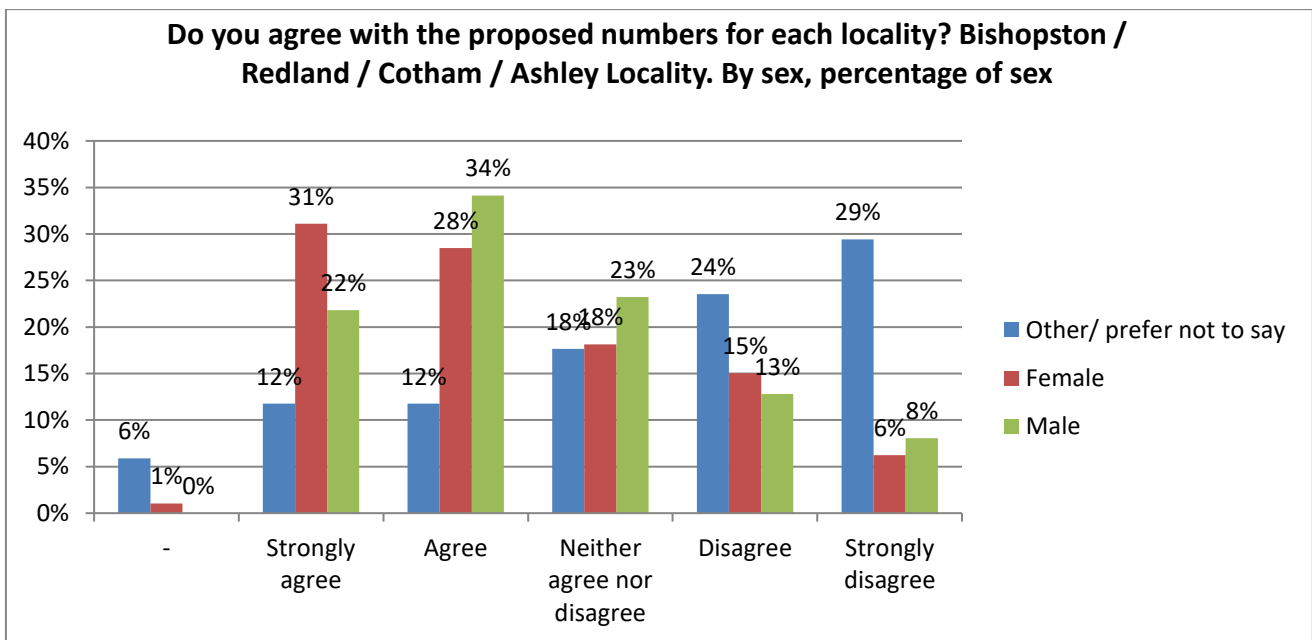
The proposed numbers for this locality are:

Type	Number
SEV	0
Sex Shop	0
Sex Cinema	0

The majority of respondents (56%) agreed with the proposed numbers for this locality.



When looking at the percentages of each sex who agree/disagree with the proposed numbers it can be seen that a similar number of both males and females agreed with the proposed numbers for this locality.



4.10 If you have further comments on the proposed number of sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas in the defined localities, please provide them.

This was a free-text box. There were 108 comments. The main themes were:

Subject	Number	Notes
Comments about the chosen locations or where would be better	22	Many commenters did not want them in residential areas, or near schools. Some wanted them all in one area – like a red light district
Other	20	

Commentators did not understand the rationale for choosing these areas specifically, and not including others	15	Was mentioned areas such as Clifton or St Werberghs were not covered in policy
No sex establishments	15	Commenters wanted to Sex Establishments
Comment about sex cinemas	10	In relation to the nil cap on sex cinemas
The cap is too high	8	
There should be no cap	6	
Children should be protected from being able to see the sex establishments	6	Referencing the importance of being able to go into the city centre without seeing SEVs
Comments referring to ‘posh’ areas	6	Pointing out that Clifton and similar wealthier areas are not included and that less wealthy areas are given the establishments
Wanting to keep them regulated and not underground	5	
The cap is too low	5	
References to women’s rights	4	
Sex shops are different	4	They should be treated differently
Sex shop comment	3	Two were disagreeing with the number of sex shops, one was not.
Comments about massage parlours or women street walking	3	
The numbers are about the right level	3	
Sex establishments should not be near residential areas	2	
Comment about the survey itself	1	
The numbers are arbitrary	1	
Keep numbers the same as they currently are	1	

The comments made on this question are attached in full at **Appendix N**.

5. Additional responses

A total of 7 responses were received in addition to the survey and Citizen Panel responses. They range from supporting information from respondents who had also completed the survey to statements and presentations from groups or organisations as a separate response. Some of these responses contain personal information or were requested not to be made public, and are summarised in brief here. The full responses are available to members of the committee in **Appendix P**.

Response 1 – Police and Crime Commissioner

Completed survey response, also calling for a nil cap throughout the city

Response 2 – Not Buying It

Call for a nil cap throughout the city, regulation is not effective, allowing SEVs is incompatible with the PSED, SEVs are a gateway to other parts of the sex industry, emotional harm as well as physical harm is done to performers.

Response 3 – You My Sister

Call for nil cap throughout the city, regulation is not effective, industry is harmful even if there are no breaches of rules, exit support should be provided.

Response 4 – Individual - gender equality expert

Highlights the key points for policy makers, including acts, legislation and policy which apply to decision making.

Response 5 – Inspector Mark Runacres, Avon and Somerset Constabulary

Call for a nil cap throughout the city.

Response 6 – Nice 'N' Naughty

Concern about fee levels for sex shops

Response 7 – Bristol based gender equality and women's rights organisation

Call for a nil cap throughout the city, detailed response covering regulation, harm, gender equality, violence against women and girls and PSED.

6. Differences and similarities between Survey and Citizen Panel Responses

In the main consultation 50% of respondents were female, 33% male, and 17% were other or preferred not to say. In the Citizen Panel 50% were male, 46% female and 4% were other, or preferred not to say.

Overall the majority of people in both the wider responses agreed or strongly agreed with the questions.

One of the significant differences in responses was in the question 'Do you agree or disagree that sexual entertainment venues complement Bristol's entertainment offer?' In the main consultation response 73% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that SEVs complemented Bristol's entertainment offer, with 25% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, and 2% neither agreeing nor disagreeing. In the Citizen Panel responses this was reversed with the majority, 41% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. It should be noted however that a large percentage neither agreed nor disagreed at 31%, and slightly less agreed or strongly agreed at 28%.

It's fair to say across the Citizen Panel responses there were a larger percentage of people who neither agreed nor disagreed with the questions, more so than the general consultation responses. This is particularly evident in the question 'Do you agree or disagree that the proposed policy approach supports these aims [of the European Charter of Equality of Women and Men in Local Life]?' In the Citizen panel results 56% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed, and 8% disagreed or strongly disagreed, but 35% neither agreed nor disagreed, compared with 10% in the wider consultation responses.

Similarly in the questions relating to the appropriate numbers for each locality, whilst responses in the wider consultation had less than 10% neither agreeing nor disagreeing, the Citizen Panel responses to the same questions had between 21% and 29% neither agreed nor disagreed.

7. How will this report be used?

This report will be used by the working group to assist them in producing a final version of the policy.

The latest consultations can be found online at www.bristol.gov.uk/consultationhub, where you can also sign up to receive automated email notifications about consultations.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

Licensing Service

Sex Establishment Policy Review



Consultation Survey Responses and Results

Final report v1.1

8 July 2022



www.bristol.gov.uk

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1. Summary

S1 Sex Establishment Policy Review

The Council adopted additional parts of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in 2011 which gave it the ability to control and regulate Sex Establishments. Five premises operated as venues offering sexual entertainment at that time. A policy was developed at that time which resulted in three sexual entertainment venue premises becoming licensed under the legislation, along with the four existing sex shops already covered by the same Act.

Currently there are two licensed sexual entertainment venues and two licensed sex shops within Bristol City Council's administrative area. There are currently no licensed sex cinemas.

The Council is undertaking a review of the policy and as part of this review the Council engaged with the public and stakeholders in a variety of ways, inviting comments from previous stakeholders, through a questionnaire requesting general views on sex establishments as well as opinions about specific locations in the Council's administrative area, and through a 12 week consultation by way of a number of questions seeking views on the draft policy published alongside it. Finally the Council undertook a 12 week consultation on a draft policy with proposed revised numbers of zero for sexual entertainment venues in three defined localities.

S2 Consultation

The consultation was open for 12 weeks between 28 September 2021 and 19 December 2021 and sought responses from the public to questions relating to the proposed change in numbers of premises allowed in each locality. 6,273 responses were received.

The consultation was available online, and paper copies of the questions and alternative accessible formats were available on request. The questionnaire was publicised through media, social media and communications with the public including relevant responsible authorities, equalities groups, and stakeholders.

Additional comments were also received outside of the consultation questions, details of which are included in section 5 of this report.

S3 Scope

This report presents the findings of the sex establishment's consultation. It includes the overall responses to the consultation.

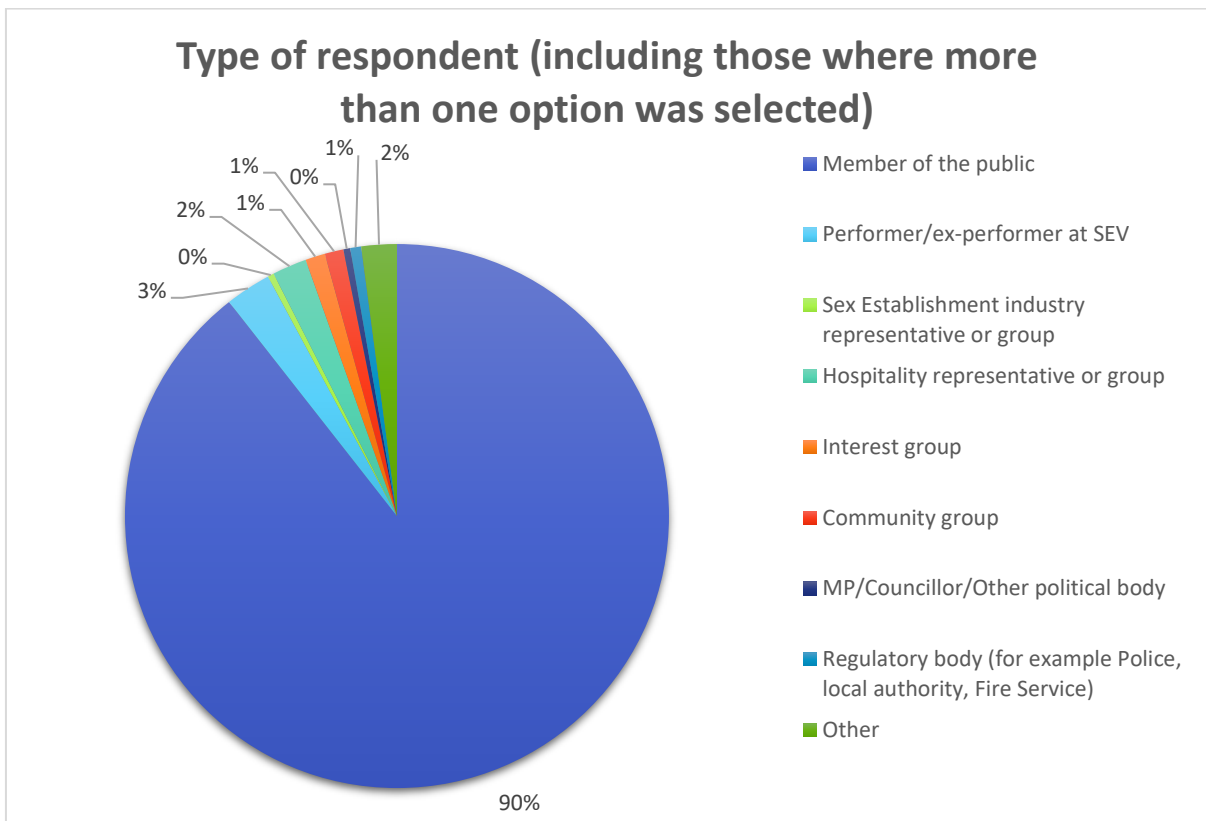
2. Response rate and respondent characteristics

2.1 Response rate

6,273 responses were received to the consultation via the online and paper based survey.

The options for type of respondent enabled people to choose more than one option, for example member of the public and performer/ex performer at SEV. Even taking this into account the majority of respondents were members of the public at 90%. 5490 people selected only 'member of the public' whilst 285 selected 'member of the public' and at least one other option. It therefore should not make a substantive impact on the analysis of the overall responses.

Additionally, 3% of respondents were performers/ex performers at SEVs, less than 1% were sex establishment industry representative or group, 2% were hospitality representative or group, 1% were interest groups, 1% were community groups, less than 1% were MP/Councillor/Other political body, 2% were other individuals or groups. 1% stated they were regulatory bodies, however a number of these also stated they were members of the public, and we are not aware that any responses have been submitted as part of this questionnaire which represent the formal views of any regulatory bodies such as Avon and Somerset Constabulary, Avon Fire and Rescue Service, or others.



2.2 Respondent characteristics

Consultation

The majority of people answered one or more of the equalities monitoring questions.

The majority of respondents were between the ages of 18-44 with a total of 71% in these age ranges.

54% of respondents were female. 27% of respondents were male, and 2% stated they were non-binary, agender or genderfluid. 11% either preferred not to say, or included a comment without saying which sex they are.

A full breakdown of consultation respondent characteristics is found in Table 1 below.

Location

Of the 6,273 respondents approximately 58% were from within the Bristol City Council postcode area. 1% were from Bath and North East Somerset postcode area, 3% were from the North Somerset postcode area, and 11% were from the South Gloucestershire postcode area. 6% were not from the Bristol or surrounding local authority area, and 21% did not give their postcode or a valid postcode.

Postcode location	Count	Percentage
Bristol	3638	58%
Bath and North East Somerset	82	1%
North Somerset	181	3%
South Gloucestershire	684	11%
Outside wider Bristol area	320	6%
Other / Not given	1368	21%
Grand Total	6273	

2.3.1 Table 1: respondent characteristics - all responses to the survey

	Respondent characteristic	Number of responses to questionnaire	% responses to equalities question
Age	Under 18	20	<1%
	18-24	1188	19%
	25-34	2101	33%
	35-44	1206	19%
	45-54	598	10%
	55-64	342	5%
	65-74	187	3%
	75-84	37	1%
	85 or over	16	<1%
	Prefer not to say	129	2%
	No response	449	7%
Sex	Female	3368	54%
	Male	1668	27%
	Non-binary, agender, genderfluid	117	2%
	Other	35	1%
	Prefer not to say	599	10%
	No response	486	8%
Transgender	Yes	149	2%
	No	4965	79%
	Prefer not to say	516	8%
	No response	643	10%
Ethnicity	White British / English / Irish / Scottish	4289	68%
	Other White	412	7%
	Mixed / Multi ethnic group	247	4%
	Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	96	2%
	Asian / Asian British	121	2%
	Gypsy / Roma / Irish Traveller	20	<1%
	Other ethnic group	22	<1%
	Prefer not to say	477	8%
	No response	589	9%
Disability	Yes	676	11%
	No	4631	74%
	Prefer not to say	370	6%
	No response	596	10%
Religion	No religion	3695	59%
	Christian	832	13%
	Buddhist	76	1%
	Hindu	19	<1%
	Jewish	46	1%
	Muslim	47	1%
	Sikh	14	<1%
	Any other religion or belief	211	3%

Sex Establishment Policy Review – Consultation responses

	Prefer not to say	671	11%
	Not given	662	11%
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual (straight)	2761	44%
	Bisexual	1325	21%
	Gay Man	201	3%
	Gay woman/lesbian	227	4%
	Other	210	3%
	Prefer not to say	893	14%
	Not given	656	10%

3. Survey Responses to the questions

3.1 Introduction

The consultation survey had a number of questions relating to the proposed changes to the number of venues permitted in three localities, City Centre area, Old Market/West Street area, and Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley area. It focused on sexual entertainment venues (SEVs) in particular, as these have been found to be the more controversial element of the policy proposals. It also asked about how safe people felt in those areas, and whether the presence or not of SEVs made them feel more or less safe.

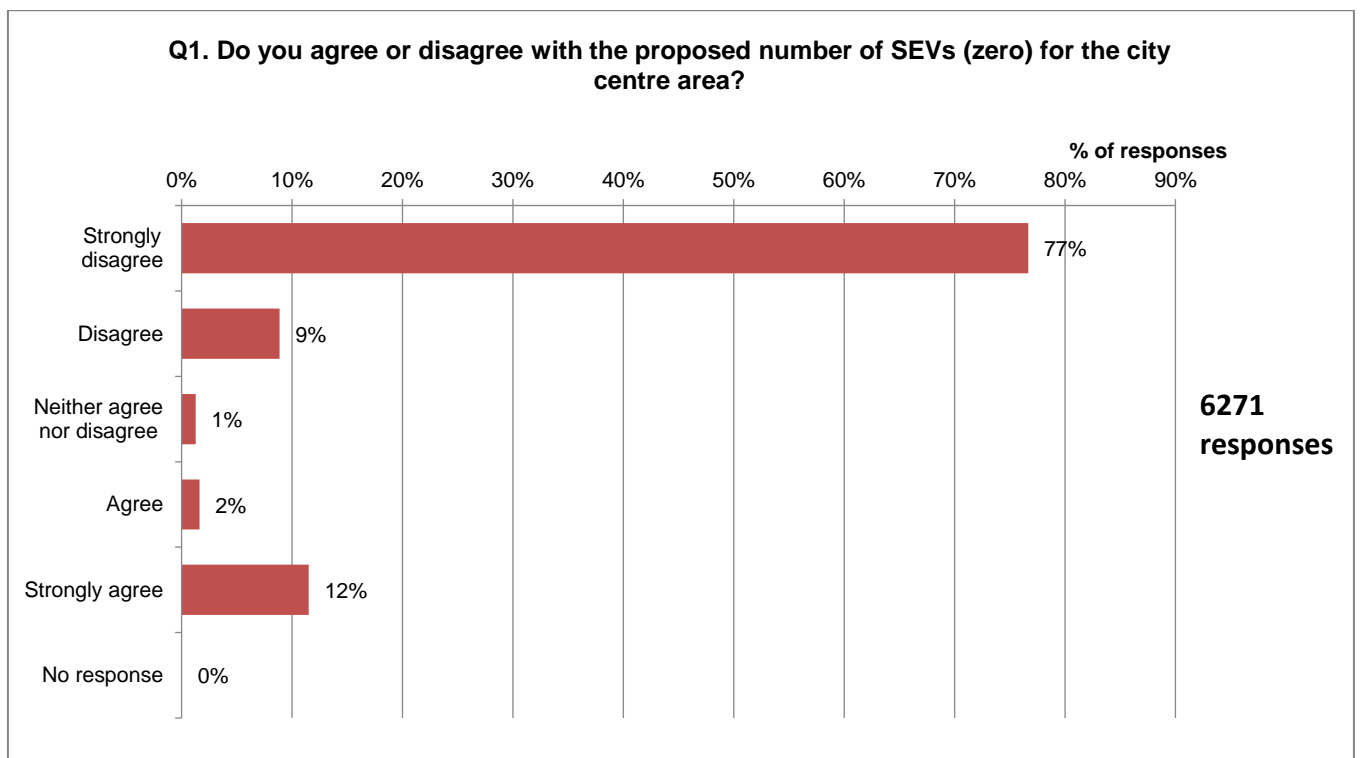
There were a number of supporting documents provided with the survey, including the proposed policy, equalities impact assessment, summary of changes, and plain English descriptions.

3.2 Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in the city centre

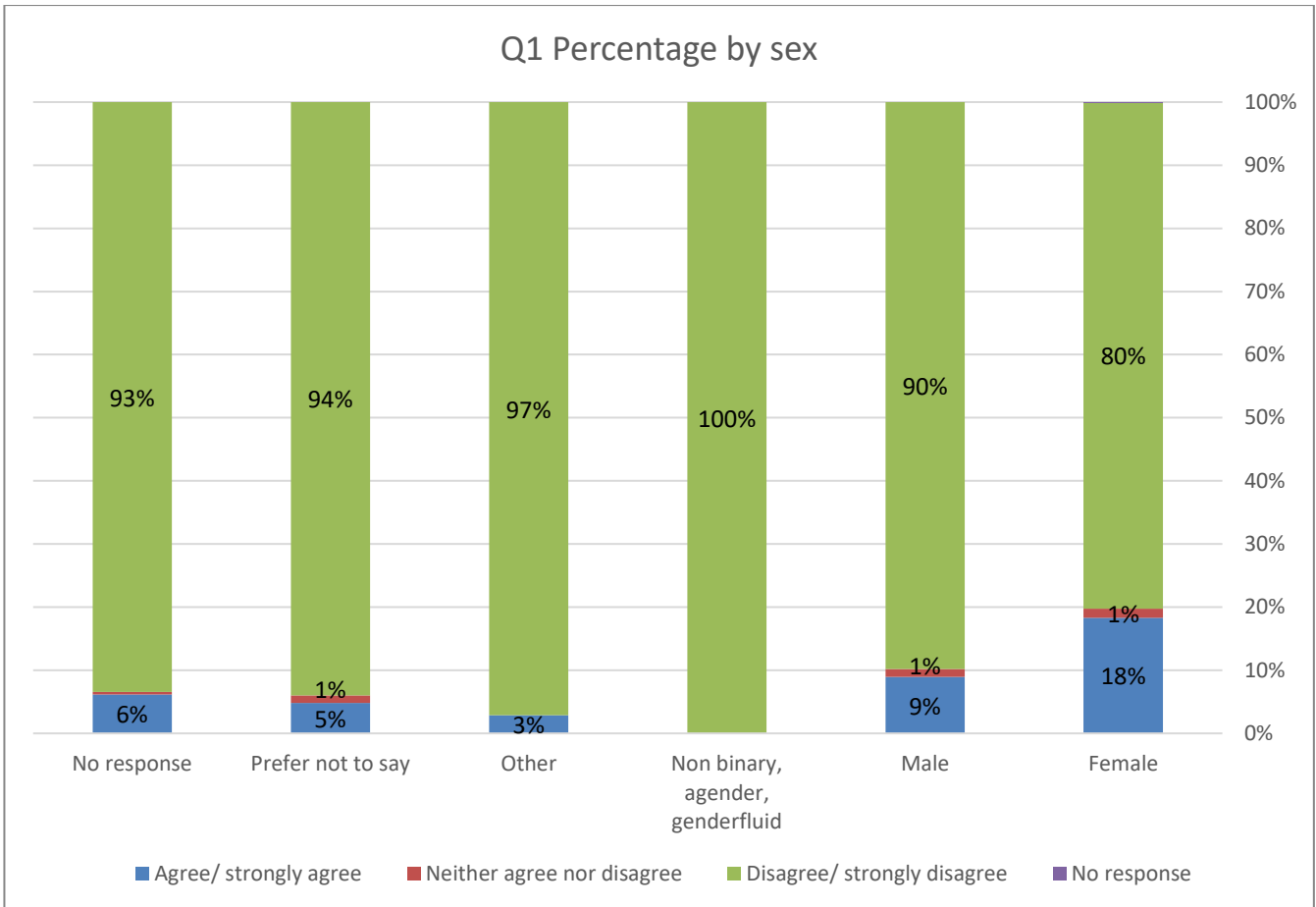
The draft policy proposes the appropriate number of Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) for the city centre locality is zero. The current policy permits two SEVs and there are currently two licensed SEVs in the city centre.

3.2.1 Do you agree or disagree with the proposed number of SEVs (zero) for the city centre area?

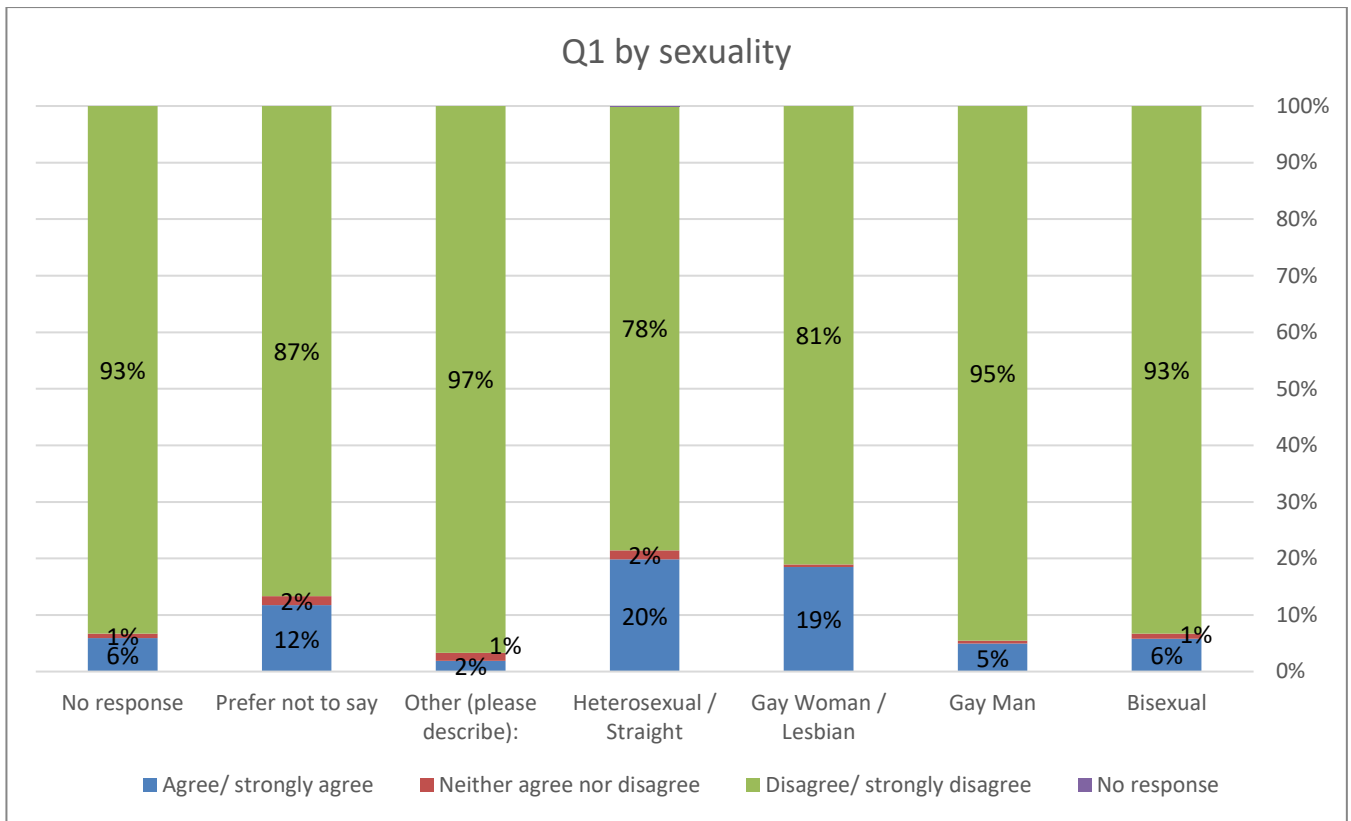
Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the proposed number of SEVs for the city centre area. Overall, the majority of people (86%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposed policy. 1% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 14% agreed or strongly agreed with the policy.



Looking at the split by sex, it can be seen the majority of female respondents disagreed, or strongly disagreed with the proposed numbers for the city centre area. This was 10% less than the percentage of men who disagreed with the question, however still a large majority at 70%. Overall all the sexes disagreed with the proposed numbers more than agreed with them.



When looking at the results by sexuality, straight/heterosexual and gay woman/lesbian respondents agreed with the question more than all other groups. Bisexuals were very unlikely to agree with 93% disagreeing. Gay men and those whose identities fall outside of the main 4 descriptions were least likely to agree with the question.



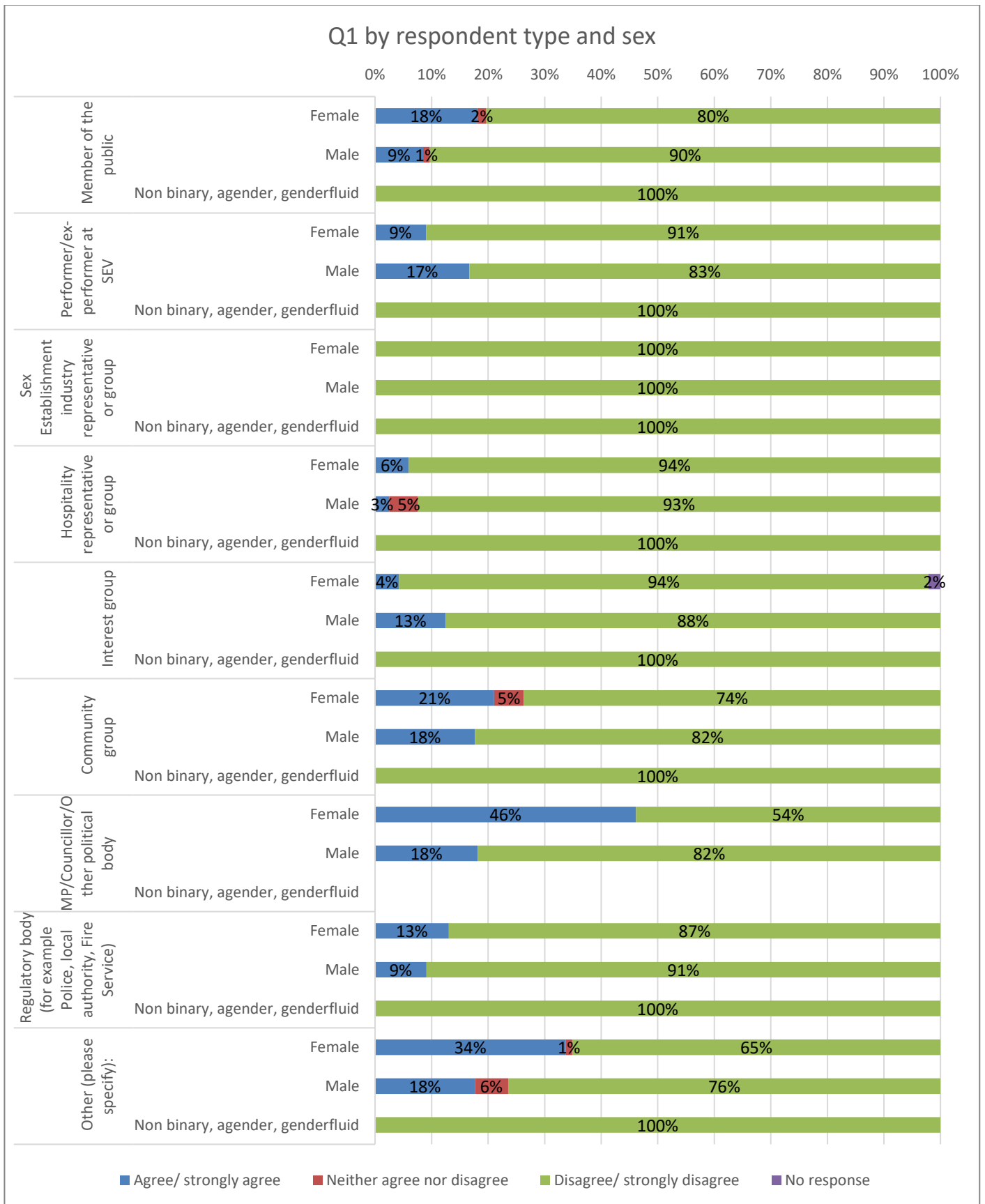
When respondents are grouped by type and sex it can be seen that female MP/Councillor/Other political body respondents are split very closely, 46% agree versus 54% disagree. Male respondents in this group are split very differently, with only 18% agreeing and 82% disagreeing.

Male respondents who are responding as part of an interest group are more likely to agree than female respondents of the same type, 18% males versus 4% females.

Male performers/ex-performers at SEVs were more likely than female performers/ex-performers to agree with the proposed numbers, 17% males versus 9% females

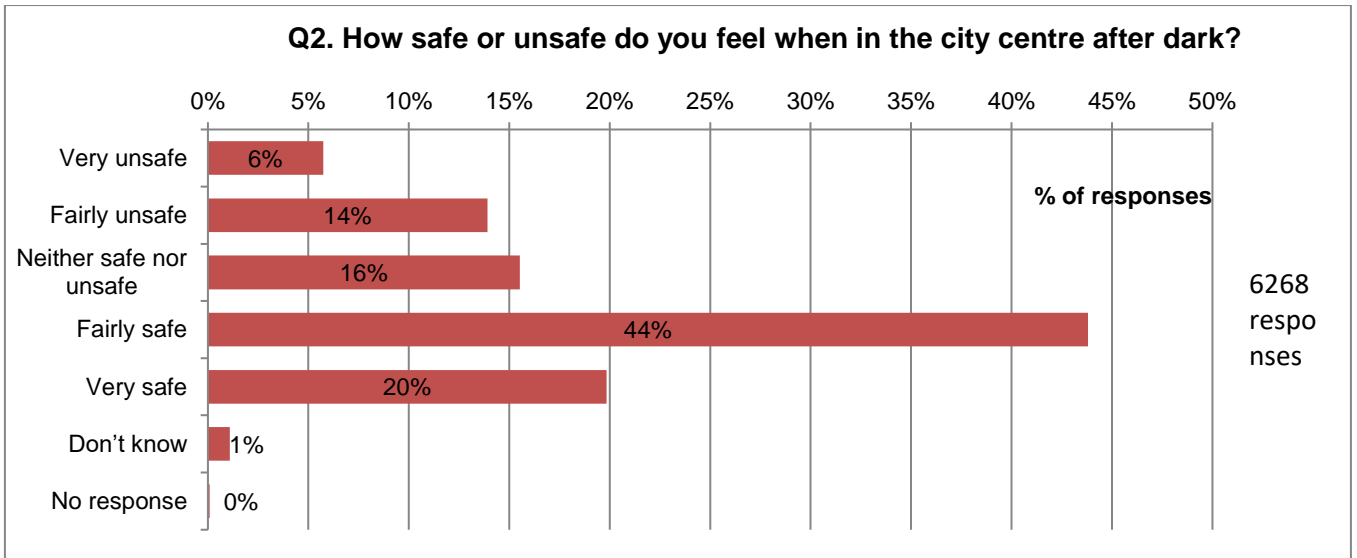
All groups showed a majority disagreeing with the proposals.

Sex Establishment Policy Review – Consultation responses

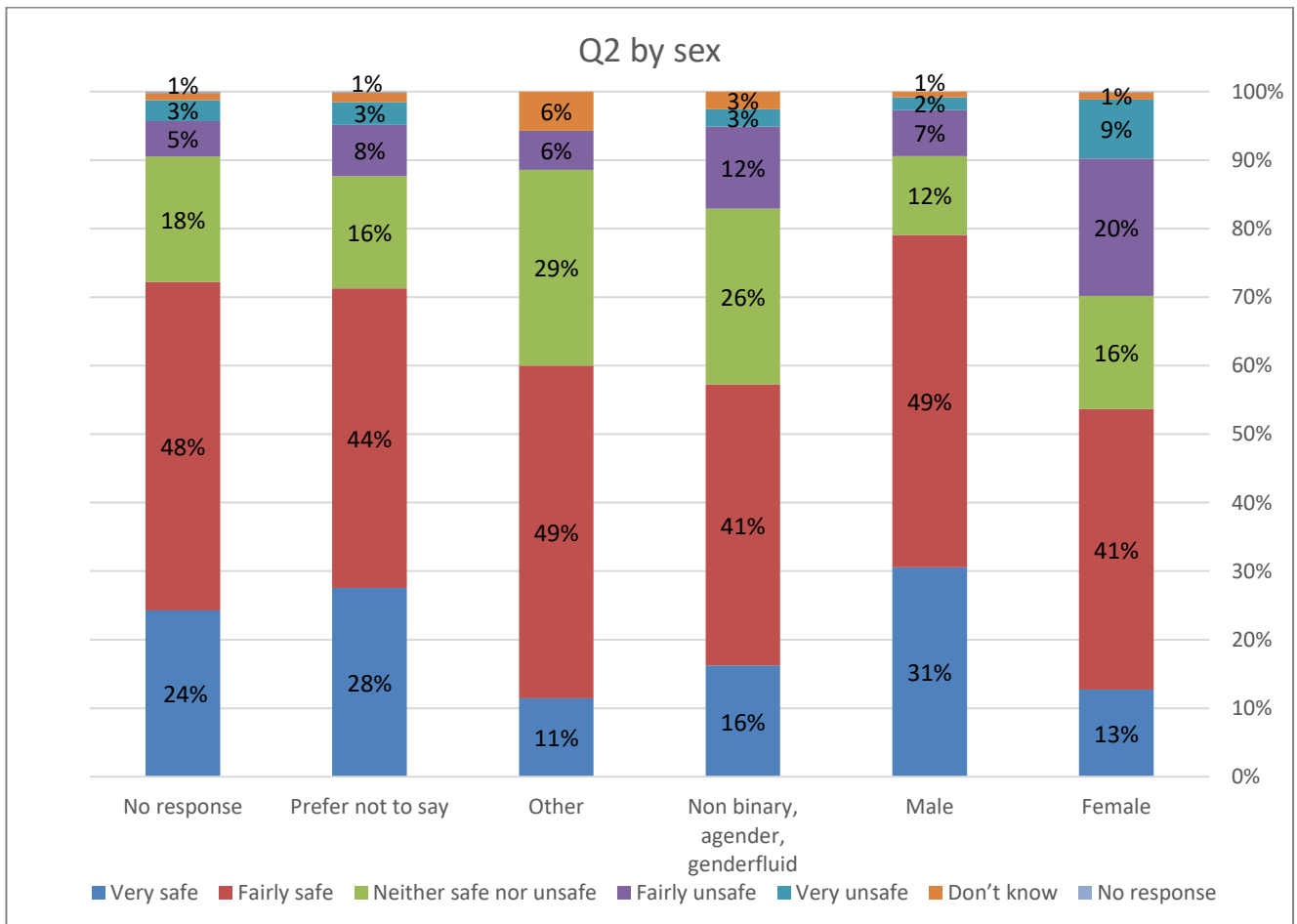


3.2.2 How safe or unsafe do you feel when in the city centre after dark?

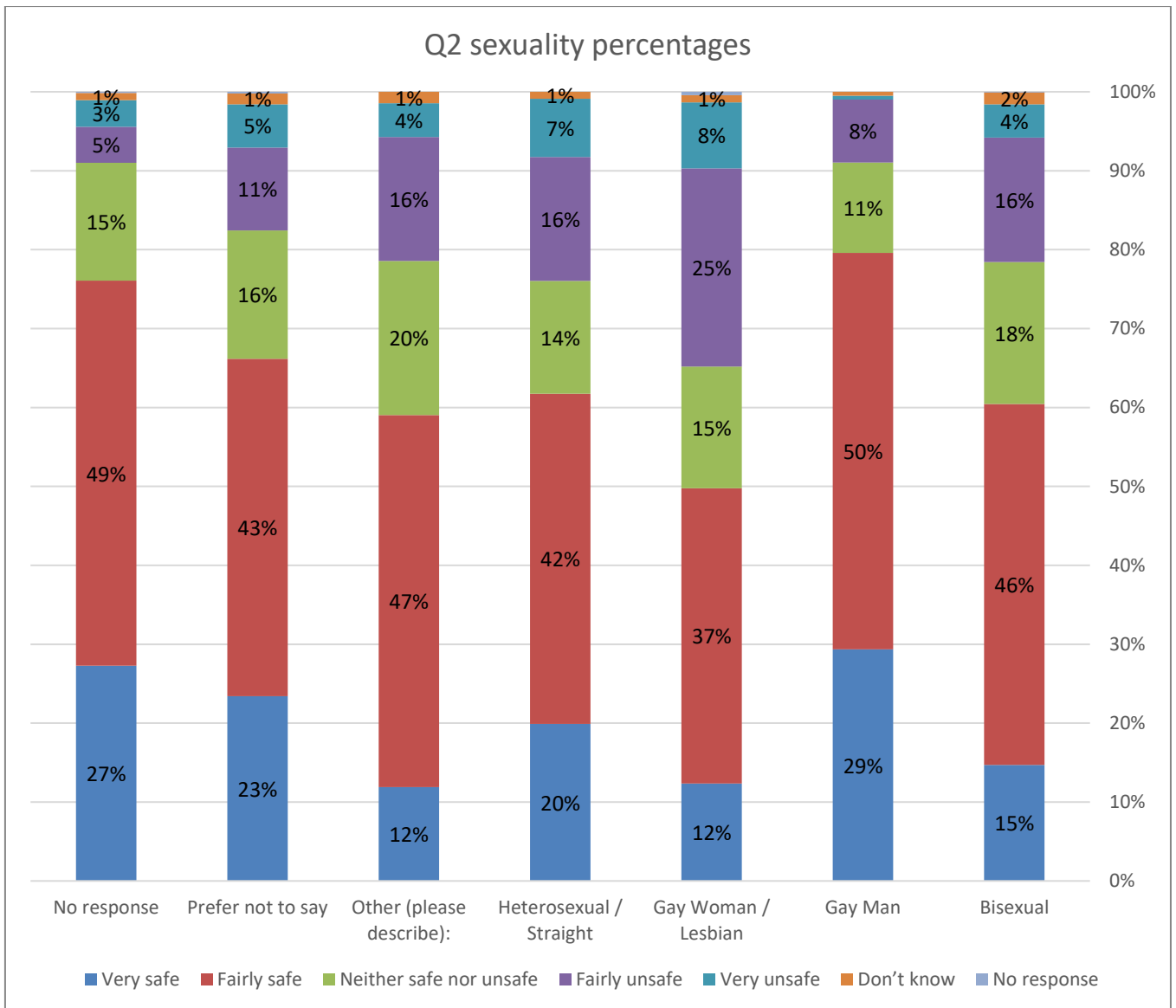
Respondents were asked how safe or unsafe they felt in the city centre area after dark. The majority of respondents (44%) stated they felt fairly safe, and 20% said they felt very safe. 20% said they felt fairly or very unsafe, and 16% said they felt neither safe nor unsafe.



Looking at the split by sex, it can be seen that the majority of all sexes said they felt fairly safe in the city centre after dark.



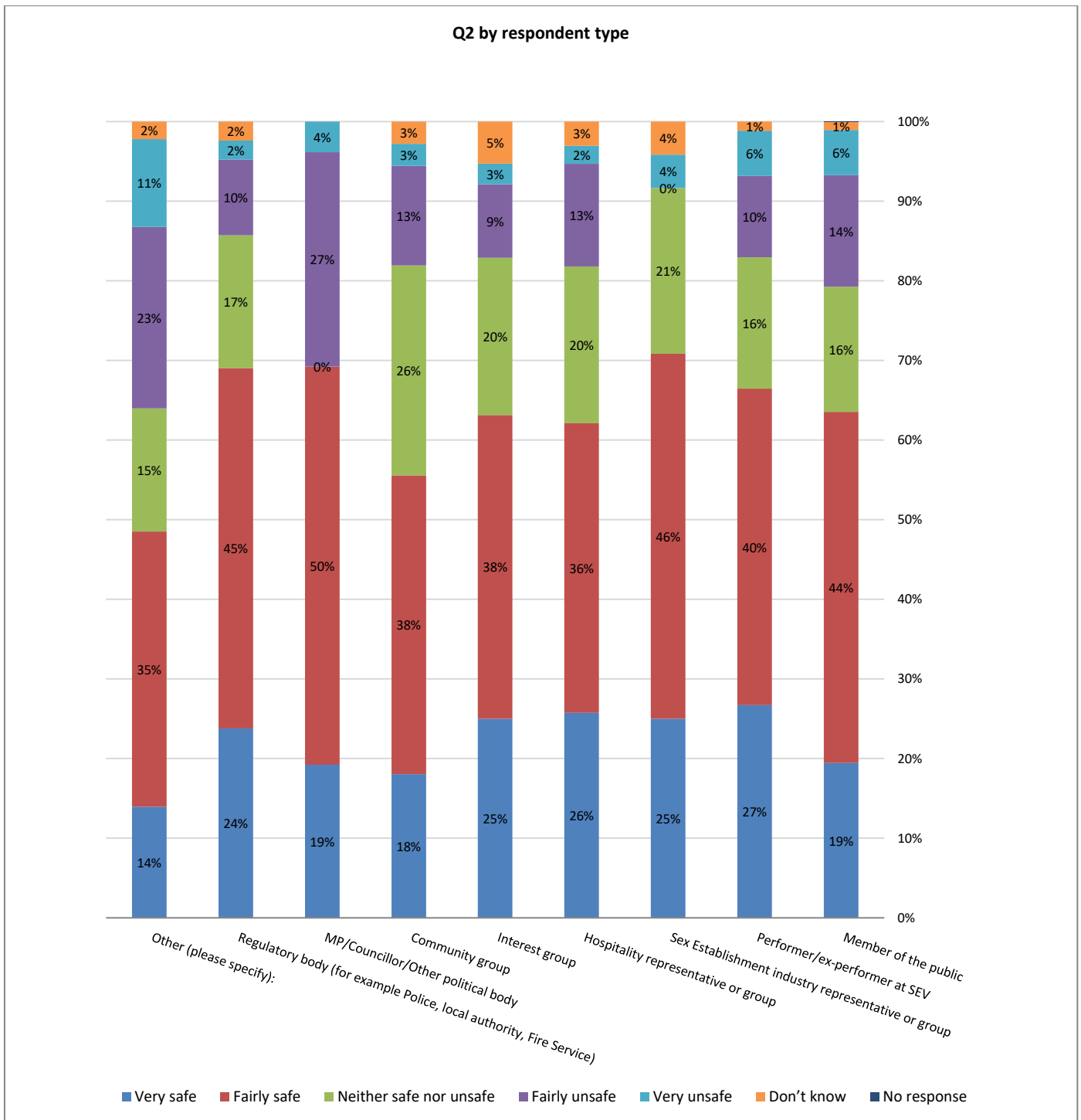
When looking at the breakdown of responses by sexuality we can see that gay men were the most likely to say they felt safe in the city centre after dark (79%). Bisexual and straight respondents have similar levels of feelings safe (61% and 62% felt safe, 20% and 23% unsafe respectively). Gay women/lesbians are most likely to feel unsafe, with 33% saying they felt fairly or very unsafe.



Looking at the type of respondent 63% of members of the public said they felt fairly or very safe in the city centre after dark. 69% of MP/Councillor/Other political bodies said they felt fairly or very safe, with 27% saying they felt fairly unsafe. All groups had a large percentage who felt neither safe nor unsafe (between 15% and 26%) with the exception of the political group, for which no respondents felt neither safe nor unsafe.

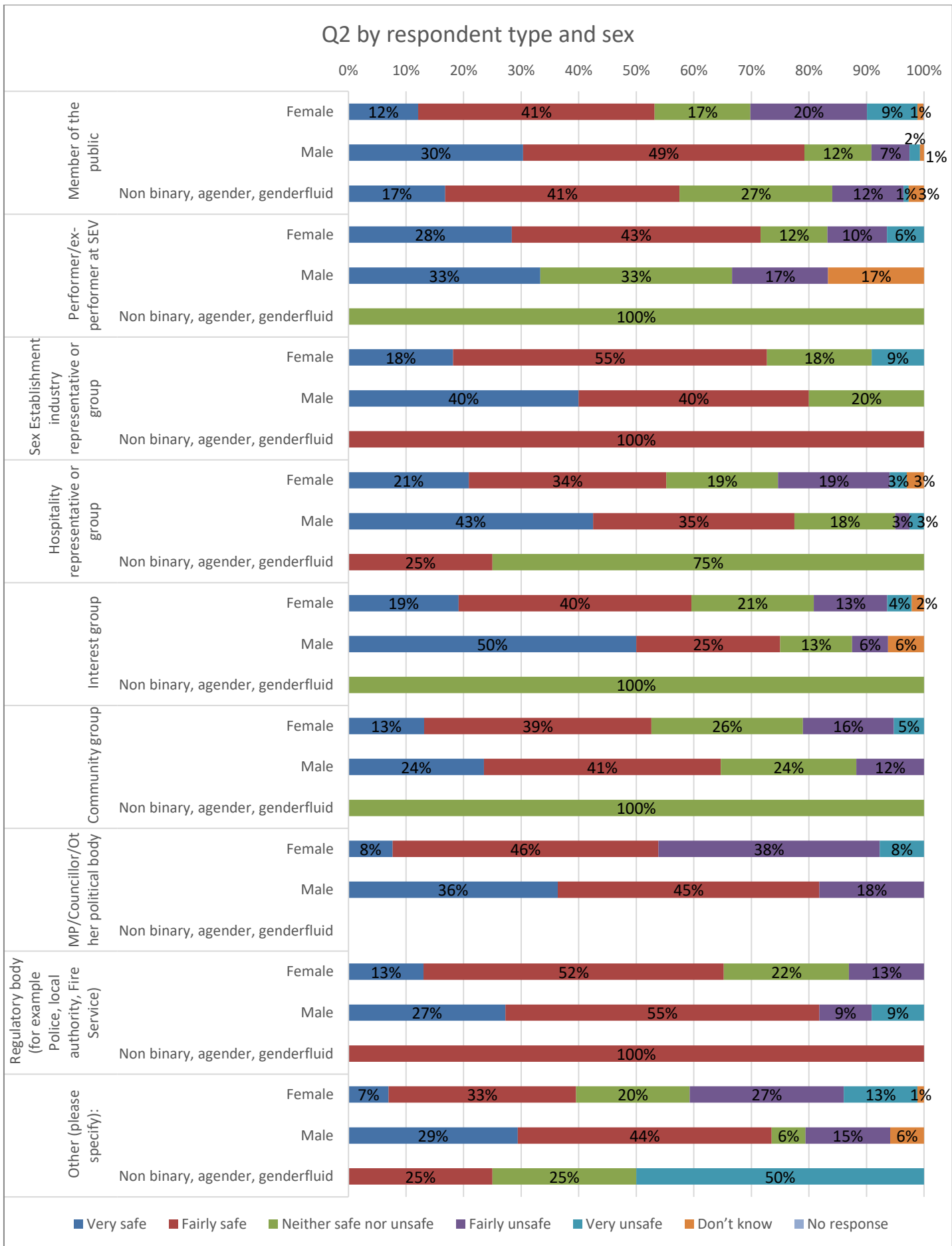
Community group and 'other' respondents were least likely to say they felt safe, and sex establishment representative or group respondents were most likely to say they felt safe. MP/Councillor/ other political body respondents and 'other' respondents were the most likely to say they feel unsafe, 31% and 34% respectively.

Sex Establishment Policy Review – Consultation responses



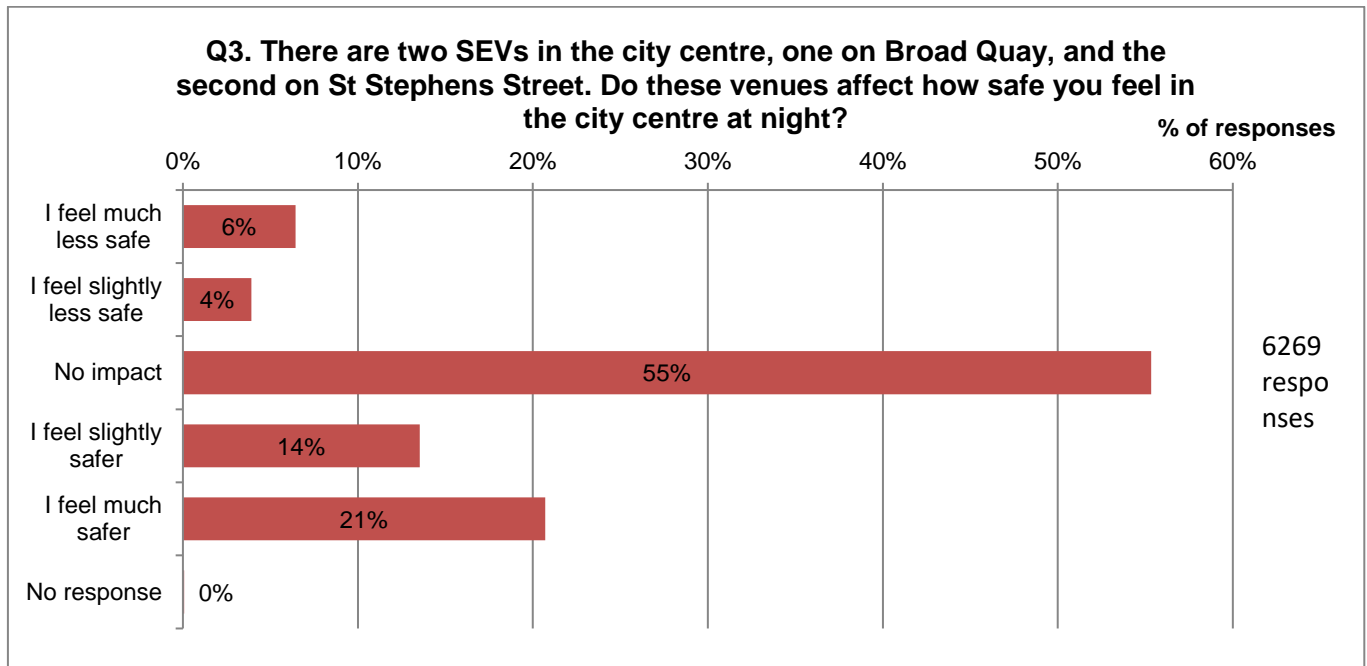
When broken down further by type of respondent and sex we can see that female members of the public are more likely to say they feel unsafe in this area than male members of the public, 29% versus 9%, although 53% of female respondents say they feel safe or very safe. There is a large difference between female and male MP/Councillor/ other political body respondents, with 46% of female respondents saying they did not feel safe, compared to 18% of male respondents.

Sex Establishment Policy Review – Consultation responses

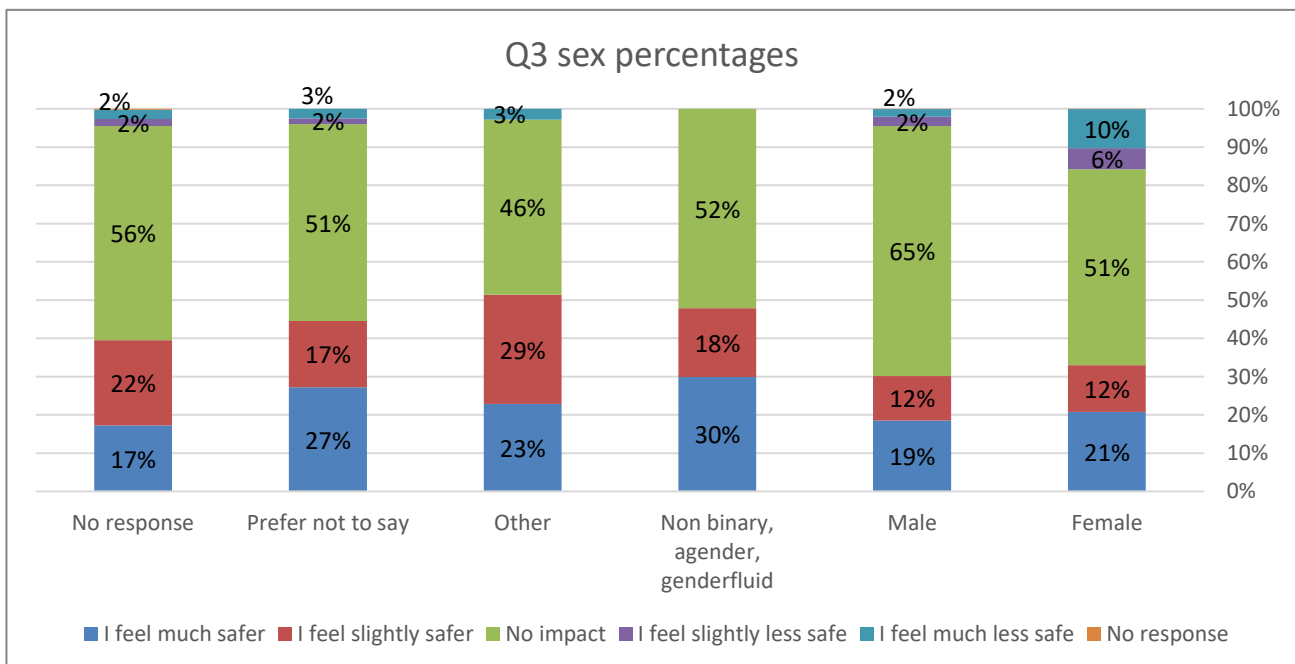


3.2.3 There are two SEVs in the city centre, one on Broad Quay, and the second on St Stephens Street. Do these venues affect how safe you feel in the city centre at night?

Respondents were asked whether knowing that there were two SEVs in the city centre, and the location of them, affected how safe they felt. The majority of respondents (55%) said it had no impact on how safe they felt. 10% said they felt slightly less safe, or much less safe, and 35% said they felt slightly safer or much safer.

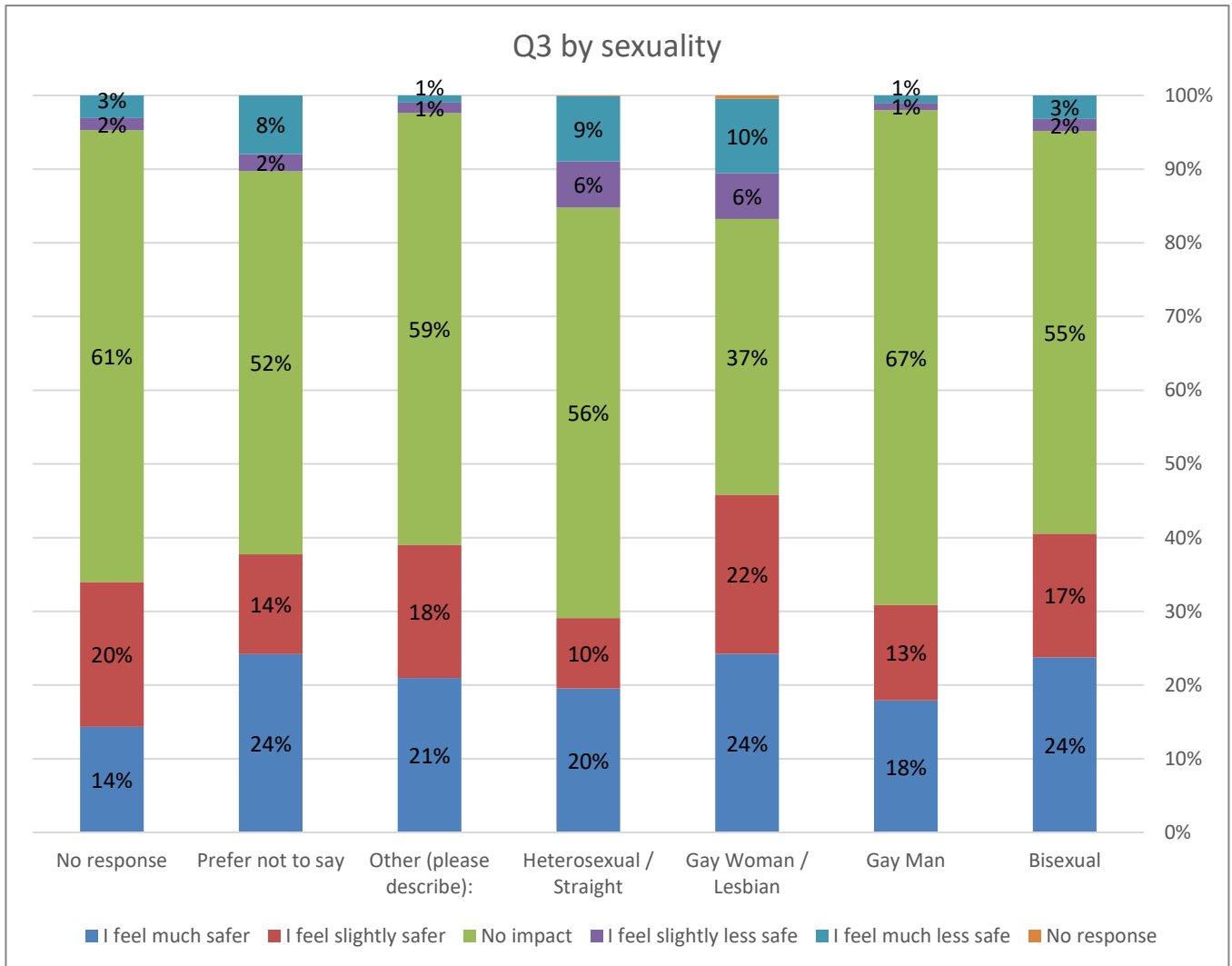


When broken down by sex, the majority of all groups said it had no impact on how safe they felt. Male respondents were slightly more likely than female and nonbinary, agender and genderfluid respondents to say there was no impact. Non binary, agender, genderfluid, and other respondents who put in their own definition were more likely to say that SEVs made them feel safer in the city centre.



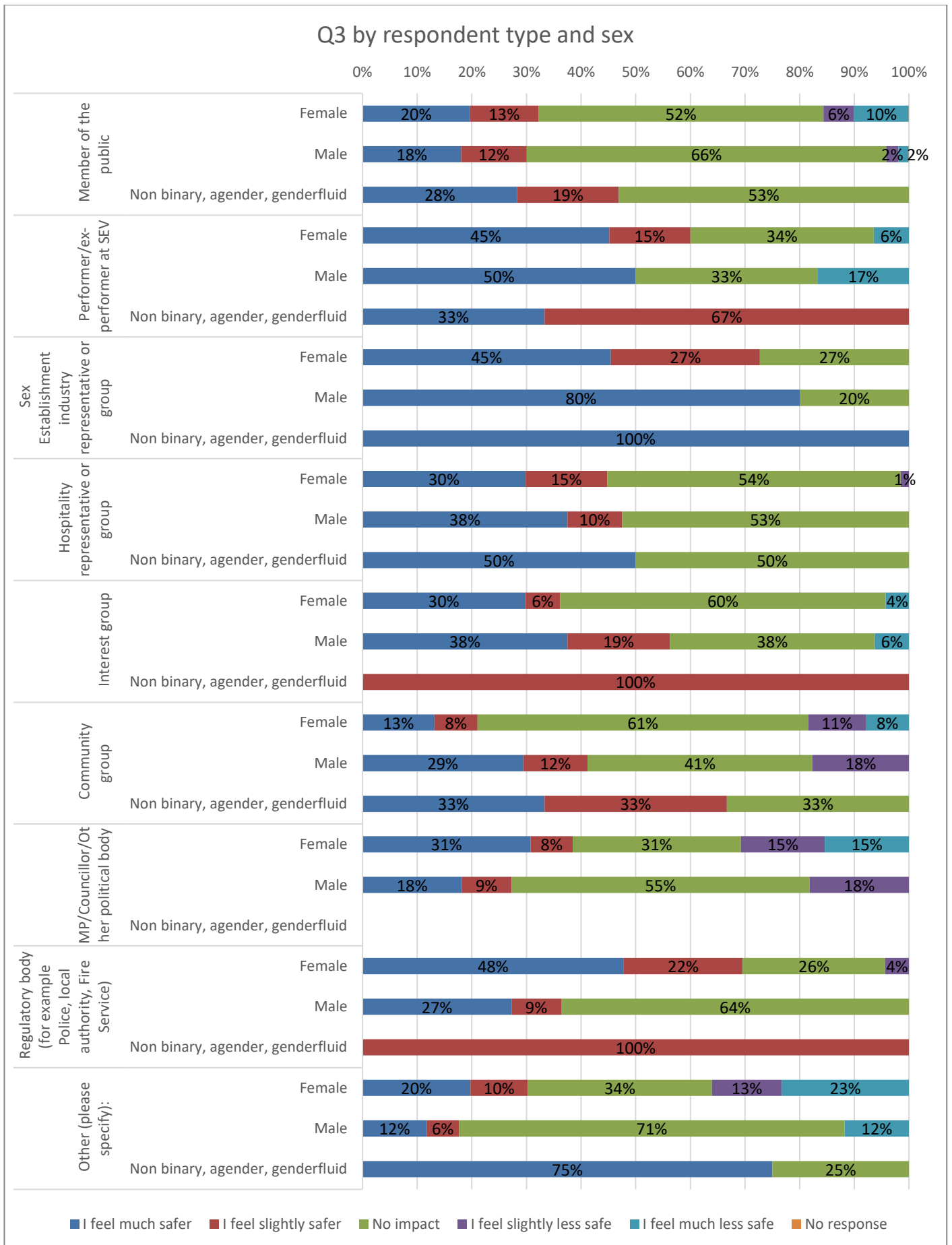
When looking at this question broken down by sexuality we can see that for all groups except gay woman/lesbian respondents, over 50% of respondents said there was no impact. Gay men were most likely to say there was no impact (67%).

Straight and gay woman/lesbian respondents had similar levels of respondents saying that SEVs made them feel less safe (15% and 16% respectively).



When looking at the responses by respondent type we can see that the majority of members of the public say there is no impact (56%). Sex establishment representatives are most likely to say they feel slightly or much safer (79%). MP/Councillor/ other political body respondents and ‘other’ respondents are most likely to say they feel slightly or much less safe (23%, 28% respectively). The majority of performers/ex-performers say that they make the area safer (60%).

When looking at the responses by respondent type and sex we can see that male members of the public are more likely to say there is no impact than female members of the public, 66% versus 52%. Similarly female interest group and community group respondents are more likely to say there is no impact than their male counterparts. Female ‘other’ respondents were most likely to say it made them feel unsafe.

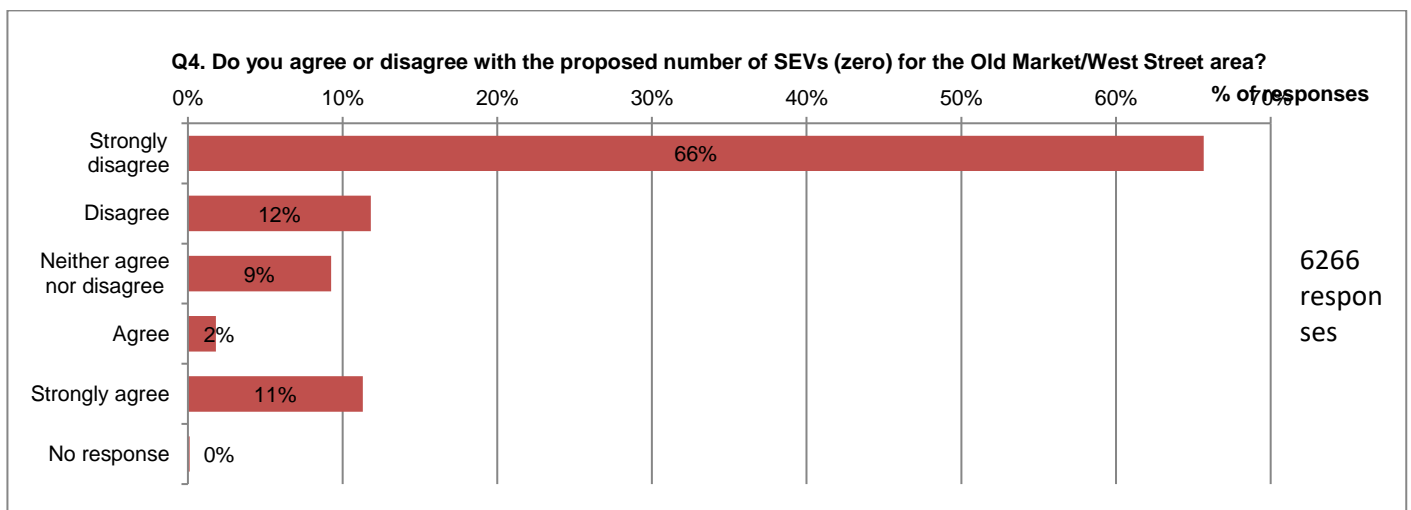


3.3 SEVs in the Old Market/West Street area

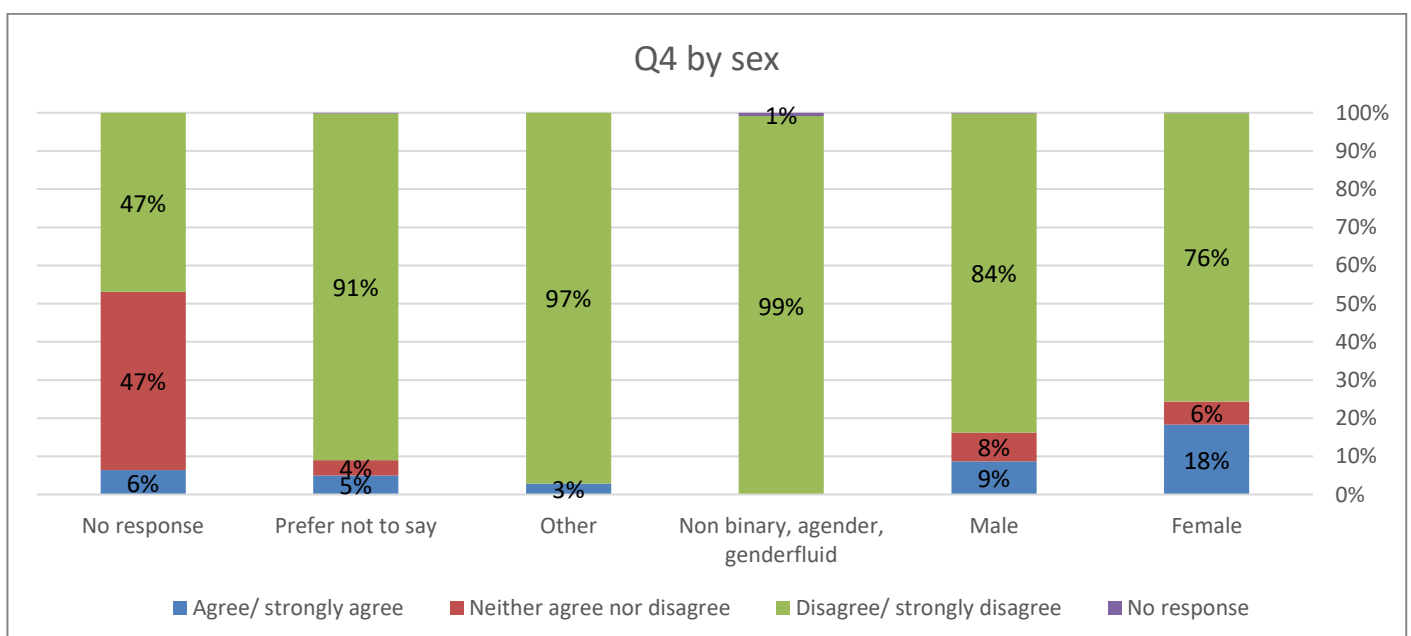
The draft policy proposes the appropriate number of SEVs for Old Market/West Street area is zero. The current policy permits one SEV in the Old Market/West Street area. There are currently no licensed SEVs in Old Market/West Street.

3.3.1 Do you agree or disagree with the proposed number of SEVs (zero) for the Old Market/West Street area?

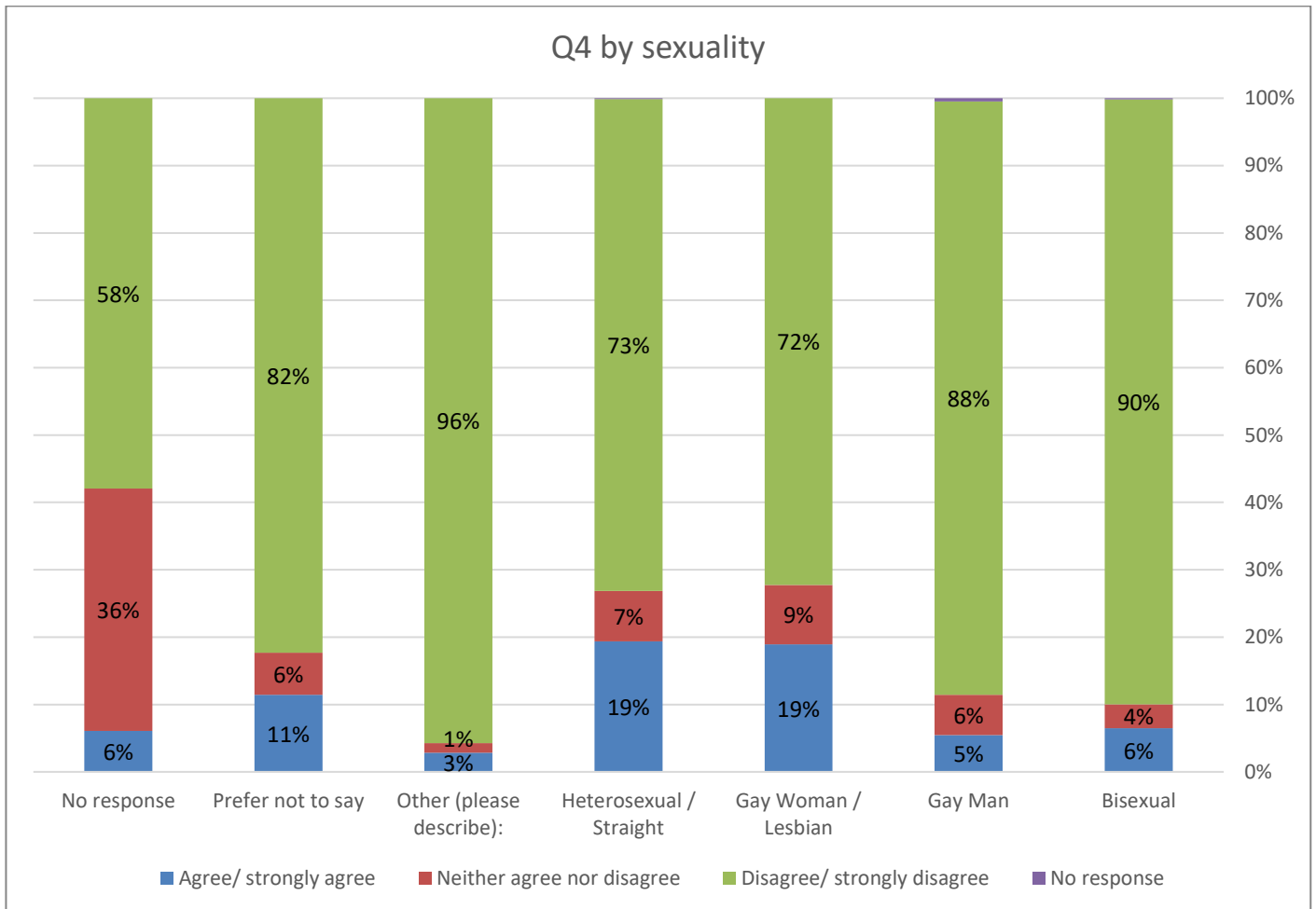
Respondents were asked whether they agreed with the proposed number of SEVs for the Old Market/West Street area. The majority (78%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposed number. 13% agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal, and 9% neither agreed nor disagreed.



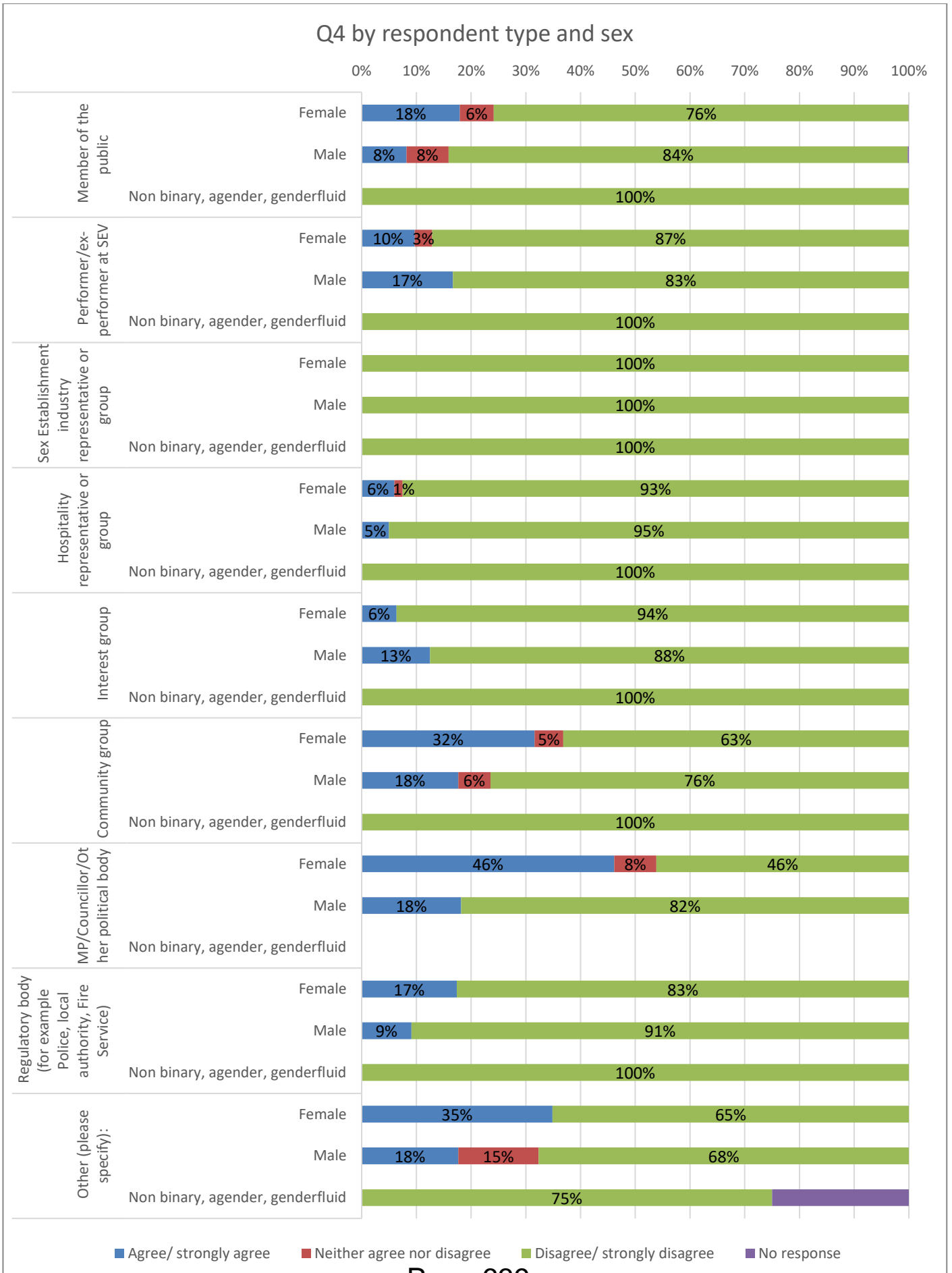
When looking at the responses by sex, Non-binary, agender, and genderfluid respondents all disagreed, bar one 'no response', with the proposals. Female respondents were twice as likely to agree with the proposals than male respondents, 18% agreed versus 9% of males. Male respondents had 84% disagreeing, compared to 76% of female respondents.



When looking at the responses by sexuality it can be seen that gay women/lesbians and heterosexual/straight respondents were most likely to agree or strongly agree with the proposed number, with 19% agreeing in each group. However, there was still a large majority in these groups who disagreed with the proposed numbers (72%, 73% respectively). Gay men were least likely to agree, those of other sexualities were most likely to disagree/strongly disagree (96%).

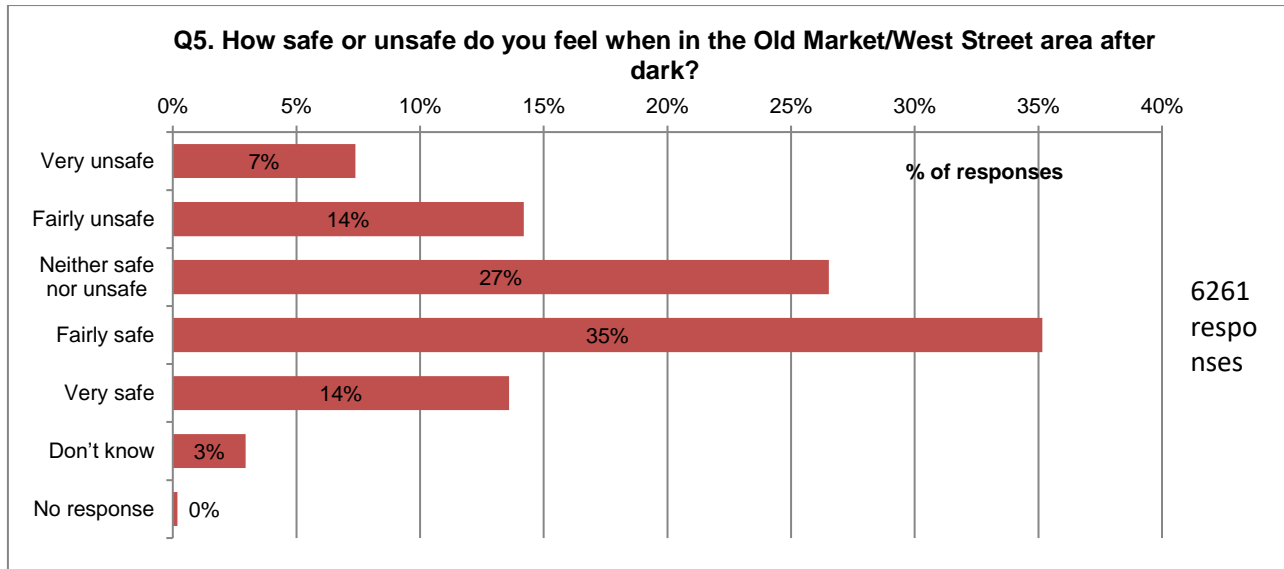


When looking at the responses by type of respondent and sex female MP/Councillor/other political body, community group, and 'other' respondents are most likely to agree with the proposals (54%, 37%, 35% respectively). Female MP/councillor/other political body respondents are the only group with a majority agreeing with the proposals. Male SEV performers/ex-performers are slightly more likely than their female counterparts to agree with the proposals (17% versus 13%). In all other groups more than 50% of respondents, whether male, female or non-binary/agender/genderfluid disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposals.

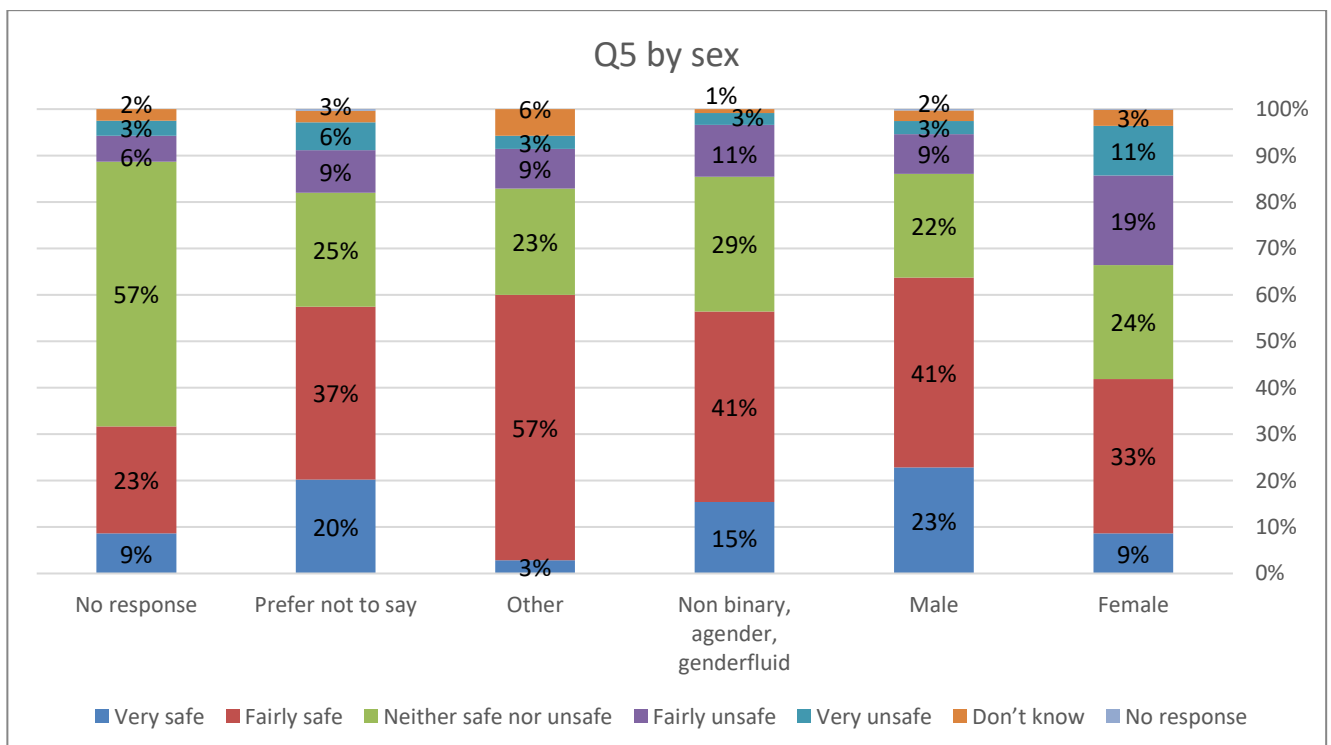


3.3.2 How safe or unsafe do you feel when in the Old Market/West Street area after dark?

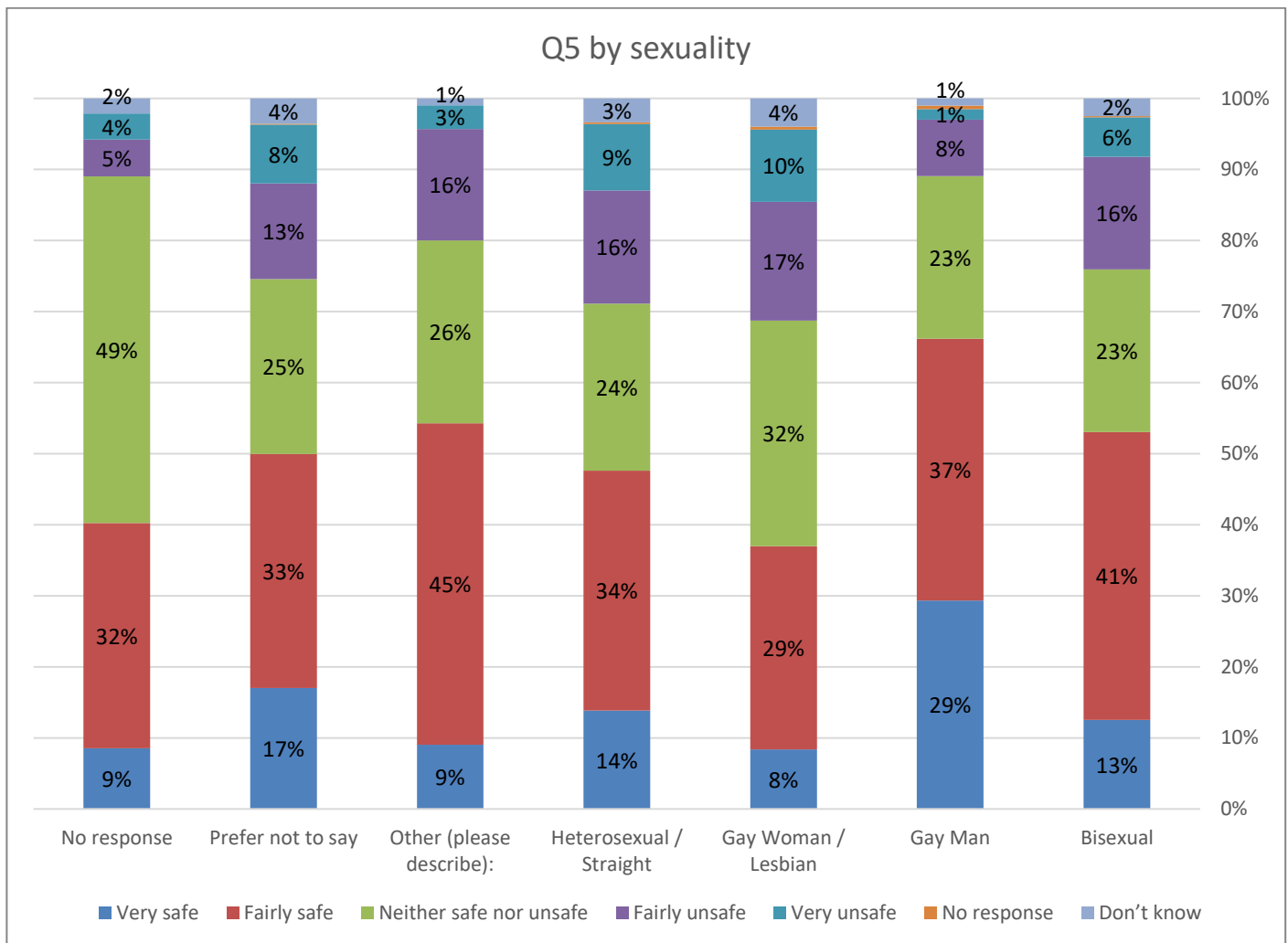
Respondents were asked how safe or unsafe they felt in the Old Market/West Street area after dark. 49% of respondents said they felt fairly or very safe, and 23% said they felt fairly or very unsafe. A large proportion (27%) said they felt neither safe nor unsafe.



When broken down by sex female respondents were less likely to say they felt safe in Old Market/West Street than male or non-binary/agender/genderfluid respondents. 42% of female respondents said they felt fairly or very safe, compared to 64% of male respondents, and 56% of non-binary/agender/genderfluid respondents. Female respondents were more likely to say they felt fairly or very unsafe at 30% compared to 12% of male respondents and 14% of non-binary/agender/genderfluid respondents.



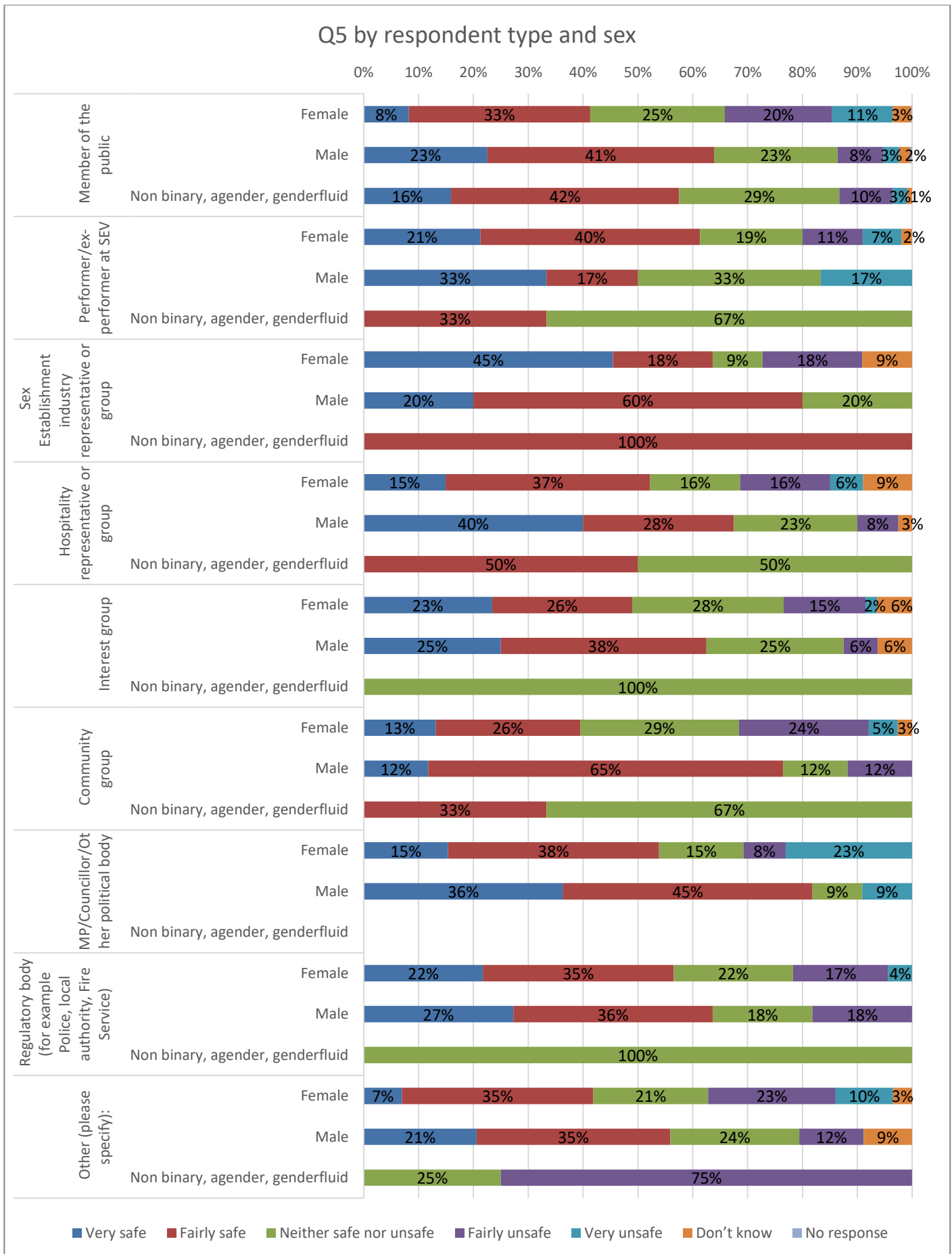
Looking at the split by sexuality it can be seen that gay women/lesbians were least likely to say they felt safe in this area at 27%, compared with gay men who were most likely to feel safe in this area 66%. The majority, 54%, of bisexual respondents said they felt safe in this area, as did 48% of straight/heterosexual respondents. A similar proportion of gay woman/lesbian and heterosexual/straight respondents said they felt fairly or very unsafe at 27% and 25% respectively.



When looking at the responses by respondent type and sex it can be seen that female members of the public were much more likely to feel unsafe in these areas compared with their male counterparts (31% vs 11%). Equally a higher percentage of male members of the public (64%) said they felt fairly or very safe, compared with 41% of female members of the public.

There was no difference between the percentages of male and female SEV performers/ex-performers feeling unsafe, both at 17%. Female MP/Councillor/other political body respondents were most likely to say they felt unsafe with 23% saying they felt very unsafe.

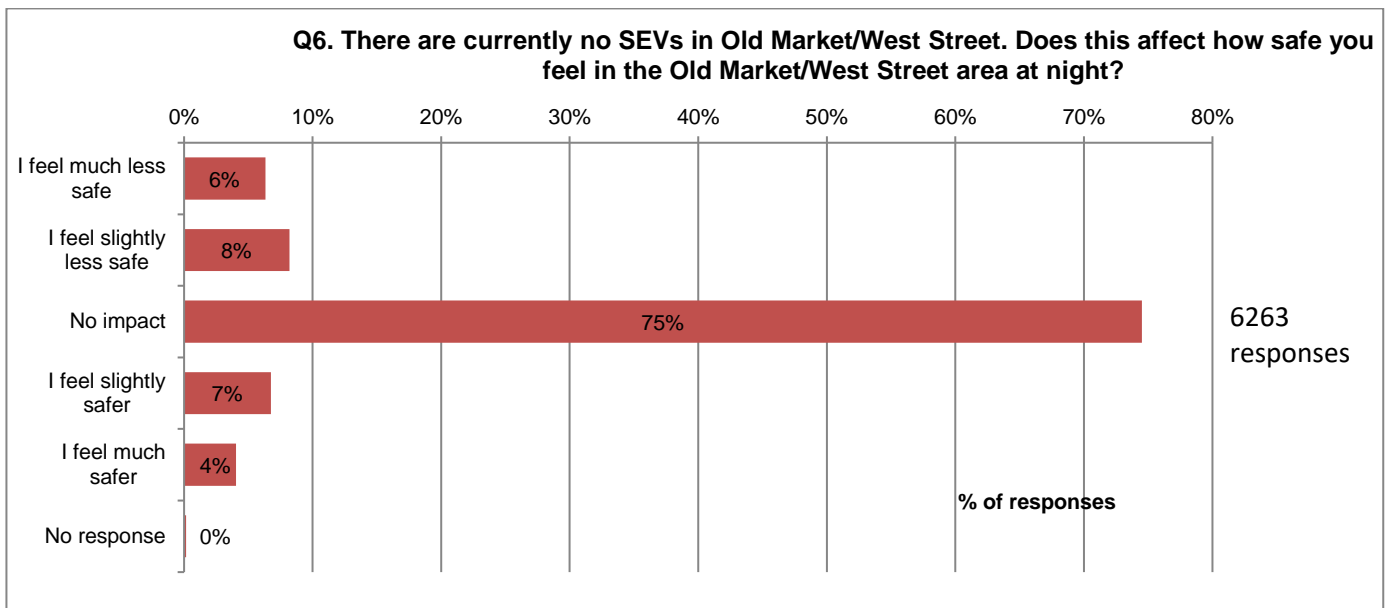
Large proportions of respondents in most groups said they felt neither safe nor unsafe, with 15 of the 27 listed below at between 18% and 33%.



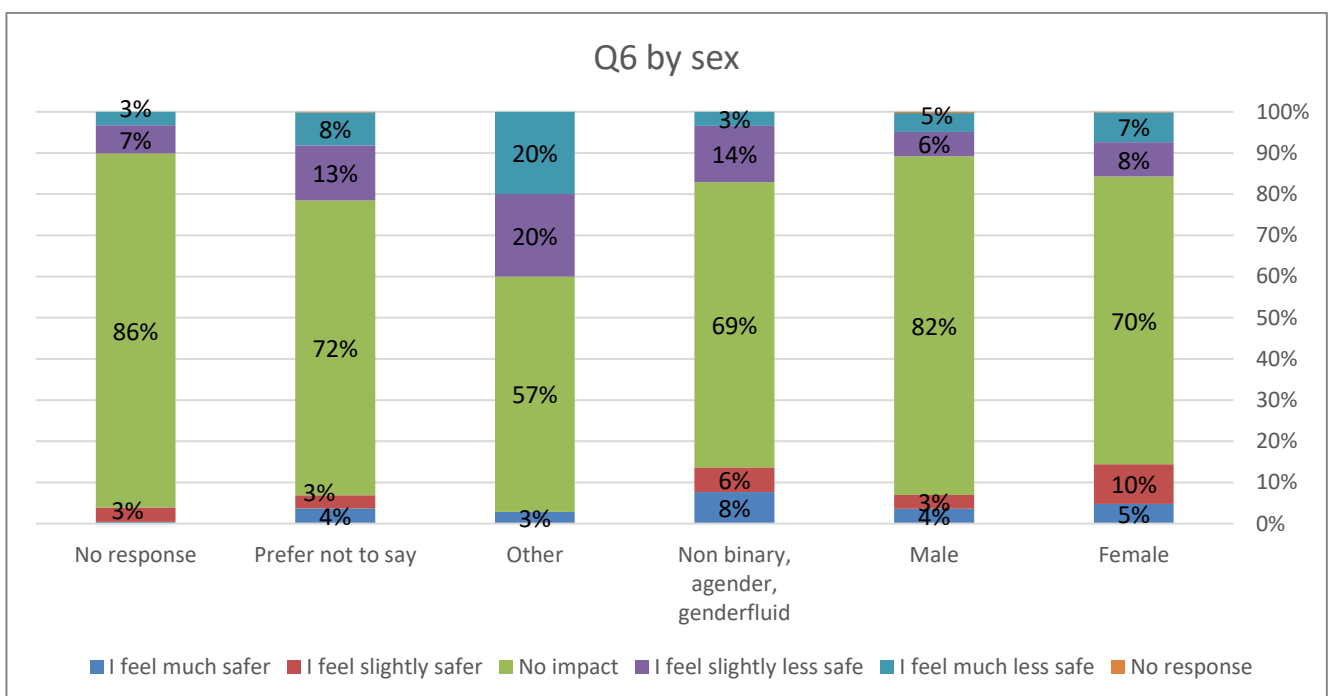
3.3.3 There are currently no SEVs in the Old Market / West Street area. Does this affect how safe you feel in the Old Market / West Street area at night?

Respondents were asked whether the fact that there was no SEV in Old Market/West Street area affected how safe they felt, on a scale of much less safe to much safer.

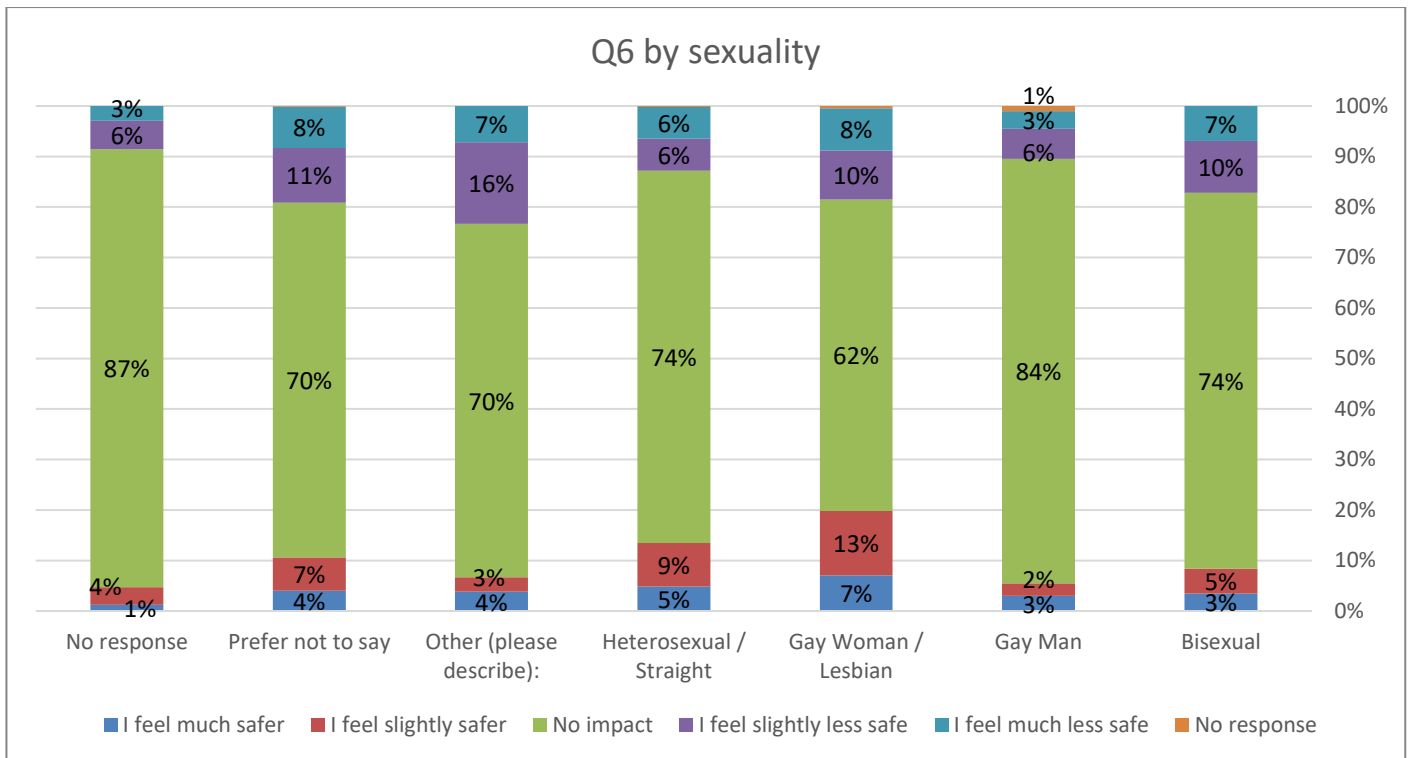
The majority of respondents (75%) said it had no impact on how safe they felt. 14% said they felt slightly less or much less safe. 11% said they felt slightly safer or much safer.



When broken down by sex female respondents were most likely to feel safer (15%) however the majority (70%) said it had no impact. Those who chose other are more likely to say they feel less safe without SEVs in the area (40%), although again the majority in this group (57%) said there is no impact

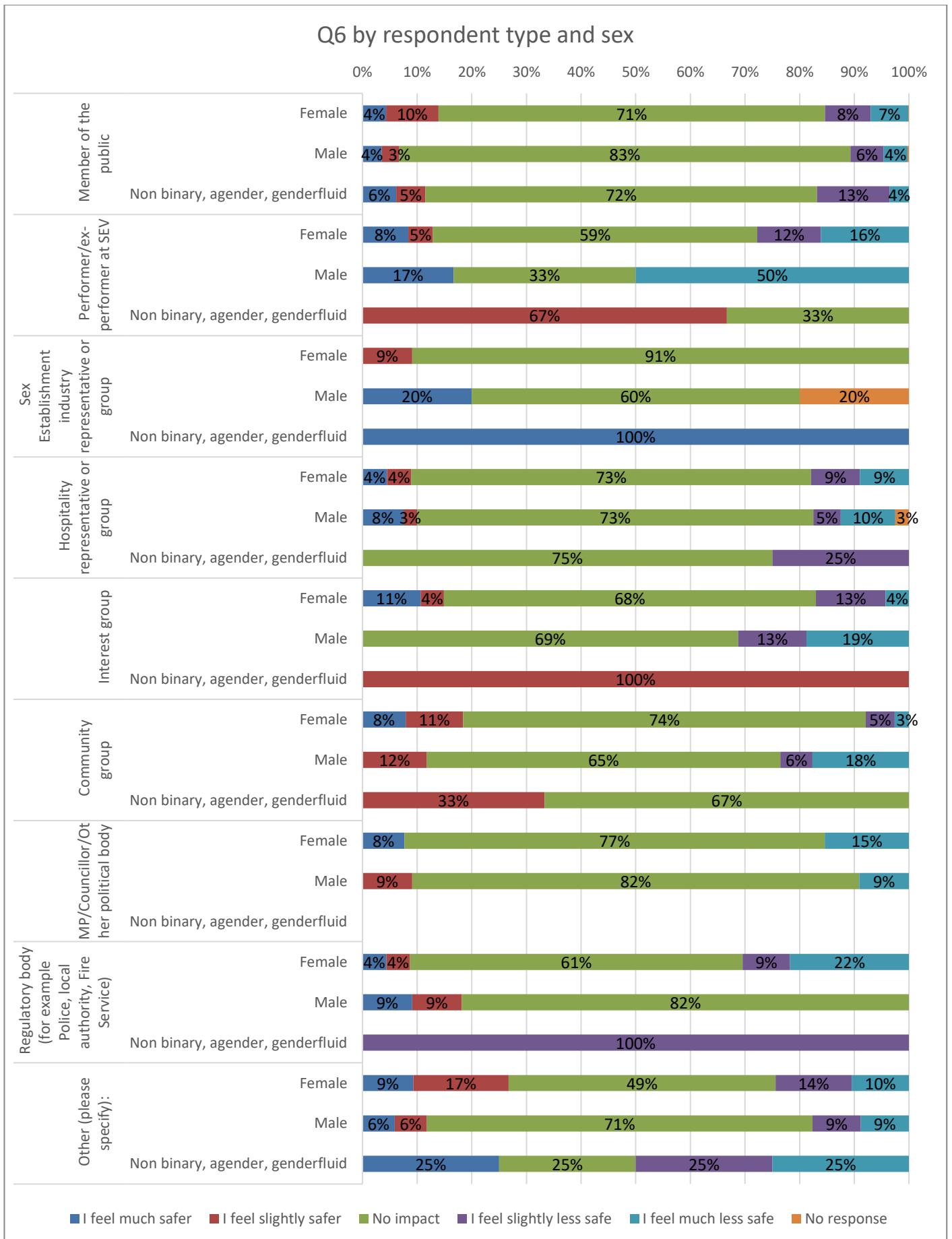


When looking at the breakdown by sexuality it can be seen that gay women/lesbians were more likely to say they feel safer with no SEVs in the area than other groups (20%). Gay men are least likely to say they feel safer with no SEVs (5%). Across all groups the majority said it had no impact on how safe they felt.



When looking at the responses by respondent type and sex, large proportions of respondents across most groups said that it had no impact on how safe they felt. 100% of the respondents who selected other in the interest group category, and 67% of non-binary/agender/genderfluid respondents in the performer/ex-performer at SEV group said it made them feel slightly safer. 100% of the non-binary/agender/genderfluid respondents in the sex establishment industry representative or group said it made them feel much safer.

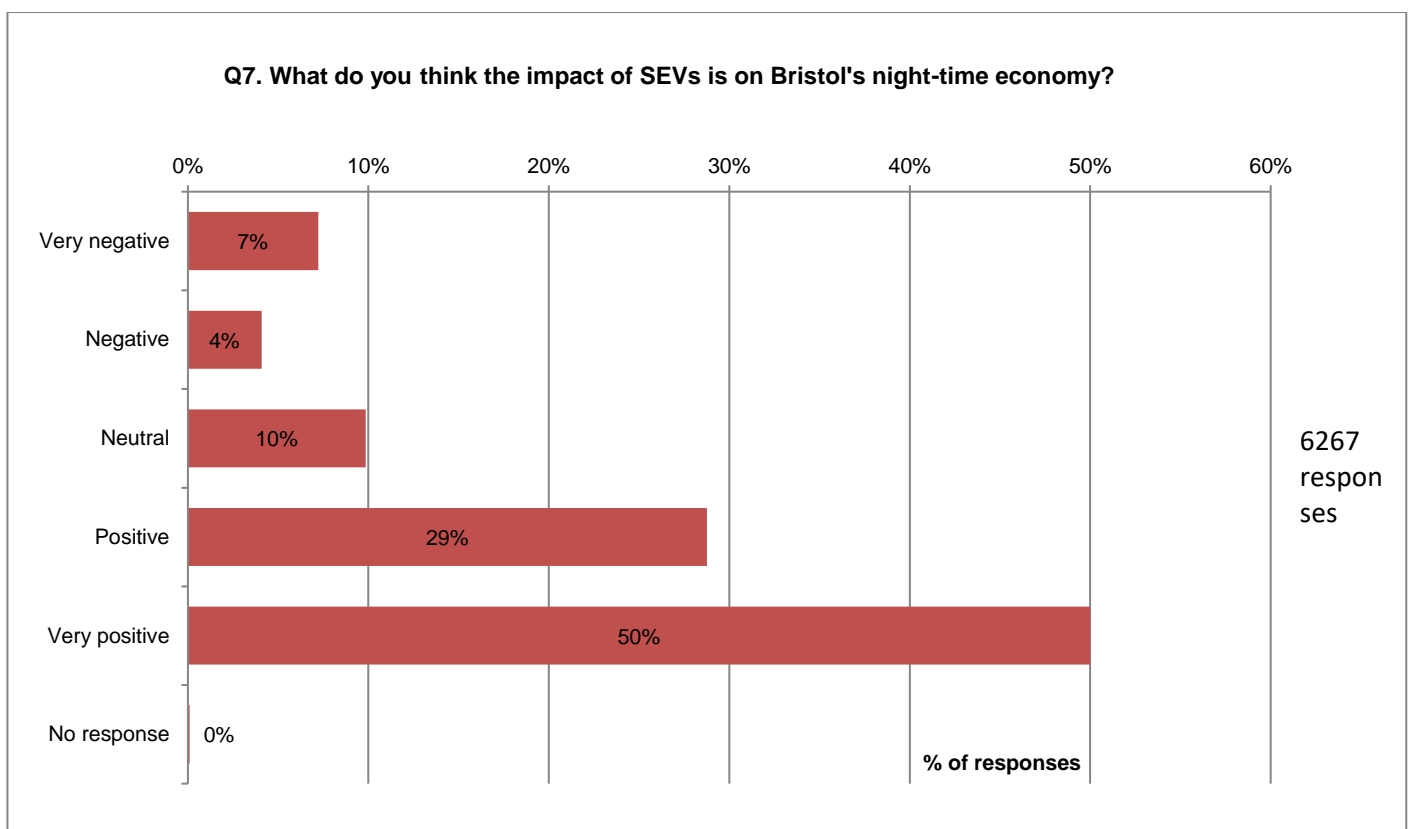
50% of male performer/ex-performer at SEV said they felt much less safe alongside 25% of non-binary/agender/genderfluid respondents in the 'other' respondent type, 18% of male respondents in the community group respondent type, 19% of male respondents in the interest group respondent type, and 15% of female respondents in the MP/Councillor/other political body respondent type.



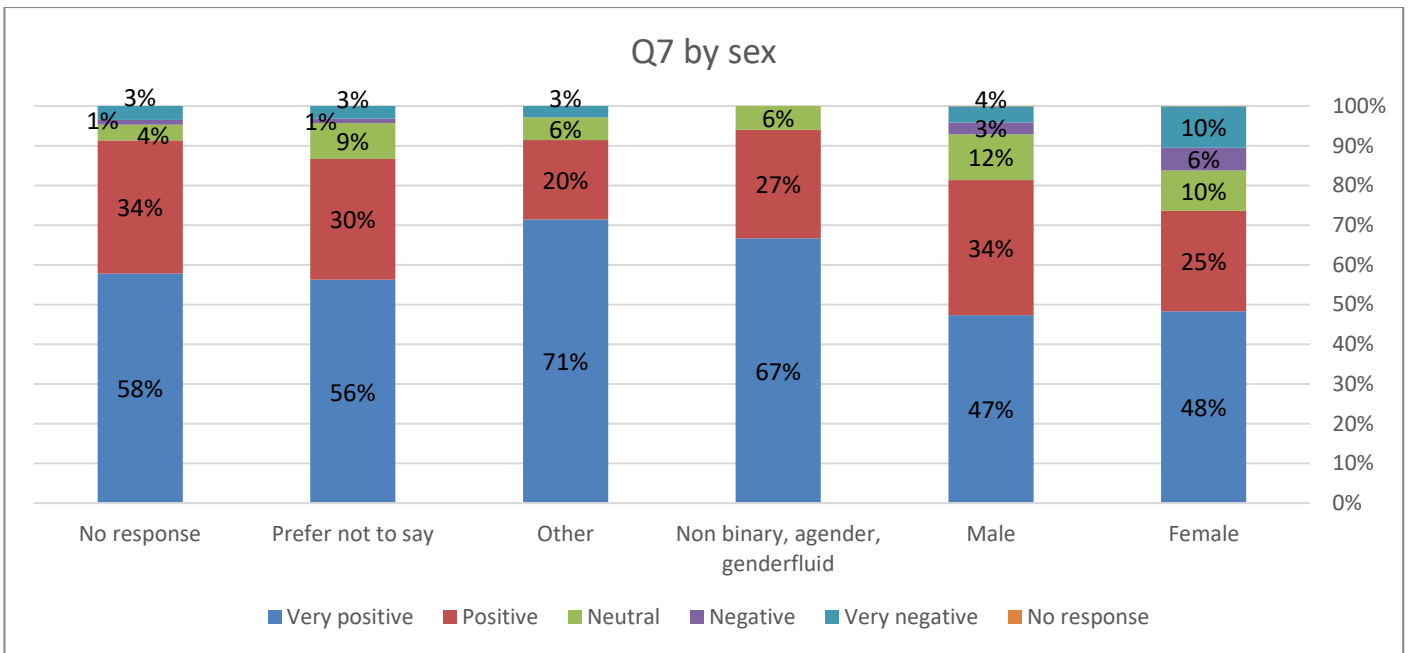
3.4 Bristol has a vibrant night-time economy which is made up of a range of different types of premises such as bars, clubs, cinemas, theatres, and other mixed use premises. These are premises which operate into the night-time, and early morning. Bristol has won Purple Flag status for a number of years which allows members of the public to quickly identify town and city centres that offer an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out.

What do you think the impact of SEVs is on Bristol's night-time economy?

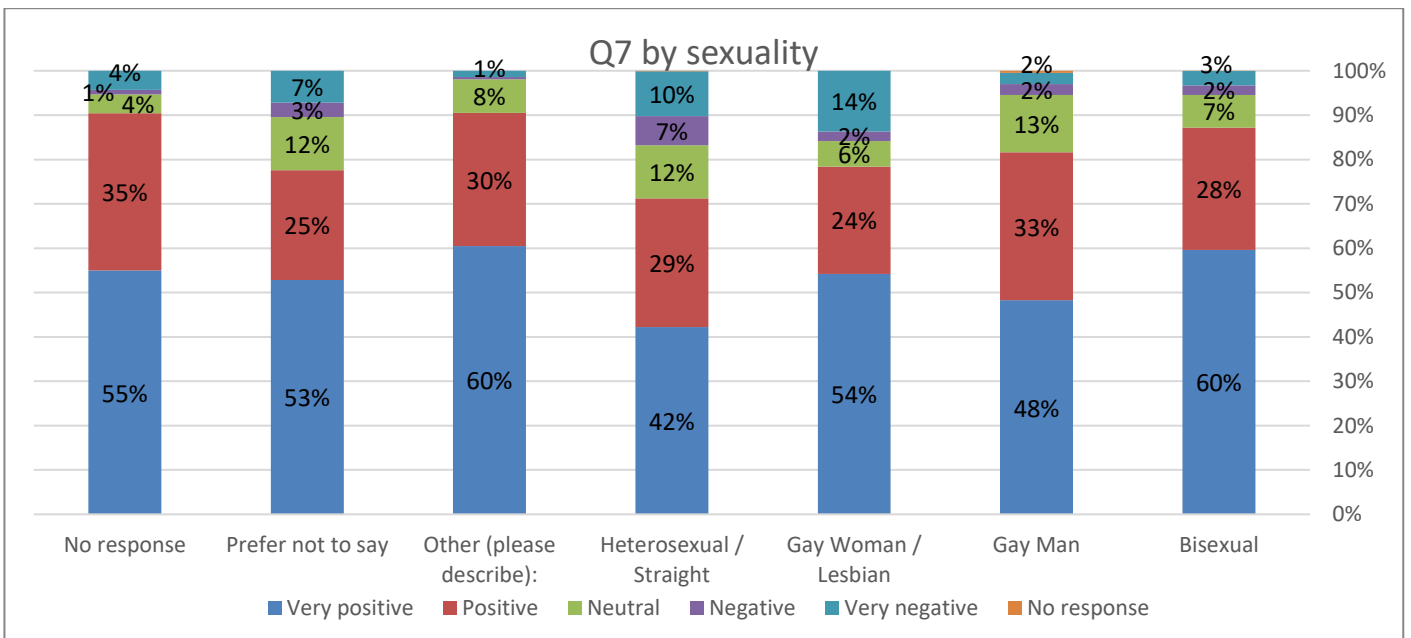
Respondents were asked what they thought the impact of SEVs was on Bristol’s night-time economy. The majority of respondents (79%) said they thought the impact was positive or very positive. 11% said they thought it was negative or very negative. 11% said they thought it was negative or very negative.



When looking at the responses by sex the majority of respondents in each groups said that they felt the impact of SEVs was positive or very positive. Female respondents were the lowest percentage positive/very positive at 73% compared to 81% of males. Females were also the group that had the largest percentage saying there was a negative or very negative effect, at 16%. Non-binary/agender/genderfluid respondents were most likely to say there is a positive impact with 94%.



When looking at the breakdown by sexuality it can be seen that straight/heterosexual respondents are less likely to say there is a positive impact (71%) and more likely to say there is a negative impact (17%). Gay women/lesbians are more likely to think they're a positive impact than straight/heterosexual respondents (78% versus 71%). Bisexual respondents and those who gave no response on sexuality are most likely to think SEVs have a positive impact at 88% and 90% respectively.



When looking at the respondent type and sex female members of the public are more likely to say there was a negative impact than their male counterparts (16% vs 7%), however both groups had over 50% majority saying there was a positive impact. Female MP/Councillor/other political body respondents and 'other' respondents were most likely to say there was a negative impact at 39% and 32% respectively.

Sex Establishment Policy Review – Consultation responses



3.5 If you have any other comments about the proposals in the draft Sex Establishments Policy, please provide them below.

There was a free text box provided for comments. A total of 2,167 comments were received. The main themes were:

Theme	Number of mentions	Explanation
Industry would go underground and become less safe	1020	These commenters said that removing SEVs would mean that the industry would still exist, potentially going underground, but without protection for the workers.
Implications around loss of jobs and further consequences	464	These commenters claimed that over 100 people working in the clubs, including dancers/bar staff/cleaners, would lose their job. Some also talked about the potential implications of this, including needing to go on benefits, being forced into working in unlicensed venues, or prostitution on the street.
Good workplaces	358	These commenters talked about how SEVs are good for the dancers that work there, saying that they are safe places to work, and provide protection that working in non-licensed venues don't.
Moralistic issues	306	These commenters said that the policy appeared to be led by certain people's morals or taste, rather than by evidence. This included some commenters saying that the people making decisions were "Puritan busybodies" and "outdated", or playing at "morality politics"
Need regulation	278	These commenters said that it was important that sexual entertainment was regulated, meaning that keeping SEVs open and regulated would be better than closing them all down and it going underground. Some also mentioned that the council would have no control over unlicensed (illegal) venues, compared to now.
SEVs safer than clubs / pubs	269	These commenters talked about how SEVs are safer than other 'normal' clubs. Many mentioned large nightclubs in Bristol as being places with many reports of sexual assault or spiking, compared to the SEVs which have a much lower number of reported incidents.
No evidence of issues caused	255	These commenters talked about how there was no evidence provided, or that they could find, that showed that SEVs cause violence or unsafe streets. These comments often also mentioned that 'normal' clubs are more likely to be unsafe than SEVs.
No impact on personal safety	245	These comments linked to the question about safety, saying that SEVs have no impact on how safe they

		feel, or how safe (they think) others feel in the areas at night.
SEVs follow rules/ well managed	233	These comments talked about how well run the SEVs are, including the 'no touch' policies, and that they are well managed. Many commenters also talked about how the two SEVs in the city centre are female-owned.
SWs deserve good employment/ worker rights	226	These commenters talked about how sex workers (including strippers) deserve to have good employment and good workers' rights. Many mentioned how this can be achieved through "the right for workers to organise collectively, access trade union representation and enter collective bargaining conversations with their bosses".
Performers want work and choice	221	These comments mention how the dancers working at the clubs choose to work there, and are not forced to. These comments came from both dancers and non-dancers.
Bouncers are good	172	These commenters talked about how the bouncers at the clubs were good and a positive thing for the city. This included many stories about people taking shelter in the SEVs when they felt unsafe on a night out. They mention how they are very strict and enforce the no touching policies, and also how they are extra bodies and eye on the street able to prevent issues outside the club too.
Sex work is work	170	These commenters said that sex work is work.
Should support economy/ SEV impact on economy	165	These commenters said that the council should be supporting the economy, or that SEVs have a positive impact on the local economy - including bringing in stag/hen dos and visitors spending money in other venues before or after visiting the venues.
Listen to Sex workers	164	These comments said that BCC should listen to sex workers, as this policy will directly impact them, and they are opposed to the nil cap. As part of one of the 'generic responses' this paragraph was included on this topic: "Why is new legislation being proposed without specific targeted consultation with the workers most effected by these policy decisions? The workers of the clubs have stated they would feel less safe if the clubs were to close. If Bristol City Council are committed to the safety of its residents and precluding any potential threat of exploitation, surely the workers within the clubs should be a community of interest and an asset in drafting any subsequent SEV policy. "
Positive for nightlife diversity	160	These commenters said that SEVs were positive for the diversity of Bristol's night time economy
Perpetuating objectification	157	These commenters raised that SEVs perpetuate objectification of women (and men) and leads to men

		viewing women as objects for them to buy for their sexual gratification.
Men/perpetrators are the issue	129	These comments said that perpetrators (mainly men) are the issue, not SEVs, and that the focus should be on stopping men being predators, rather than stopping SEVs.
Women's rights over bodies	122	These comments talked about how women should have the right over their own bodies and to be able to choose to be a stripper if they would like to be.
Work in other areas needed	118	These comments said that the council has work in other areas that it should be focusing on, including poverty, supporting equality in other areas (e.g. supporting women in male-dominated sectors), and homelessness.
Feel safer with SEVs	113	These commenters said they felt safer with SEVs, as they are open later and the bouncers are visible and helpful.
Will still be demand	113	These comments said there would still be demand for SEVs.
Focus other VAWG work	109	These comments suggested the Council should focus on other work related to preventing violence against women and girls.
Impact from other areas such as alcohol/drugs/football	103	These comments focused on the impacts that other premises or events have on safety, in particular alcohol, drugs and football matches.

The comments made in relation to this consultation are attached in full at **Appendix A**.

4. Additional responses

A total of 19 responses were received in addition to the survey. They range from supporting information from respondents who had also completed the survey to statements and presentations from groups or organisations as a separate response. Some of these responses contain personal information or were requested not to be made public and are summarised in brief here. The full responses are available to members of the committee in **Appendix B**.

Response 1 – Individual commenter

In favour of regulation

Response 2 – Individual commenter

In favour of regulation

Response 3 – Individual commenter

In favour of banning SEVs. Consider them degrading to women. Should help women into other jobs.

Response 4 – Individual commenter

SEVs should be permitted, if closed activity could move into more high risk, unprotected situations. Keeping them licensed allows for closer scrutiny and protection of workers.

Response 5 – Individual commenter

SEVs should be permitted, as long as they are run correctly and don't have any criminality or drugs, and the performers are choosing to work there. They provide work, they allow people to choose where they work and express themselves.

Response 6 – Local political figure

Sexual objectification of women is directly linked to domestic violence and sexual violence. The legislation permits the council to set an appropriate number and locality. The number in the three defined localities should be nil for SEVs.

Response 7 – National interest group

In favour of regulation

Response 8 – National ex-sex workers charity

Stripping is harmful, there is inherent objectification in it, it damages relationships outside of the work, there is increased risk of sexual assault because of the objectification, there is often prior abuse in the workers history, the venues are a feeder for prostitution, if clubs are closed there needs to be exit support for workers.

Response 9 – Local educational establishments

Venues have an effect on students, as both victims and potential perpetrators of gender based violence. SEVs normalise and add to sexual objectification of women, and violence against women and girls is disproportionately targeted at young women, particularly students. Support all our students, including those who work in sex industry, but also recognise the wider harms. Working in SEVs can be a gateway to other sex work. Existing premises are too close to transport hubs, student accommodation. Council cannot meet its public sector equality duty by permitting venues. Continued licensing of these venues contributes to normalisation of sexist and misogynistic behaviour. Number should be set at nil.

Response 10 – Individual commenter

Cost of student accommodation is linked to students undertaking sex work. Consideration should be given to the financial pressures on students and reasons they consider sex work whilst studying.

Response 11 – Individual commenter

Supports nil cap, feels fear in the city, from risk of male violence, experienced threats and sexist comments online, headlines are dominated by male violence against women and girls. Council should not prioritise the rights of women who choose to work in SEVs over the rest of the women in the city. SEVs exploit economic instability of women who work there. City is investing in supporting victims of domestic and sexual violence and sexist culture leads to male violence against women. Council should not bow to pressure from the sex industry and should consider the wider equality issues.

Response 12 – Bristol based women's equality group

Supports nil cap, existence of SEVs means there cannot be equality. Concerns widely in the city about male violence against women and girls, most effective impact is at community level, power and sex are interconnected in minds of those most likely to harass. Sexual objectification of women leads to violence against women and girls. Presence of strip clubs normalises sexist and misogynistic views. Some performers who are vulnerable may be more susceptible to drug and alcohol abuse, and SEVs are a gateway to other sex work. Whilst support rights or women to flexible well paid employment, don't consider that the sex industry is the answer. Nil cap is one step forward in the effort to eliminate violence against women and girls and sexual objectification.

Response 13 – Director of Public Health, Bristol City Council

Evidence in relation to impact of SEVs is inconclusive, in that there is no explicit direct correlation between the particular SEVs currently licensed and sexual violence or crime and disorder in Bristol. Have reviewed evidence from both sides of the spectrum however there is not a conclusive evidence-based position. Bristol is a city with younger than average population, two large universities, destination city attracting national and international visitors to city centre. More mixed use than ever in the city centre, and there are high levels of sexual violence within the defined localities which is a matter of concern.

Response 14 – Bristol based business

Current venue not subject to any complaints, SEVs are small but important part of the economy, and supports spending on other activities within the area such as hotels, restaurants and leisure. Closure may lead to loss of revenue for the city.

Response 15 - South-West based domestic violence prevention charity

Support nil cap on SEVs. Purpose of charity is to tackle issues around domestic abuse, violence and stalking, and educate young people. Licensing SEVs runs counter to Council's duty to promote healthy relationships between men and women. SEVs encourage objectification of women and sexist attitudes. Must have nil cap in order to promote equality between sexes.

Response 16 – Bristol Women's Commission

Support nil cap on SEVs. Granting of licences contradicts the obligations Council has in tackling violence against women. Sex trade is led by supply not demand, the regulated premises fuel unregulated activity elsewhere in the city, if banned activity would decrease rather than go underground. SEVs are an entry point into other sex work, women working in the sex trade are at much higher risk of violence than in any other job, and increases reliance on coping behaviours such as substance abuse. Allowing SEVs increases the risk of sexual objectification of women by men

Response 17 – Bristol based gender equality and women's rights organisation

An analysis of the previous consultation was provided, along with specific suggestions in relation to the current policy wording and proposal. Alongside this a response was provided in relation to this consultation which included support for a nil cap on SEVs across Bristol. Many gender equality and sexual and gender based violence experts had recommended that a nil cap be implemented. SEVs promote harmful attitudes to women, other authorities have taken a nil cap approach, no evidence to suggest performers are safer in a regulated environment, no evidence that activity would go underground, if due regard is given to the public sector equality duty then a nil cap should be imposed.

Response 18 - Individual – gender equality expert

Highlights the key points for policy makers, including acts, legislation and policy which should apply to decision making. Support for a nil cap on SEVs, it will promote equality, allowing SEVs facilitates and normalises sexist attitudes, important to listen to views of both sex workers who support continuation of licensing and ex-sex workers who support a nil cap. If Bristol implements a nil cap it will remove the harm that SEVs cause and other local authorities will follow. The existing premises will find new purposes which do not encourage gender inequality. If the Council set numbers other than nil it will undermine women's safety and condone sexism.

Response 19 – National organisation challenging the porn and sex trade

Support for a nil cap on SEVs and sex shops. Strip industry is harmful and concerns cannot be mitigated. There are breaches of regulations nationally and the industry have a vested interest in

denying issues. SEVs are a feeder to other more high risk sex work. SEVs encourage sexual objectification of women, and give rise to mental health, physical health, and substance abuse issues. Prior abuse can be a factor in entering the strip trade, assault and sexual harassment is normalised in the strip trade, SEVs encourage sexual objectification and make women feel less safe in the areas where they exist. Councils have a duty to consider the public sector equality duty, and the business use of strip clubs is a form of workplace sexual harassment. Loss of employment should not be a consideration for determining whether to have SEVs, lap-dancers must generally pay the club to work there. No evidence to suggest activity will go underground.

5. How will this report be used?

This report will be used by the Council to assist them in producing a final version of the policy.

The latest consultations can be found online at www.bristol.gov.uk/consultationhub, where you can also sign up to receive automated email notifications about consultations.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Public Forum

Licensing Committee

8th March 2021 @ 9am



To: Licensing Committee

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**Question from Thomas Pearce
With Replies**

1. If the committee decides to close these establishments, what financial help from the council will be given to the workers and their families who rely on this income to survive?

Reply:

The committee are not being asked to approve a final policy, simply to allow officers to undertake a consultation on a draft policy which proposes changes to the numbers of SEVs permitted in 2 localities in Bristol; the City Centre and Old Market. No decision on a final policy is being made at this time.

2. The consultation makes reference to 9 different respondents. Only one of these was a worker in the industry (and they were against the proposals). Did this consultation reach out to any unions that represent workers in these venues (for example, GMB union), or any sex worker advocacy groups when collecting this information?

Reply:

A wide range of people were consulted in the early stages as well as throughout the policy review. At each stage the Council has widely publicised the consultation and questionnaire both of which were open for any person or organisation to comment on. We have also written specifically to national groups representing sex workers, and will ensure that this is repeated in this consultation.

3. Please can I confirm the employment status of the workers at these venues? Respondent 4 (Fawcett society) puts forward that these workers are self employed. "The loss of one type of adhoc, often inadequately recompensed work could be substituted for more regular employment." Can the committee confirm that this is true in this case; and therefore whether these clubs are legally compliant. Nowak -v- Chandlers Bars in 2020 ruled that the workers at these venues are legally workers, and not self employed.

Reply:

It is a matter for each venue to determine, and conditions within Bristol require that 'Performers may perform only in accordance with written contracts, which define their rights and obligations, including terms as to the nature of their performance and payment. No deduction shall be made from such payment unless permitted by the contract, and no deduction by way of penalty shall be permitted'.

Questions Gwyneth Brain LGBT+ Officer for Bristol South Labour Party
Replies

My question for the licensing and planning committee on SEVs as part of the Sex Establishments Policy section is this:

1. The council documents listed on its website concerning SEV licensing lists many voices of those who are claim feminism but are very much sex worker exclusionary in their feminism, voices not linked to SEVs directly and erasing SEV worker voices in favour of their almost paternalistic line of knowing what is best for these workers. Yet at the same time those documents only list one SEV worker speaking about her work and life and feelings on the industry and gives a very different image. Given many of the anti-SEV and other anti-sex worker arguments are around social justice and equality, and given a key tenet of social justice and equality is 'nothing about us without us' - how many workers at SEV venues have this committee listened to and will their voices be given weight as workers in the field?

Reply:

A wide range of people were consulted in the early stages as well as throughout the policy review. At each stage the Council has widely publicised the consultation and questionnaire both of which were open for any person or organisation to comment on. We have also written specifically to national groups representing sex workers, and will ensure that this is repeated in this consultation.

2. Have you consulted with sex worker collectives on this or are you giving more weight to outside voices imposing their morality in an attempt to remove agency from SEV workers?

Reply:

As above, we have consulted with, and will continue to consult with a wide range of people and organisations representing all stakeholders in this matter.

- Gwyneth Brain,

Dylan Woodward:

Please see below two written questions for the public forum section of the Licensing Committee Meeting on Monday 8th March.

1. The council's impact analysis makes the claim that potential safety issues for performers "would be entirely mitigated in localities where a nil cap is introduced." What evidence is there to support this claim, considering that a key argument of groups representing sex workers such as SWARM is that the existence of formal, regulated environments for different forms of sex work is essential in promoting harm reduction, as workers would otherwise be forced into riskier, unregulated environments.

Reply:

There is no evidence of unregulated venues within the city of a similar nature to the current venues. The focus of the EQIA must be related to the impacts of the policy on sex establishments which the council regulates. If the venue is removed then any potential risk to the performer within that venue is also removed.

2. Given the apparently low number of responses from performers in these venues, what efforts were made to encourage responses from performers, trade unions which represent them such as the GMB, or sex-worker advocacy groups such as SWARM?

Reply:

A wide range of people were consulted in the early stages as well as throughout the policy review. At each stage the Council has widely publicised the consultation and questionnaire both of which were open for any person or organisation to comment on. We have also written specifically to national groups representing sex workers, and will ensure that this is repeated in this consultation.

Question: Toni Mayo

Reply:

1. What consultations have taken place with organisations such as Bristol SWARM regarding SEV licensing; to ensure that those affected by the proposed licensing rules are sufficiently involved in key decisions that affect them, and their rights and safety are ensured?

Reply:

A wide range of people were consulted in the early stages as well as throughout the policy review. At each stage the Council has widely publicised the consultation and questionnaire both of which were open for any person or organisation to comment on. We have also written specifically to national groups representing sex workers, and will ensure that this is repeated in this consultation.

Toni Mayo

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Bristol South CLP Women's Officer

Questions: Edan Webster

Replies:

1. During the Covid pandemic, much of Bristol's nightlife has been put on hold, and the unemployment rate has more than doubled; with the huge impact that this devastating year has had on Bristol's economy; what are the farther impacts going to be for the workers, and for the surrounding businesses if these independent clubs - who employ more than 100 women, many of which are single mothers and students - are forced to close in the wake of this pandemic?

Reply:

The committee are not being asked to approve a final policy, simply to allow officers to undertake a consultation on a draft policy which proposes changes to the numbers of SEVs permitted in 2 localities in Bristol; the City Centre and Old Market. No decision on a final policy is being made at this time.

Sexual Entertainment Venues have already had to be closed in law throughout the pandemic, as they are one of the named restricted businesses.

2. Bristol City Council carried out a study in 2018, with a view to "use the information gathered from this survey to inform a draft policy" and the results of the survey found that the majority of Bristol residents felt that they were happy for SEVs to continue to operate within the city, provided they were away from places of worship and schools; why is the council wishing to go against the data found in their own research, where the purpose of the aforementioned research is meant to inform the policy?

Reply:

The committee are not being asked to approve a final policy, simply to allow officers to undertake a consultation on a draft policy which proposes changes to the numbers of SEVs permitted in 2 localities in Bristol; the City Centre and Old Market. No decision on a final policy is being made at this time and this consultation will further inform the Council in making a decision.

Edan Webster, Bristol resident, BS16

Bristol Statement

Not Buying It works closely with survivors of the strip industry to raise awareness of its harms. Our CEO helped bring in SEV legislation 10 years ago to end the licensing of strip clubs like cafes. More recently, Not Buying It has been involved in 2 successful High Court cases against one council (Sheffield) showing its pro-strip industry stance was a breach of equality law. It should be noted that this included *not* giving due consideration to the overwhelming evidence of the harm of the industry, particularly its objectification and commodification. It included *not* listening to the valid concerns of those who object. It included *not* considering the impact of the industry on society at large in addition to those working in clubs ¹.

So we want to be sure the council is aware that the strip industry is inherently harmful. And it is harmful *even in* a perfectly run club, with no breaches, no sexual contact, respectful punters who behave like perfect gentlemen and management that genuinely does treat staff like it's one big happy family.

This is because the entire premise of the industry is inherently harmful. It is based on the objectification of women and the commodification of women's bodies. Objectification, self-objectification, commodification are all intrinsically harmful. And this is harmful *whether or not* it has been chosen (and in a society where girls are bombarded from the youngest age with hyper-sexualised messages, so that this becomes part of your very identity and self worth, then of course there is going to be an endless stream of young women who 'chose' lap dancing).

As Elena ², formerly in the industry says: "I'm a sex object anyway"

Lucy ³: "I'd fallen for the myth that lap dancing is a good way of making a lot of money very quickly.

Vicky ⁸:

"I went into that job .. believing that it was in some way going to be ..empowering. What I didn't realise .. is that my perception of female sexual identity was entirely framed and formed of objectification. The sexuality you display in a lap dancing club, in pornography, in lads mags, is entirely centred upon one thing: the gratification of men. My body as a tool for your pleasure - to be admired, to be manipulated, to be used. Lap dancing and standard pornography are not liberation and they are not empowerment. They are the best trick yet from the bag of female repression. If we pay you for it, then you can't complain."

¹ <https://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/licensing/399-licensing-news/38697-council-concedes-in-strip-club-policy-legal-challenge-over-equality-duty-failure>

² Elena's testimony: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/mar/19/gender.uk>

³ Lucy's testimony: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2008/mar/19/sex-industry-lap-dancing>

The harm of objectification, self objectification and commodification – ie the entire premise of lap dancing is confirmed by researchers ⁴ and psychologists ^{5, 6}.

It is confirmed by women who have *exited* the strip industry:

Liz ¹⁰ “At the end it was dehumanising, soul destroying and filled with desperation..”

Elena ² “The men just see you as an object, not a person, and whether you are equally engaged in their desire is irrelevant”

Women who have exited the industry also make another very important point. When you are in it you do not see or acknowledge this harm:

Elle ⁷ “ I felt validated by the attention, validated through the compliments. I told myself I was powerful, I was the one taking advantage of the men, those poor souls. I was the one in charge.”

It wasn't until Elle left that she realised the harm: “For the first time in a very long time, I felt like myself, my authentic self. I felt like I'd finally found myself. .. The one thing I didn't expect to feel is relieved, yet that's how I feel now. I feel free”

Vicky ⁸ “The perception of lap dancing is that it's easy to make lots of money. *You can't admit to being the exception to the rule.* You have to play the game. You're a dancer, of independent means, you're glamorous, exciting. Whereas in reality you are skint, spotty, exhausted, hungover. You have a rash from constantly shaving your pubes. And with every night that goes by you begin to feel less and less like a human being.”

Keisha ⁹ “in reference to those still within the industry, it is impossible to give a balanced, free-of-coercion opinion on something for which your very survival depends upon. You will find the vast majority .. are disproportionately at high risk of homelessness, food poverty and other complications which come from a lack

⁴ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/089124302236987>

⁵ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/713840248>

⁶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3508959/#B5>

⁷ Elle's testimony: <https://nordicmodelnow.org/2018/06/14/the-lost-soul-elle-elizabeths-journey-through-lap-dancing/>

⁸ Vicky's testimony: https://notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/AP%20LAP%20DANCING%20testimony_%20Vicky.pdf

⁹ Keisha's testimony: <https://notbuyingit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Keisha-Testimony.pdf>

of economic opportunity ..Therefore, the argument of choice is a tainted one. What real choice is poverty or exploitation?”

Liz ¹⁰: “The strange thing about lap dancing is how things that would be unacceptable in real life become normal in the club.”

This lack of acknowledgement of harm is particularly telling in those fresh to the industry:

Liz ¹⁰ : “For a time lap dancing was great, and a job that I truly enjoyed. I felt sexy and confident in work and felt part of a team with the other girls; the manager really liked me and was always complimentary to me and fair.

Elle ⁷ : “I have many friends that still strip. They claim they love the work. I know they don’t. They love the money. They tell themselves sweet lies to cover up the truth. I hope with all my heart my friends find their way out, find their own validation, find their own freedom.”

These are just some of the reasons why no one from the industry ever speaks out, publicly, against it (or if they do it is always ‘other clubs’ that have problems, *not* their current place of work).

This form of denial has also been evidenced by academics. Who have noted not only denial but ‘higher loyalties’ to the strip club and even dissociation ^{11, 12}. This is research, by the way, carried out by pro-sex trade academics in clubs they deem well run in an industry they see as empowering. These academics attribute this extreme emotional damage to ‘stigma’.

This harm cannot be prevented. You cannot write an Equality Impact Assessment that nullifies this. You cannot ensure the wellbeing of those in the industry, you cannot abide by equality law while you license the strip industry.

And this harm is not just about breaching equality law in terms of gender, the industry is also inherently racist and homophobic:

¹⁰ Liz’s testimony: https://notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/LAP%20DANCING%20testimony_Liz.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0163962.2008.985594>

¹² <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/713840274?src=recsys>

As Keisha ⁹ points out:

“ .. clubs are fundamentally sexist, racist, homophobic establishments who fetishize colonialist stereotypes of "exotic" BAME women by reducing them to their physical and racialised attributes

.. the forced depiction of lesbianism by heterosexual dancers for monetary gain is also a contradiction with any other work establishments adherence to equality law.”

Furthermore, this harm is not just about the harm done to women in the industry, it is about the harm done to *all women in wider society*. You are equally bound under equality law to seek to prevent this. But if you license strip clubs, you cannot. You cannot prevent the attitudes that licensing the strip trade promotes in those who use it or the messages its mere presence loud hails about what women are for and how men are supposed to treat and view us.

As Vicky ⁸ puts it “mainstreaming of lap dance clubs fits into a sexist ‘sex object culture’ underpinning gender based violence and discrimination.”

Keisha ⁹: “objectification breeds violence by default, it cannot be reformed.”

As the lead solicitor for the successful legal challenge against Sheffield City Council points out:

‘This is an important battle for sex equality ..in convincing the Council of the **negative impact of women generally of allowing a proliferation of strip clubs**” ¹³

“The law is very clear that if a particular issue is highly relevant for sex equality, a public body must look very carefully at **any negative impact on women.**” ¹⁴

And: “a local authority .. must look long and hard of the adverse impact on sex equality of letting such an enterprise [a strip club] **exist at all**. Otherwise it will be acting unlawfully and be subject to legal challenge.”¹⁵

I’ll finish in the words of survivors of this industry – and yes, they see this as something they have survived, which surely speaks for itself:

¹³ <https://dpglaw.co.uk/sheffield-city-council-concedes-on-strip-clubs-policy-challenge/>

¹⁴ <https://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Sheffield%20P%20%20Release.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://notbuyingit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SheffieldShame.pdf>

Keisha⁹: “If you care at all for the welfare of these vulnerable women instead of profit - you will not licence exploitation.. instead, you will provide support for exit services to help aid these women out. You will provide an alternative.”

Darna¹⁶: “You, as decision-makers and policymakers, must remember that you have a commitment to creating communities where women have real work .. Moreover, you have a responsibility to young girls who are still not there. You can no longer help my survivor friends or me; in our case, the damage is already done. That said, you can create a better life and a better community for my daughters. Like your own daughters, they don't deserve to be sold to punters.”

¹⁶ Darna’s testimony: <https://notbuyingit.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Darna-2019.pdf>

8th March Lic Committee SEV

Dear democratic services,

Please find below my statement relating to agenda item 6 of the licensing committee meeting at 9 am on Monday 8th March. I will not be attending the meeting as it clashes with work.

Kind regards,

Ollie.

I have never been to a sexual entertainment venue and I don't plan on it either, but common sense and evidence from other countries shows that is far less detrimental for society as well as the women involved for sex work to be legal, regulated and for those in the industry to pay tax and be full members of society.

Obviously venues like Urban Tigers exist only on the very edge of the sex industry but they are still part of that group. I have nothing but respect and admiration for any woman who makes the decision to earn money this way and I believe that society has a duty to keep them safe and protected. Pushing them underground by closing venues does the opposite.

Many sex workers in the Netherlands, for example, are being furloughed at the moment which means that they can keep themselves and their community safe during lockdown. What do you think sex workers in this country are doing where it is illegal? Those who are unable to make money via webcams are undoubtedly putting themselves and society at risk by having sex in exchange for money!

Closing sexual entertainment venues was a pre election pledge made by Marvin Rees. If you're wondering why he has waited until now to threaten Urban Tigers with closure then I should think it's because he's trying to distract the people of Bristol from the fact that he has:

failed to deliver an arena.

failed to intervene sooner when Bristol Energy was clearly haemorrhaging tax payers money
failed to deliver the number of affordable homes he promised.

failed to sort out the city's air pollution problem until central government got heavy.

Failed to provide answers to questions when held to account by opposition councillors; and finally:

Failed to inspire faith in citizens of Bristol like myself who lent him my vote back in 2016 in good faith.

I am angry that women are not only being used to divide opinion with this agenda item but also to distract us from the fact that the mayor has failed, in my opinion, to get on top of the real problems that this city faces.

I genuinely don't know how this council can go to bed at night knowing that the number of people waiting to be housed by the council has risen from 12,000 to at least 13,000 in the last few years. That's what this organisation should be focussing on; get your priorities straight!

8th March Lic Committee SEV

Katy Taylor Director of Bristol Women's Voice

Dear Councillor

I am writing ahead of the 8th March meeting when the full licencing committee will agree to put out the draft policy that includes a NIL CAP on sexual entertainment venues for consultation.

I am aware there is a campaign orchestrated by supporters of sexual entertainment venues and that Councillors have been receiving letters to this effect.

As an organisation run by, for and with women across Bristol, I am writing to stress our support for the nil cap policy. We'd also want to thank you for the work you have done so far to research the impact of sexual entertainment venues on women and girls, for listening to their experiences and for engaging with experts and women's organisations as part of your process.

At Bristol Women's Voice we strongly feel, as the research shows, that sexual entertainment venues are detrimental to the wellbeing of women and girls (and men and boys) and that a nil cap will improve women and girls' access to and experience of public city centre spaces.

We would also highlight that, given Covid-19 has prevented the running of sexual entertainment venues, women who were working in them will have had to find alternative employment over the last year and in this respect, now is the time to implement the nil-cap policy with the least disruption to that small number of women's livelihoods.

Supporting women into non-exploitative, paid work is also cost effective for any Council. It means women will be in work where they are far more likely to be paying taxes (often not the case when self-employed in the strip industry) and it avoids the very costly mental health or social support women are evidenced to disproportionately need if they remain in the sex trade.

Thank you again for your work to implement a nil-cap policy; it is important and valued.

Yours sincerely,

Katy Taylor

Director

Bristol Women's Voice

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8th Nov Lic Committee – SEV

Dear Services

I write to ask you as chair of the Women's Safety Task Group in Bristol to note our support of a nil cap on SEVs in Bristol. We also feel it is wholly inappropriate to be considering this licencing on International Women's Day, a day reserved for the celebration of women and of the progress we have made towards equality when SEVs are regressive.

We feel the presence of SEVs makes cities less safe for women and Bristol is no exception. There is considerable evidence of women who work in SEVs being assaulted by male punters and this not being reported to the police, as it would threaten the business. The presence of a venue which promotes the selling of sexual behaviour of men by women, promotes an unhealthy power balance in what should be an equal relationship. There is also evidence that being self employed in an SEV is a gateway to prostitution and that many of the workers, when interviewed after their time working in an SEV are very damning of their experiences calling them places that "destroy people. Not only the dancers but I've seen men in here who blow their whole paychecks in one night" and "It robs you of your heart and soul. I would tell anybody – you should tell everybody, don't do it". All of this is detailed in the attached research paper.

The Mayor has committed to a nil cap. I also write as someone who has seen evidence of the danger to members of the public, particularly women, when walking around SEVs at night; people who leave come out and harass women passing in the street. I used to live at the end of a street where there was an SEV in east London and was frightened to walk past there at night.

I would be grateful if this email is acknowledged. Thank you

Best,

Anna

--

Anna Smith
Chief Executive Officer, One25

Lic Sub 8th March SEV

Chris Green OBE UN Leader of Men Founder White Ribbon Campaign UK

I give the information below about myself to show how seriously our work to end violence against women is taken at the national and international level. Work that councils directly undermine when they license sex entertainment venues:

In 2009 I was invited by the UN Secretary General to become one of only 11 men globally to be a UN Network of Men Leaders. Others in this group included the Prime Minister of Spain Jose Zapatero, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu . The UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon called on us to "Unite to change attitudes that incite, perpetuate and condone violence against women."

For three years I served on the Council of Europe Task Force to eliminate violence against women as a representative of the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe. This Task Force set the basis for the Istanbul Convention. Article 12 of this legally binding convention, states "Parties shall take necessary measures to encourage all members of society, especially men and boys, to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence covered by the Convention." The UK prime minister David Cameron signed this convention some 6 years ago and the UK is in the process of joining the other 32 countries that have ratified it .

In 2004 I founded the UK branch of The White Ribbon Campaign – engaging with men and boys to end male violence against women and girls. In 2017 I was awarded an OBE for my work on promoting equality between women and men.

I feel it is the absolute duty of elected representatives to challenge the commodification of women and attitudes which condone harmful attitudes and behaviours.

Sex Entertainment Venues by their nature (promoting and selling sexual encounters) directly support and promote attitudes which constitute and foster discriminatory behaviour by men and boys towards women and girls, attitudes of entitlement which are the major causes of men's violence against women and girls.

The licensed availability of sex for sale on the high street encourages people with sexist views to think that their views are 'normal', acceptable and shared by others.

These premises condone the sexism and culture of violence and entitlement (from unequal pay to domestic abuse) present in the everyday lives of people who have developed harmful attitudes. It is these attitudes that public bodies with responsibility for the public health of citizens are directly tasked with preventing and eliminating.

Instead of continually licensing venues to legitimise harmful attitudes -and often much worse - the council should stop legitimising this form of the sex trade and support all women to exit who require such support.

Chris Green

I would like the opportunity to address the meeting if possible, however limited the time .

--

Chris Green O.B.E. (Equality)
 Founder White Ribbon Campaign UK,
 UN Leader of Men

8th March Lic Sub SEV

Dear Bristol's licensing committee,

It has come to my attention that the council are lobbying to put a zero cap on Bristol's SEVs rather than sticking to the current cap of two. I must say that I find this extremely Un progressive and actually very disrespectful, to decide how another human (especially femme presenting) can CHOOSE to use their time and energy to make a living.

I would like to clearly see the evidence of the correlation of having two SEVs and the violence towards women? How is this providing equality if shows including "The Black Full Monty" allowed to go ahead in the city centre?

These venues are not promoting the "selling of women's bodies on the high street", in fact diminishing someone else's job to this is, is more degrading than the job its self.

I have personally worked in both clubs in Bristol as-well as internationally and they both are the safest and extremely well run. They have multiple safety guards put in place to ensure the customers and dancers are safe and taken care of at ll times including making sure they wait for all the performers are on their way home and no one is hanging around at the end of the shift and the multiple CCTV cameras in all parts of the venue. The amount of security guards for the size of venue are more than I have ever seen and they are always very professional and take up most care in making sure all staff are well. The managers and bar staff are also always on hand and ready to keep anyone in line that is needed.

I also find it very unsettling that it is assumed, that all of the customers who come into the venues are creeps or dangerous. These people could be your brother/sister, or neighbour or even your husband/wife... you are implicating that probably more than one person you know is out to violently harm another human simply for going to enjoy their company in a safely controlled environment Yes, this does happen in other places I will not deny it but this very rarely if at all happens in these two venues and this actually comes from the point that more education is needed and acceptance not less.

I also keep referring to the customers in a gender-neutral terms because it is exactly that, gender neutral. I have had many customers who are of all binaries and sexualities, who have come and used the experience to build confidence in accepting who they are. To be able to tell someone things you may feel nervous about, who you know is not going to judge and some just to enjoy a fun night out with connections with people you would not meet otherwise. I also identity in the LGBTQ+ community and know that I can help share my experiences and knowledge to someone who may need a shoulder to lean on and bring a more relatable type of experience.

It is always very important to not assume that every dancer in the venue is the same, there are single mums who else will not be able to support their children there are students who want to fund university degrees and there are people on the poverty line who need to care for sick parents, like myself. Taking away this opportunity of work after a global pandemic is unfair and will push for more underground events/bookings/venues that will not be as controlled or safe, endangering the entertainers further to violence and health conditions.

We want this to go out to public consultation so the voices of the people of Bristol can be heard and not just have a decision made behind closed doors and also without the people who this will directly affect having an opportunity to address the council.

I also find it very distasteful that threatening people livelihoods during this pandemic is appealing when you know full well there normally is a lot more public support and this just seems like another political move at our expense once again.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email, I know it is long but as you can see, I am extremely passionate about not letting what I call my home club get permanently closed down because someone else has decided control over my body, in my home city.

Kinda regards,

Jessica

Please forward this email onto members of the Licensing Committee.
If this email is likely to be published or read out, please redact my name.

Dear Councillors

I would like to thank you for your consideration of a nil cap for SEVs in Bristol.

I recall when the SEV legislation was introduced in 2010, I was hopeful that the City Council would adopt a nil cap. I moved to Bristol 13 years ago and one of the reasons I like the city and decided to make it my home is because it is progressive and forward thinking. I had hoped that the city would be leading the way in showing that it values women and girls as equal to men and boys.

In 2011, the Council did reduce the number of SEVs in the city by adopting a cap of three which was good news but it was not the outcome I and many others had sought. I hoped that the review of the policy, due a few years later in 2014, would then result a nil cap. I am aware that the City Council has, since 2014, taken the time to consult extensively with women's groups and experts in the field and I am very pleased that the Licensing Committee has now taken the extremely positive step of consulting on a nil cap.

The timing of the nil cap is opportune as most, if not all, of the performers at the SEVs will have sought alternative employment during the pandemic. The Council will naturally face accusations of putting women out of work by those with a stake in the industry but hopefully the actual impact will now be minimal. The owner of the clubs has other thriving businesses and presumably would not herself be too impacted.

It always felt incongruous to me that a city that signed the White Ribbon pledge, and which has other policies that promote equality between the sexes, licensed SEVs in such a prominent location in the city. For both men and women, boys and girls, it normalises the entitlement that men feel over women's bodies. My own experience is that I have been the victim of sexual harassment many times over the years and around half the time when I go out running I experience some form of sexual harassment, from men beeping their car horns to trailing me in their car. This ranges from the inconvenient to the downright frightening, and it is something that I, and probably most women and girls in the city, have come to normalise and almost expect. Implementing a nil cap in Bristol would go some way to sending the message to all of us that men and boys are not entitled to women's bodies and it also means that the SEV policy will finally be consistent with many of the Council's policies and duties.

Thank you for your work on this. I very much hope that the Council agrees to adopt a nil cap as other councils have now done.

Member of Bristol Fawcett
Member of Avon & Somerset Police's Women's Independent Advisory Group

PS I note that a former SEV, which is now the tapas bar Pata Negra, has recently been used as a film location for a new Netflix series - 'The One'. It is heartening to see what was once an SEV now a thriving business and that it will be seen in a series that will shown across the world soon. This is a great advert for our city!

8th March Lic Committee SEV

Anon

To whom it may concern

I am writing to express my support of the two Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in Bristol. They have been my home over the past 8 years. Giving me the freedom of work as a dancer and staff. Performing and teaching classes to men and women. The friends I have made have been invaluable and a great support.

I understand that the licencing committee is meeting on Monday 8th March to discuss the Sex Establishment policy Consultations and the city Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment and there is a chance that a nil cap will be put forwards and considered.

The closure of the strip clubs would not only affect all the staff working there and there/our lively hood but would also have a knock-on effect to the wider economy, especially after covid-19. What about all the birthdays and stag and hen dos? The restaurants, hotels, bars, clubs, suppliers, the list can go on and all can be linked.

The two SEVs in Bristol are known to the police as law abiding, well run places, in fact causing fewer problems than other bars and clubs. As proven with the red, amber and green system the police use. I personally have never had any problems and feel so safe in all of the years I have worked there.

The age-old claim that strip clubs cause city centre assaults is simply untrue and has no factual evidence to back it up. It is merely shaming women. This is a modern world and every 'man' is responsible for their own actions. The focus should always be on the perpetrators not using us as a scape goat! whether there is a nil cap or not you are not going to rid Bristol of unfortunate crimes to women and girls. Infact inforcing a nil cap will push the industry underground making it impossible to regulate and make safe for us women and girls.

It is also confusing to me on why us women are targeted and not left to make up our own minds on what we deem suitable employment. I am a nearly 40-year-old woman, married longer than I have been stripping, with 4 kids. I chose this job as it provides me what need, job satisfaction, support and being financially stable. I chose to be a stay-at-home mum and provide for my kids how my mother did for me. I never miss a match, dance competition or awards assembly. I am always there in person for my children and only work when I chose to, how much I want to, when I want to.

Why must we be targeted when male strip shows in the main Bristol nightclubs and regular shows at the hippodrome are celebrated and mass advertised? What makes us different apart from our sex? I am a feminist and I believe in standing up for ourselves, it is what we teach our kids right? As well as being fair and non-judgemental? I am not asking for any special favours just basic rights of equality and understanding to let us work and support our family's how we chose to.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Sincerely

xxxx

(I give permission to quote/use my email but please keep my name confidential for the sake of my children. Thank you)

Dear Sir/Madam

I would like to submit the following statement for the sex establishments policy consultation agenda point during the licensing committee meeting on Monday 8 March.

I have worked in a selection of Strip clubs across the UK, working in Bristol, Cardiff, and Birmingham. I first started to strip in Clubs in Bristol, and the clubs in Bristol are important to me. I have returned to live in Bristol and look forward to the point where it is once again possible to work within the Bristol clubs Stripping has given me freedom and flexibility in work, I have grown and learnt about myself within this job. I have had financial stability through the work.

Working within clubs I have felt safe and looked after by the security and club staff. I have felt empowered and learnt so much through working with and around my colleagues the other dancers there.

I was shocked to see the proposal for a nil cap SEV policy within Bristol. The pre consultation survey clearly shows the majority of people in Bristol feel that SEVs have a place within the city at appropriate locations and venues.

I cannot see how the licensing committee and city council can in anyway see it as acceptable to disregard this survey's results and proceed with a nil cap policy consultation. It is an affront to democracy and a wilful waste of public money.

These clubs have been closed for a year, the dancers at these clubs cannot expect to go back to work for a number of months. But there is a light at the end of this tunnel, the possibility that club closures will end at some point this summer or autumn. But this nil cap policy is an attempt to permanently close these clubs forever. To permanently remove these jobs.

I can see little mention throughout any of the supporting documents for this proposal around the risks involved in forcing SEVs underground and move away from licensed SEVs to private and unregulated parties.

If dancers work is removed from them by the loss of safe work environments, some people will be forced to accept work that they would not normally accept, work that feels risky.

while anecdotes are not research, I speak from personal experience of accepting work during the current closure of clubs that I would not normally have accepted, I hoped that the work was not as risky as it seemed, unfortunately it was. I was sexually assaulted.

I look forward to being able to safely work within a club setting again.

I do not wish to sign this with my true name due to the stigma unfortunately associated with this work. and the fear that it would impact on my ability to work other jobs

I sign this with the stage name of a dancer friend of mine who lost her struggle with mental health in the first lockdown last year.

May her memory live forever

Love and solidarity with all who are struggling. This is a demand to not accept a nil cap SEV policy

Jet

04/03/2021

SEVs Licensing

Dear Committee,

I work at Urban Tiger as a dancer. I really wanted to share my experience with you and hopefully this will help you understand why implementing a nil cap on SEVs in Bristol would be a mistake.

I started dancing in August 2019. Due to being newly self-employed, I have been unable to receive any financial help from the government since the start of the pandemic. Closing down my workplace would be a massive kick in the teeth after what has been an incredibly hard year for me and my colleagues.

Prior to working there, I worked several minimum wage jobs which I thoroughly disliked, and I had to live from paycheck to paycheck. Doing a job I hated most days of the week and being under constant financial stress had really taken a toll on my mental health. Alongside this, I was trying to kickstart a career in the arts and I felt like no matter how hard I tried, it was impossible. In early 2019, one of my friends, who had been dancing at Urban Tiger for some time, suggested that I should give stripping a go. I finally took the plunge a few months later. This turned out to be the best decision I ever made. Financially, it lifted a massive burden for me, I started living instead of surviving. I was finally able to invest time and money into my career in the arts and get it started properly. Working at Urban Tiger also allowed me to meet some of the most intelligent, confident, empowered and nicest women I have ever met in my life. I believe I have made some lifelong friendships thanks to this establishment.

Closing down Urban Tiger and Central Chambers would be a huge mistake. I do not believe these venues contribute to problems in the city centre more than any other venues in the area. Most of our customers are very respectful, which our brilliant security staff always ensures. I have been a victim and a witness of more incidents while walking down the street and being on a night out in a regular club than I ever have at Urban Tiger. Our amazing management and security staff have always made me feel safe.

I moved to Bristol six and a half years ago. I always viewed this city as very progressive, open minded and accepting. In my opinion, closing our venues would send out a negative message to your constituents, especially female constituents. You would be once again blaming women for problems caused by men and in no way solving them, if anything you would be contributing to them. If Bristol SEVs were to close, you would be once again taking freedom away from honest, hard working women by policing and censoring our bodies, our voices and the way we chose to make a living.

Thank you for listening,

Margot [REDACTED]

8th March Lic Committee SEV

Thank you from Bristol Fawcett

Thank you for carefully listening to the evidence that was submitted to you about the impact of SEVs on all women and girls in Bristol during your previous consultation period. The councils that still give licenses to SEVs are sending powerful signals that sexism is something they are willing to tolerate and support. **Thank you** for supporting Bristol City Council to join others in embracing its duties under national and international legislation and frameworks. Domestic and sexual violence, and other forms of inequality between the sexes such as persistent unequal pay are not inevitable, but preventable with the right approach to tackling harmful outdated ideas and social norms.

Thank you for seeing the bigger picture and restoring our faith in politicians of all parties. **Thank you** for making a change that will create more inclusive, safer and more welcoming public spaces for women in our city centre, and safer homes for women and girls. **Thank you** for helping to create a city where men and boys are encouraged to move on from old-fashioned and harmful attitudes towards the women and girls in their lives.

Bristol Fawcett members are longstanding Bristol-based members of the Fawcett Society, the UK's leading campaigning organisation for equality between women and men. We have been involved with Bristol City Council and engaged with its Equality work for over twenty years, bringing an evidence-based approach to all the issues that affect women and girls in Bristol from equal pay and pensions to representation in public life to safety and protection from violence. We include among our members business people, survivors of gender-based violence, women who have worked in domestic violence refuges, women who have worked supporting sex workers, academics who research gender equality and violence, public sector workers, private sector workers, those who have worked as medical professionals, social workers and policy specialists. We all care very much about equality and fairness for men and women in our city and we thank you for showing that Bristol City Council does too.

Helen Mott

8th March Lic Committee SEV

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to respond to the upcoming policy consultation with regards to SEVs in Bristol. I think that the question of banning the presence of SEVs coming up is a worrying development and I implore you not to carry out this damaging action. These venues exist for a reason, are part of our community, and provide jobs for a lot of people. predominantly women.

The targeting of this industry feels out of touch with current conversation and sociopolitical issues around feminism and sexuality. So far as I can tell the presence of these establishments has no negative effect on the safety and wellbeing of the community, which raises the question of whether there is some other agenda governing the raising of this consultation.

As someone who doesn't use venues like this, but has sex workers in my social network, I feel that it is my responsibility to protect their industry and their places of work, as I know they would do for me if it was my industry under fire. The people who work at these venues are providing a service not dissimilar to many other jobs which might be considered more 'reputable' by people with more puritanical views, however I don't feel that these values reflect the attitude of our wider community and I hope that you will do the right thing and allow these venues and their workers to continue their careers, perhaps with better support from their council.

Yours faithfully

Charles Sherratt

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to express my support for the two sexual entertainment venues (SEV's) in Bristol. There is a licencing committee meeting on monday the 8th of March, where councillors will discuss the future of SEV's.

I would like to give my support to the two venues currently in Bristol, Urban tiger and Central chambers. I have worked at the clubs for the past five years and can honestly tell you that both clubs are run to an exceedingly high standard, all the women who work there are completely there out of their own choices to work in an industry which they truly love. There is nothing illegal or unlawful about nude dancing, it is a form of entertainment of which there is a very high demand for in the Bristol area, Both clubs are perfectly situated in the town centre near other bars, clubs and are a huge part of the night time economy.

All the women who work at the clubs rely on these safe regulated environments in order to be able to do our jobs, at both clubs there are very strict safety rules and protocols, which all members of staff abide by. All the management and owners are very professional and make them the most well run strips clubs i have ever worked at.

The men and women customers treat the dancers with the utmost respect and enjoy visiting the clubs as they are a place to have a great night out, where the customers and dancers feel safe, looked after and there is very little to no trouble at the venues at all, the security staff are some of the best in bristol and any customers behaving inappropriately are removed from the venue immediately. I have never once felt disrespected whilst working there, i always feel like the customers, managers and owners treat me with more respect than I have ever felt in any other job role I have ever done. I have worked in other jobs where I have felt a lot more disrespected as a woman than I have ever felt working as a dancer.

There is no violence or trouble at the venues, most people come in there so they can have a brilliant night out in a safe and controlled environment.

The renewal of the licences means everything to myself and the other dancers, we believe that women should have the choice to work in the legal and regulated industry in which they choose, not be forced in to unemployment by the minority of people's beliefs who simply don't like strip clubs, who find any excuse under the sun in order to try and justify their negative beliefs about strip clubs. The majority of Bristol are very supportive of strip clubs and dont have any objections to us being there, which has been proved by surveys and research. Working at the clubs has enabled me to live an amazing and fulfilling life where i can fully support myself financially, get a mortgage by myself and has given me the time to put work in to my bespoke dressmaking business. I can honestly say that being a dancer at the clubs is my dream job. I look forward to going to work and feel safe, respected and grateful that myself and other dancers have such a well run establishment to work at.

Without the licenced clubs, all the people who rely on the clubs for work would be threatened with unemployment, and lose their entire careers, the impact of this would be detrimental to all staff and customers of the clubs.

There is countless evidence from the police that the clubs are safe and cause minimal to no trouble compared to other city centre bars and clubs. There is no evidence of violence related to the clubs or the way in which male or female customers view women inside or outside of the clubs, and there is no evidence that strip clubs cause wider inequality towards women. There are far worse problems in Bristol and the strip clubs are not one of them.

I fully support the renewal of both Urban tiger and Central chambers licences.

Yours sincerely Laura.

8th March Lic Committee SEV

Dear all,

I am writing in regards to the to the council's plan to bring in a nil cap for SEVs (strip clubs) in Bristol.

This will will be hugely damaging for the many people who work in these clubs, the majority of whom are vulnerable, self employed and have not been able to work all year, and do not expect to be able to return to work for some time.

The council has already had a pre consultation survey, this found the majority of people were supportive of the existence of SEVs within Bristol at the right locations.

I am dissappointed that the council is ignoring this with the plan of a ban on strip clubs in Bristol.

By banning SEV clubs there is a real danger of danger of driving industry underground and it is much safer to work in a licenced club than a venue that is unlicenced and underground.

There would be a large loss of jobs that are predominantly held by women, many of them parents and students who rely on the money to fund their education, food and rent.

Best wishes Claire Thomas

8th March Lic Committee SEV

Dear Committee members,

I submit the following statement to urge you to vote against the proposal to ban strip clubs in Bristol. This is in solidarity with women who are dancers in these places, including several personal friends. Banning strip clubs will have a huge negative impact for these people, the majority of whom are self employed and have not been able to work for nearly all of the past year.

The material, negative consequences of a ban would disproportionately fall on women working in the industry. Many are parents and students, and those that I know consider their work as skilled performance art, a career of their own choice. Many enjoy the work, or at least would say that it is no more or less enjoyable than other work they have had. With the night-time economy shattered by a year of Covid, alternative employment for many of these people will be hard to find.

From talking to my friends employed in strip clubs, I know there is a real concern that the industry will simply be driven underground, and they will be obliged to continue the same work but in less safe conditions. Surrounded by CCTV and security staff in their workplace, and with very strictly enforced rules for everyone present, legal strip clubs are considered very safe places to work.

I will also note that Bristol council's own pre-consultation survey found that a majority of people were supportive of the existence of these establishments, in appropriate locations. This is not a priority for the people of Bristol.

I would add one last thing: I applaud attempts to take a hard regulatory line on businesses that exploit their workers, but legal strip clubs are no more exploitative than many other businesses employing ordinary people. If that is a motivating factor for the proponents of a strip club ban, could we not focus on genuinely exploitative businesses? Workers in the gig economy, like Deliveroo riders and Uber drivers, have their rights as employees denied to them by legal loopholes. A vast quantity of the products we consume come from factories overseas with appalling working conditions. We could demonstrate real solidarity with workers in these industries by taking bold action to protect working conditions here and abroad.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

James Hitch

xxxxx Bristol

Councillors of Bristol City Council

The first thing I wanted to express is my concern at the timing of this policy review. To be doing this right now during a pandemic when the women who work in these venues are already vulnerable and deeply concerned about not being able to work is horrendous timing. This whole circus has been going on for years and it wouldn't have caused any serious issues to delay this due to the circumstances. I think everyone would have totally understood that due to the Covid circumstances the right thing to do would be to push this back a year. If there was an ounce of compassion and concern for these women this would not have happened now. These women are now clearly distressed and terrified that people are trying to close their venues during an already difficult time. This just proves to me that the welfare of these women is not the top priority at all and this is yet again a political move and we are once again just pawns in this whole thing and it's so wrong it makes my blood boil! What these women are subjected to and put through every year is so wrong on so many levels. They are working a legitimate and legal job and shouldn't have to explain and justify their reasons for these choices time and time again. To even contemplate putting 100's of people out of work during this time in the middle of pandemic is totally immoral. These women need your support now more than ever and do not deserve to be put through this again right now. I'm totally outraged at this timing.

On one hand the venues are being given grants to protect the business from closing and we are being begged by the government to protect jobs and keep all our staff that are employed on furlough. Yet at the same time the council are discussing the option of a nil cap and possibly trying to force closure of these businesses! The hospitality/nighttime industry is going through the most hardest time its ever faced along with many other businesses right now and we should be being supported right now if anything, not trying to force a nil cap through. Talk about kicking someone while they are down! Words really do fail me right now and I can only say that I'm just deeply saddened and disgusted that this has been allowed to happen. I have staff and dancers literally ringing me in tears, distressed asking why would they do this to us right now as if things aren't hard enough right now. They have literally just been given some hope by the government about the venues being able to reopen in June so they can return to their jobs and then they get this bombshell. All I can do to comfort them right now is tell them that hopefully the people that ultimately make the decisions on this will see sense and come through for them by making the right decision and I that I'll personally never stop fighting for them. I made these women a promise and I'll do everything in my power to fight for them. To even discuss the idea of nil cap without even speaking to the women this actually effects is not right. It's like they are just classed as insignificant and pushed to the side every year. The women that dance in these venues are totally horrified at their treatment during this whole process.

Whilst recommending a nil cap policy I want to make sure that every councillor is aware of what that actually means. The two clubs will not just disappear. They will still be there and they will still be offering similar entertainment in some way. The only difference will be that the whole industry will be totally unregulated. So all that work that everyone has done to keep these types of venues regulated and safe will be just be thrown away. This in itself baffles me why anyone would think this is a good idea! On top of that by implementing a nil cap you will not reduce numbers of these types of venues but actually increase them! Every venue will be able to apply for TEN and provide these services and with no SEV venues in the city the demand will be higher than ever so all these bars, restaurants and nightclubs will want to put on these events 7 days a week. As the hospitality industry struggles to survive right now putting on SEV nights is a very viable option for venues right now looking to survive. I've already been approached several times since the last evening post article by venues effectively asking me to provide an SEV entertainment in the same way club promoters run events all over the city should the my own venues not be able to operate. What needs to made clear is that by stopping 2 extremely regulated venues from providing SEV entertainment has the complete opposite effect of what is trying to be achieved as every licensed venue in the city could offer the same entertainment meaning there could SEV nights every weekend in multiple locations all over the city and totally unregulated! This activity is not going to just go away it will merely just move location, increase the number of locations and become totally unregulated and driven underground. There are people already making plans to make this happen. This is not scaremongering but exactly what the industry plans to do should there be a nil cap. I personally feel these venues need to be kept regulated and hence I campaign every year to keep these venues just that, safe and regulated. A nil cap will just open the flood gates and destroy years of hard work to get these venues regulated in the first place.

Myself and the women that work in these venues have worked tirelessly with every authority to make sure every licence condition is adhered to and that we operate some of the best venues in the UK. We have proved this year on year and yet still this seems to go unnoticed and this fact is just deemed as totally irrelevant. If these venues had a long running issue with licence breaches I'd understand the review but they are actually a shining example of how run properly these venues can work and are actually an asset to a thriving nighttime economy. There is no direct evidence that these venues increase sexual assaults, domestic violence or any other horrendous crimes against women. In fact the recent lock down has proved this with the clubs being closed and domestic violence stats going through the roof. These horrendous crimes do happen and everything needs to be done to prevent this but closing 2 very well run SEV venues is not going to solve this. We are just being used a scape goats. It's too easy to blame this on the SEV venues rather than looking in too the real cause of these issues. Every year we ask to be shown the evidence that can clearly show a direct link from these venues to the crimes mentioned. Every year without fail this is not produced because there is no direct link. Unfortunately every big city, city centres and night time economies have these issues with or with our SEV venues. Doesn't make it acceptable but it's certainly not the SEVs that cause this either.

The other thing that also needs answers is why we as women are subjected to this every year but male strippers are not? We as women are attacked for our choices every year and put through a horrendous and extremely stressful experience every year. This has become a witch-hunt towards the women in this industry. Our male counterparts escape this every year because it seems no one cares about the numerous unregulated male strip club nights that happen all over the city centre. It seems men can make a decision to take their clothes off to earn a living and thats fine but if we as women decided to do the same we must be exploited or deemed not capable to make right decisions for ourselves. So my question is where is the equality in this? Why are only women being victimised? Equality is us as women being able to make our own choices and not having to justify them every year. Equality is

being supported by other women not a group of radical feminists thinking they know best and what is right for all women. We can not make this any clearer that they do not speak for all women and they certainly do not speak for us! My other question as a venue owner and someone who spends a lot of money to get the correct licences to operate these venues is why I have to do this for female performers but its not needed for male performers? How can we be discussing a potential nil cap on regulated strip clubs when there are hundreds of brothels operating freely in the city? It's like there is big white elephant in the room that no one is taking about! Again the mind boggles to why a council would be even entertaining the idea the of nil cap on SEV venues when it happily allows hundreds of Brothels to operate? When are we going to start discussing this problem in the city? Surely this should be addressed first before attacking LEGAL, LEGITIMATE businesses.

Every year the people of Bristol make their views known and we have proved time and time again that we have the backing and support of the majority of the public. I think people will be horrified to know that this is actually being considered during this time and that you are seriously thinking of putting hundreds of people out of work. We have an SEV policy and it works extremely well. Please understand what the de regulation of the industry will actually do and I urge you all to keep the current policy as it is. We want this type of industry regulated. The current policy is proven to work and be successful. We have proved to you time and time again that we are responsible and good operators. The outcome is Bristol has 2 very well run run SEV venues and it should stay this way.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and if you need any further information from myself or the women that work in these venues we would be more than happy to provide this.

Yours Sincerely

Carrie Hale
Director of Central Chambers & Urban Tiger

To Whom it May Concern,

In light of the most recent threats of closure for Central Chambers and Urban Tiger, I wanted to write to describe my own experiences of working within the strip club industry.

I've worked as a stripper for twelve years.

"I don't understand how you can say you're a feminist when you're encouraging men to objectify you" is something I've heard a fair few times over those years, both directly and indirectly.

My question in response to this is, is it still objectification if I have given my consent to be viewed as a sexual being or does it become something else?

A strip club is a place where consent is a must, respect is vital, and where there are actionable consequences when a boundary has been crossed. I have found the majority of strip clubs I've worked in to be excellent safe spaces where I have been free to explore, celebrate, and enjoy sexuality in all its various forms - my own and other people's. Central Chambers and Urban Tiger have been exemplary establishments in this regard (I have worked in both).

This is contrary to what I have experienced in places that are not strip clubs, i.e. bars, nightclubs, or just walking down the street. In these places I have been grabbed, leered at, cat called, beeped at, with absolutely no consequence for the perpetrators of these actions. I am cautious in the summer with regard to what clothes I wear, knowing that if I wear a little dress or shorts I will likely draw unwanted attention to myself, when actually, I should feel able to wear whatever I want without worrying about it. If I go out dancing with my friends and I move my body in a way that could be seen as 'sexy' or 'provocative', I am acutely aware that some men may see this as an invitation, thinking that I'm 'clearly up for it', when actually, I just enjoy moving my body that way as part of expressing myself. If a guy pinches my ass in a bar, there are no repercussions for his actions. In the past I've had thoughts like 'It's my fault, I shouldn't have worn this outfit, it's too revealing, I was asking for it', when actually, that guy should know he has absolutely no right to touch someone else's body without first getting permission.

There is no consent or respect in these scenarios. I am being objectified, purely because I am a woman.

Is wearing a little dress in summer or moving my body in the way I like 'encouraging men to objectify' me? Or, do men need to be taught more about consent, respect, boundaries, and a woman's right to express her sexuality without it being seen as an invitation?

Female sexuality has been kept in the hands of those outside of us for centuries. Women have been burned at the stake, locked up in mental asylums, raped, assaulted, and publicly and privately shamed for daring to express this innate part of ourselves, and even when we haven't.

The fear runs deep.

We are taught not to walk alone at night, to carry keys in our hands as weapons, not to get too drunk, to watch our drinks in case they get spiked, to please and appease men in case they get angry.

When I'm walking by myself and a man in a white van beeps at me, for a moment, I am scared for my life. An image of being bundled into the back of his vehicle never to be seen again briefly flashes up in my mind.

This is objectification.

That man has no regard for my human experience when he takes that action. It's all about him. It's completely one-sided. He hasn't asked for permission. I haven't given my consent. He hasn't taken into consideration the fleeting fear it instills. He has never experienced it. He is not a woman.

In a strip club it is different.

I have *chosen* to be there, in a Sexual Entertainment Venue. I am *making the decision* to be in 'sexually expressive' mode. I am *taking back the reins* of my sexuality and *giving permission* for others to enjoy it *with me*.

Before I dance for a customer there is a conversation. The customer asks me for a dance, I say 'yes' or 'no', or, I ask the customer if they'd like a dance and wait for their answer. This is a conversation about consent. The consent is mutual and honours the experiences of both parties equally.

If we go for a dance I then state my boundaries - 'You must keep your hands by your side at all times. If you touch me, the dance will end.' These boundaries are, on the most part, respected, and when they're not, I finish the dance. If a customer becomes unmanageable I have a team of door staff I can speak to who then tell the customer they must leave the premises.

Within this container of safety and protection I feel completely free to be my fullest, sexy self. I can wear what I like, move my body how I like, crack dirty jokes, make sexual innuendos, and flirt to my heart's content, with no underlying worry that something bad might happen to me. It is a joyful, fun, playful, liberating, empowering, and expansive experience. I do not feel objectified because *I* am in control of my sexuality, it's on my terms and it isn't being dictated (couldn't help myself!) to me.

Since Covid-19 hit, I haven't danced. The strip clubs in the UK have been closed and I have grieved the loss of this space - a space where I have felt fully aligned, alive, myself. I miss the community of like-minded women, so comfortable in their nakedness, not hiding their bodies but fully embracing them for the magical vessels they truly are.

To circle back to my original question - in giving my consent to being viewed as a sexual being is it still objectification or does it become something else?

In my opinion, I believe the latter. It becomes a celebration. A celebration of sexuality liberated from shame. A celebration of empowered consent and respect. A celebration of our true human nature.

Consent and respect are everything - they create a container of safety within which we can all be set free.

Kind regards,

Abbie [REDACTED]

Dear councillors present,

As a concerned member of the public I am writing to you to urge you to protect the SEV premises in Bristol.

Closure or a ban on such premises may endanger people who work in the industry, as it will be driven underground and subject to no regulations. Workers will be unprotected and this may lead to various issues that are a concern to public safety.

These venues are work places that provide livelihoods for hard working people and families in our community. It is imperative that these work places stay open in order for people to be able to support their families. The COVID 19 pandemic has driven more families into poverty. Many people are working multiple jobs to survive, and with the loss of a nighttime economy in SEVs many people, primarily women and mothers will lose the ability to provide for themselves.

Results of the council's consultation survey, have demonstrated that many local people supported SEVs existing within Bristol at the right locations. As a member of the public I urge the councillors to listen to the consultation results and bear in mind that by closing these venues they will be taking away people's livelihoods at a time of worldwide economic struggle.

I hope you consider this statement,

All the best,

P Pascual

8th March Lic Committee SEV

Hello,

I'm a Bristol resident, just wanted to comment on the Sex Establishments Policy Consultation that's happening on Monday. I've never been to one and I don't intend to visit but I don't believe it's in the general interest of the city to close any of these down. It may solve very specific problems but it will create others that are worse, unemployment and driving this kind of trade underground being the two obvious ones.

Many thanks,

Ben Sollars

Bristol Resident Address provided

Hello

I am writing to express my concern about the potential damaging effect on some of Bristol's women with the proposal to close the only two *LICENSED* SEV's in Bristol.

Firstly, I note that the title of the agenda item: "'Sex Establishments' Policy Consultation" is incorrect. The license is for "Sexual Entertainment Venues" (SEV).

I am a dance teacher based in N.Somerset/Bristol, who has worked closely with the clubs, and more importantly the women who work there, since 2006.

Not only would this be a terrible blow to the already dwindling night life in Bristol but also (and more importantly) a huge risk for the women working in these venues, who have already been financially hit the hardest due to the pandemic. Women deserve the right to work in any way that is legal and fits around their current family, study, and life commitments (as many are also mothers and students). Women are already unfairly compensated in many areas of work and home life, and it seems that placing undue pressure on an industry predominantly inhabited by women, is also an attack on job equality as a whole.

In 2011 the SEV licences (previously known as SEEL licences) were introduced as a method to regulate the industry across the country, to make it safe for all the people who work in the industry (when previous to this, strip clubs were only required to have an enhanced bar/café licence). These licensed venues offer a safe space for the workers to perform and earn a living. Closure of these venues could put some women in a vulnerable place, unable to balance work/studies/childcare, they could be forced onto the streets and being exposed to problems such as addiction and homelessness, issues which your council are already severely neglecting. The club model could be driven underground, removing the safety of the rules and regulations of the SEVs, undermining the very point of why they were introduced.

Have you personally been in contact with any of the workers from Central Chambers and Urban Tiger and asked them if the issues that you propose these venues create are affecting them so much that they believe their workplaces should close, or that they feel unsafe? Have you got a proposed plan to fully support the workers if you do close their work place?

It should also be noted that in the most recent public consultation on this topic, that the majority of people were supportive of the existence of SEVs within Bristol at the right locations. And also that in recent police reports, there have been next to no notices regarding antisocial behaviour in the vicinity or linked to these clubs at all.

The night-time economy has already been hit really hard with the pandemic, and these clubs provide work places not just for the dancers, but also the staff, security, bartenders, party facilitators, cleaners and more. While the 2 Strip Clubs with SEV licenses fight every year for their right to continue with rules and regulations in place, it's interesting to note that full nude male stripper nights, with dancer-to-customer contact, are able to go ahead at fancy hotels in Bristol city centre.

The women I have met through this industry are the most independent, interesting, and diverse group of people, and they deserve better than having their work, their lifelines, their artistic release, their bodily confidence, and their income, shut down by people who have never walked in their shoes.

I urge you to consider the repercussions of voting for a nil-cap and the larger impact of your decision.

I look forward to your response,

Robyn Rooke

Dear councillors and officers,

As a concerned member of the public I am writing to you to urge you to protect the SEV premises in Bristol.

Closure or a ban on such premises may endanger people who work in the industry, as it will be driven underground and subject to no regulations. Workers will be unprotected and this may lead to various issues that are a concern to public safety.

These venues are work places that provide livelihoods for hard working people and families in our community. It is imperative that these work places stay open in order for people to be able to support their families. The COVID 19 pandemic has driven more families into poverty. Many people are working multiple jobs to survive, and with the loss of a nighttime economy in SEVs many people, primarily women and mothers will lose the ability to provide for themselves.

Results of the council's consultation survey, have demonstrated that many local people supported SEVs existing within Bristol at the right locations. As a member of the public I urge the councillors to listen to the consultation results and bear in mind that by closing these venues they will be taking away people's livelihoods at a time of worldwide economic struggle.

I hope you consider this statement as evidence to keep open SEVs in Bristol
All the best,

Cheryl sellwood

I am writing to you to express my concern with your proposal to close the only two LICENSED SEV's in Bristol.

If the venues were to be forced to close it would make many women out of work. At a time when they have been unable to work for a year due to the pandemic. The closure of these venues would mainly impact women. All women should have a right to work in whatever job they want provided it is legal (which this is). These venues are not causing any harm and are an important part of Bristol's nightlife.

These licensed venues offer a safe space for the workers to perform and earn a living.

Have you been in contact with the workers from Central Chambers and Urban Tiger and asked them if the issues that you propose these venues create is effecting them so much that they believe their work places should close? Have you got a proposed plan to fully support the workers if you do close their work place?

I urge you to reconsider your actions and think about the larger impact of your decision.

I look forward to your response.

Lucie Tutton

To Whom it May Concern

I wish to submit the following statement for the Licencing Committee 8th March 2021 for Agenda Item 6 - Sex Establishments Policy Consultation

I am dismayed to hear of recent reports in the press of a move to enforce a 'nil cap' for sexual entertainment venues in Bristol. The illiberal move of closing venues which operate legally and under current licencing laws for moral reasons is not a precedent the licensing committee should be setting in Bristol.

Bristol's night time economy has already been dealt a huge blow by the pandemic and the workforce of both clubs - mainly women - have been hit especially hard, it seems counter to any supposed attempt at gender equality in the city to then take away their employment permanently. Added to that closing the SEVs could have the impact of driving these women into jobs in unlicensed premises which are not subject to the same strict checks that the current SEV clubs are putting at them at far greater risk. These women are working in these legal jobs out of choice - for many this line of work offers a level of flexibility to be able to afford to study or manage a family without being bound by traditional 9-5 hours.

I note that the consultations put out to the public both returned with a majority supporting the existing licensing of 2 SEVs within the central Bristol area however the licensing committee is now seeing fit to disregard this consultation as a wasted exercise in favour of their own ideological judgement on an industry they have not seen to engage with in any meaningful way.

Every year the two current premises have to defend their license and every year it is evidenced that the clubs do not draw complaints of anti-social behaviour, do not nuisance their neighbours and abide by their licensing terms - how many night time venues in Bristol cannot say the same and yet they are not under the same pressure to close as the two SEVs.

Setting a nil cap in Bristol would cause women in Bristol to lose jobs and potentially end up in far less safe employment while having no real net benefit to Bristol. This motion is rooted in misogyny and ideology rather than evidence based policy and I hope the licensing committee will seriously consider the impact this would have when making a final decision.

Sarah Classick

Liberal Democrat Council Candidate - Hengrove and Whitchurch Park

Personal Statement
Charlotte Greenstock

I have been a dancer at Urban Tiger for three years, I am a feminist. I am also a recent graduate from Circomedia. As I had already completed a degree in english literature and creative writing (in which I studied feminism and feminist literature), I was not able to apply for a student loan to fund another three years of study.

Fortunately for me I was able to apply to Circomedia's private course. This was entirely self funded through my work at Urban Tiger.

To get to a high skill level as a circus artist, hours of frequent training is required weekly. I tend to train five full days a week. Any other work I do needs to be flexible and fit around training and performance opportunities. Again Urban Tiger has been absolutely perfect. The managers are incredibly supportive about my creative work and the money I earn at the club is stable enough for me to fully focus on circus and not compromise my time to keep myself afloat.

I now am able to create work that I love, combining the unique skills and knowledge I have gained through my various studies. I am so grateful for my life and am fully aware none of it would have been possible without sex work or a ridiculous amount of debt.

Sex work is nothing to be ashamed of. Dancing has been liberating, not only financially but physically. I have learnt to appreciate my form and physicality in a way I never would have been able to achieve if I had not worked as a dancer.

There is absolutely no evidence to show that the presence of erotic venues in a city increases violence against women. The importance of consent and respect in Urban Tiger is paramount. I have never felt unsafe as a result of my work, the only people who have made me feel unsafe are the individuals who repeatedly try to close us down and take away opportunities without consulting us. Taking away another individual's body autonomy is not feminist. It is misogyny under the guise of feminism.

I began dancing in strip clubs in 2007, aged 20. Back then it was a job that seemed a bit crazy, late nights, loud music, meeting so many different types of people - the customers and my fellow dancers. I thought I'd do it for a year, save up enough for a deposit to buy a flat, by which time I would've finished university and would get a 'real job'.

I bought my flat, I finished my degree and got a job in the corporate world. Nine months in and I quit, with an apparent 'excellent' future career ahead of me. I discovered that I am not designed for a 9 to 5, office job - it was killing me, and had I continued I would have had to shut down something inside me. I happily left that job and went back to dancing.

Being a stripper gives me so much. I have had 14 years of working as many shifts a week as I choose, depending on what my life looks like; I took time off to travel for months at a time, I took time off to have my children, to care for my dying Grandpa and support my Grandma. I can flexibly work around my family and our needs. Instead of devoting my life to my work and fitting in the people and things I love around work, I have done the opposite - I fit work around my life, and around my people. I live in the countryside because it makes me feel good, it's my home, however there are very few jobs - so instead I drive to Bristol and stay in a hotel for the weekend, earn my money and come home

I don't want a career that takes up my life. I want to dance; even though there is a stigma that comes along with it, even though people try to shut the clubs down every year and blame the club's existence for despicable violent crimes. I never wanted to be an activist for strippers and the industry, I just want to work, but I am forced into defending my right to be a stripper. This may sound ridiculous, but it wouldn't if I replaced 'stripper' with say 'ballerina' - why is that? I pay my taxes, I contribute to society, I have a skill set related to my job; why can I not receive the respect for my job that other roles attract?

If you shut the clubs down, my first plan would be to work in another club. As the two Bristol clubs are the best run clubs that I have found (and I have worked in many), this would inevitably mean me working in less safe environments. It would mean finding new accommodation in cities I don't know, parking in a city centre that I'm unfamiliar with and walking to the club at night and alone. These are frightening things to do. If this plan didn't work, I would have to get a 35/40 hour a week job either locally (unlikely, as I live in the middle of nowhere), or I'd have to stay away all week. Needless to say, the impact on my family would be unbearable. My husband's work would be affected as I would not be as available to care for our children as I am when dancing. Also, try getting a good job with 'stripper' on your CV! I have and it is almost impossible.

Strip clubs are a symptom not a cause of the patriarchy. If you alleviate a symptom it makes you feel better for a bit, but doesn't address the problem, the root cause. To blame strip clubs, and by association, strippers, for male violence and rape against women and girls makes me feel sick. What a disgusting claim. I demand you move your focus from us and instead towards these criminals, these abusive, violent, dangerous men. I want to be part of THIS movement; if there is anyway I can help with ending violent crimes and rape I want to be involved. You shut our clubs down - these men will continue to be dangerous violent criminals. Shift your focus and your immense resources and power, please.

To whom it may concern,

I understand licensing committee is meeting to discuss the possibility of a 'nil cap' on SEV licences in Bristol.

I would be hugely affected by the closure of these clubs. Dancing is not a hobby for me, is my career. If these clubs were closed, I would need to find another venue to work in, the closest being Cardiff. I would have to drive over an hour and have increased transport costs. I would also have to apprehensively navigate a new city alone at night.

As a mother with two young children, my whole family would be affected. The operating hours in other venues are often less flexible and longer than the two Bristol clubs. This has the knock on effect that either I, or my partner's ability to work, would need to be reorganised to accommodate more childcare. It ultimately means I would have to choose to either spend less time with my children or reduce my financial contribution to my household.

I have worked in these venues in Bristol for over ten years. I have settled in Bristol because I love working in these particular clubs. They are places where the people working within them are both colleagues and friends. There is an established support network that has taken time and effort to build, for which the owners, managers and dancers should be commended. I am proud to be part of this Bristol community supporting the continued licensing of Urban Tiger and Central Chambers.

Thank you,
Nicola

[BARBIE](#) – The Bristol Association of Restaurants, Bars and Independent Establishments – urge the council to vote AGAINST a NIL CAP on SEV's on Monday 8th March 2021.

We are extremely concerned that yet again a small number of people are looking to close down 2 extremely well run venues in Bristol City Centre as part of a Nil Cap SEV policy. The venues in question, Central Chambers and Urban Tiger, are extremely well run and owned by females and give employment to a huge number of dancers as well as the ecosystem of supported jobs such as bar tenders, security, cleaners, delivery drivers and more.

Having been closed for nearly a year, the venues will now be presented with yet another large legal bill and the mental health and wellbeing of the owners and workers seem of little, if any, importance to Bristol City Council. This is not a way to support hospitality and help it recover from the pandemic. For a thriving nighttime economy both residents of and visitors to the city need to have a choice of destination rather than being dictated as to what and where they can visit.

BARBIE cannot understand why Bristol City Council would want to deregulate SEVs. These venues, aside from employment, are frequented by both males and females and the workers have already made you aware of how well run and safe the venues are. There are other areas of the city that need to be concentrated on if Safety is an issue. It is not at these venues.

We urge you to vote against the Nil Cap policy.

Best regards,

Brendan Murphy and Andy Dodd

Founders of BARBIE – Bristol Association of Restaurants, Bars and Independent Establishments

Dear Licencing Committee

On the 8th March 2021 (international women's day) The licencing Committee will vote on whether or not to back the NIL Cap Draft Policy proposed by the Licencing Working group.

Nightlife has the following view:

Point 1 Timing

Hospitality especially nightclub venues have been forced to close due to the pandemic, placing hardship and stress on all who work in the industry. At a time when thousands of people have lost their jobs and are facing losing their jobs, having Councillors vote on a draft policy which will put people out of work in the hospitality industry at a time of economic recession is horrific.

Point 2 Equalities

Bristol is a signed up member of the European charter for equality of women and men in local life which seeks to do the following:

The six fundamental principles

1. Equality of women and men is a fundamental right
2. In order to ensure the equality of women and men, multiple discriminations based on ethnic origin, [disability](#), [sexual orientation](#), religion, socio economic status... must also be addressed
3. The balanced participation of women and men in [decision-making](#) is necessary for a democratic society
4. [Gender stereotypes](#) and the attitudes and assumptions that arise from them must be eliminated
5. A gender perspective must be taken into account in all activities of local and regional government
6. Properly resourced action plans need to be drawn up and implemented.

A Nil cap policy goes against the above and other equalities policies as it reinforces gender stereotypes and a dangerous move backwards for LGBTQ+ communities by:

- Creating a policy which closes two female owned and operated venues
- Creating a policy which creates gender inequality by permitting male strip to be empowered and female strip venues to be closed which re enforces the gender stereotype of women cannot have the same freedoms as men
- Reinforcing hetronormative queerphobic policies where in two LGBTQ+ safe venues are closed down due to councillors assumptions that these venues are just for hetrosexual men and making moral decisions of what LGBTQ+ communities should be allowed to do for work and entertainment (Bristol councillors going back to the days of section 28).
- NIL Cap is a LGBTQ+ phobic policy as it discriminates against Queer people who go to these venues and promotes Lesbian,Bi and Queer erasure.
- Removing women from participation in decision making in the industry by creating a policy which closes two female owned and operated venues which will leave the door open for the out of town male only operated lap dancing event promoters to run events in Bristol which places the power back only to men over women.
- Women and Queer people's rights to freedom of Employment and beliefs

Point 3 Equality Impact Assessment and process.

We find it concerning that the whole assessment process has been from a hetronormative stance. The consultation has responses from 19% LGB and 2% transgender responses yet the rest of the Queer plus communities option was excluded in this consultation. Bristol is a signatory to the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in local Life in order to ensure the equality of women and men, multiple discriminations based on ethnic origin, [disability](#), [sexual orientation](#), religion, socio economic status... must also be addressed. The working groups response and that of the hetronormative thread throughout the whole

documentation has demonstrated a serious lack of due regard for the multiple discrimination of LGBTQ+ communities both on sexual orientation, gender and socio economic status.

Point 4 Deregulation

A NIL Cap policy is deregulating the industry in the city by removing two heavily regulated safe and female owned and operated venues. This will allow via market demand, outside operators to do pop up lapdancing and sex events throughout the city with little regulation, very little worker protection and no control on the location and times of the events. Nil Cap is not about stopping Lap Dancing events but about deregulation of the industry. Bristol has worked very hard on an SEV policy which has been publicly supported via large consultations and which the Licencing working group has chosen to vote against. The will of the last few consultations was supportive of the SEV Policy as it is, as well as the venues concerned and their locations.

With regards to the two city centre venues affected by the proposed NIL Cap policy.

Point 1

As part of the venue's efforts to uphold the licencing objectives the venue has been a regular attendee and active participant of Night Watch meetings.

Point 2

The venues active participation with the NightWatch meetings has lead to the following :

1. Charlotte Gage from Bristol Zero Tolerance Campaign presented at Night Watch to highlight the initiative working towards Bristol becoming a city free from gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation and the training available through Good Night Out. The Venue signed up for training immediately.
2. Bristol City Council launched Bristol's Equalities Charter and this was presented at Night Watch as an initiative for venues to sign up it. The Venue has long been an advocate for the advancement of equality of opportunity through the adjustments made in their venue before the law required those changes, especially in relation to their welcoming environment to LGBTQ+ communities and adjustments for other protected characteristics. Our view of the venue is that as it is an independent women led venue this has had a huge impact on its approach to equality of opportunity and the women who own and operate the venue have created a safe and welcoming space. The Venue signed up to the Equalities Charter like many others from Night Watch.
3. During the Summer of 2018 The Police Topaz Child Exploitation Team (Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation) had a two week operation in Castle Park and surrounding area to raise awareness of this issue. The Venue took time out in the evening to meet with the Officer and discuss the issues and take leaflets to enable signposting of the issue.

Point 3

The Venue has been in operation for years with no breaches to date and are a credit to Bristol Night Time culture as the venue shows how an SEV venue should be operated. The venue's good management is a credit to the owners and their strong belief in regulation of their sector with the SEV Policy. Our view is that Bristol's SEV policy has been very effective in getting Bristol to the point we are now with good independent operators who support the SEV policy, who have a good record of engagement with the regulatory authorities and where breaches have happened or bad operators have moved into the city the SEV policy has empowered the regulators to remove those businesses from the city.

Closing

I would like to thank the licencing committee and regulators for creating the original SEV policy which has for years empowered good operators such as these venues and the city to create safe and welcoming places. The policy has empowered these venues to offer equality of opportunity and enabled a space for independent female led owners to operate in an industry which in other places has been male dominated. The SEV Policy has made Bristol a safer and more equal city to be in.

We would urge the Licencing committee to VOTE NO TO NIL CAP and keep the existing policy which has served Bristol well for many years Please protect jobs in this time of need.

Thank you for your time in reading our thoughts

Best Wishes

24 Hour Bristol Commission

Nightwatch

Save Bristol Nightlife

Barbie

Out Bristol

Dear councillors present,

As a concerned member of the public, I am writing to you to urge you to protect the SEV premises in Bristol.

Closure or a ban on such premises may endanger people who work in the industry, as it will be driven underground and subject to no regulations. Workers will be unprotected and this may lead to various issues that are a concern to public safety.

These venues are work places that provide livelihoods for hard working people and families in our community. It is imperative that these work places stay open in order for people to be able to support their families. The COVID 19 pandemic has driven more families into poverty. Many people are working multiple jobs to survive, and with the loss of a nighttime economy in SEVs many people, primarily women and mothers will lose the ability to provide for themselves.

Results of the council's consultation survey, have demonstrated that many local people supported SEVs existing within Bristol at the right locations. As a member of the public, I urge the councillors to listen to the consultation results and bear in mind that by closing these venues down they will be taking away people's livelihoods at a time of worldwide economic struggle.

I believe the councillors should really consider the protection and support of sex workers, and look to continue working with SEV's and local businesses in regards to this. It should be taken into account that sex entertainment is a lawful activity and can be a safe place for workers in SEVs and for the public, to repeat from earlier, putting the industry underground in Bristol will make it more unsafe for both workers and the public.

I hope you consider this statement,

All the best,

Florrie Adamson Leggett

PS 30

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to express my support of the two Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in Bristol. I understand that the Licensing Committee is meeting on Monday 8th March to discuss the Sex Establishments Policy Consultations and the City Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment, and there is a chance that the 'nil-cap' available to councils may be considered.

Shutting the strip clubs would lead to many workers being made unemployed and having their livelihoods taken from them; including the dancers, the security staff, bar staff and managers. The knock-on effect on the SEVs suppliers and business networks would impact negatively on the wider economy.

The two SEVs in Bristol are known to the police and the council for being law abiding, well-run clubs, actually causing far fewer problems than the other non-SEV establishments in the area (according to the 'red, amber, green' system that the police use).

The (unfounded) claim that the strip clubs cause city centre assaults is effectively punishing and blaming a majority of female workers for violence against women. The focus should always be on the perpetrators. It is never the women's fault that men assault women. Women blaming other women for these crimes is a disgrace and with no current accurate evidence to back it up. Why is it the majority of elected councilors choose to listen to this mis information every year. The views and opinions of anybody working or associated with these venues are never seriously taken on board and are quite frankly swept aside. How is that equality? How many more consultations do we have to have before the council accepts what is always the same outcome that the majority of Bristolians have no problem with the well regulated and properly run venues we have. The regulation in place works and works well. De regulate and the council will have no control and put a lot of women in a serious amount of danger when their safe and secure workplace is taken away from them. These are our choices and we should be supported by the elected bodies in power not used as a vehicle to harass a legal well run business by a small group of ill informed women who wont even talk to any of the dancers. Male performers don't have to go through any of this to do the job they choose to do so why as women do we have to. Equality is a two way street but from where I stand I see no equality and that's a disgrace.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Yours sincerely,

Tracy Hale

Financial Director

Central Chambers (Reedbed Ltd)

As a dancer I'm extremely saddened to hear that once again that the council is proposing a change in policy for SEVs and jeopardising the livelihoods of our predominantly female work force in a time of such instability, uncertainty and anxiety. Unemployment has doubled in Bristol and the nightlife industry has been completely decimated by the pandemic.

The clubs that I work in are safe and regulated, a great deal of care is taken to make sure we are safe. There is no tolerance for inappropriate behaviour of any kind towards the dancers and many women, including myself, feel safer in these particular strip clubs than they would in a regular nightclub or bar or even walking in the street. I would even say there is even an environment of consent fostered in strip clubs, dancers are allowed to choose who to dance for and there is a negotiation and agreement that is come to. I greatly value having a place like this to do the job I enjoy and take great pride in. There is a danger of driving the industry underground and putting our safety at risk.

I would also add that the (unfounded) claim that it is the strip clubs causing city centre assaults is effectively punishing and blaming a majority of female workers for male violence against women. The focus should always be on the perpetrators and no blame should EVER be taken away from them.

If you don't like strip clubs that is perfectly fine. But ridding someone of their choice to do as they please with their own body is unjust. We are not exploited, we are choosing to work here (and fighting to keep doing so) because we WANT to and we enjoy our work.

Chloe, dancer at Urban Tiger

Please could you include the below statement in the meeting

I support the SEV'S staying open in Bristol for the following:

I am a Woman that has on regular occasions frequented the 2 only legal licenced SEV's in Bristol on nights out with Female friends and Male friends alike, to close the venues would lead to a significant loss to the Diverse Bristol Nightlife scene that has already been ravaged by the current enforced closure due to the pandemic.

Closing the Venues will only serve to drive this Sector of the Sexual Entertainment industry completely underground that in its self will pose a huge risk for the women working in these venues, They will ultimately lose their lively hoods and chosen careers. The performers / Dancers that work in the venues have already been financially hit the hardest due to the pandemic.

In respect of the ethical and Sexist aspect of the proposal I would express that, Women deserve the right to work in any way that is legal and how they choose to do so, if fits around their current family, study, and life commitments then that choice should remain in place. (We don't hear of any of the Male Strip acts being Banned they are currently free to perform in the local hotels with no regulation). It would cause rather a disparity in Bristol City Councils standards between the Gender of performers if the Council votes to impose a Nil Cap on the venues that are predominantly run by women for women performers.

Placing undue pressure on an industry predominantly inhabited by women, is also an attack on job equality as a whole by the Council.

In 2011 the SEV licences (previously known as SEEL licences) were introduced as a method to regulate the industry across the country, to make it safe for all the people who work in the industry (when previous to this, strip clubs were only required to have an enhanced bar/café licence). These licensed venues offer a safe space for the workers to perform and earn a living. Closure of these venues could put some women in a vulnerable place, unable to balance work/studies/childcare.

The SEV club model will be driven underground, removing the safety of the rules and regulations of the SEVs, undermining the very point of why they were introduced.

I would ask whether you personally been in contact with any of the Performers from Central Chambers and Urban Tiger and asked them What their working conditions are and how the career they have chosen would be effected if the venues were to close? There have been wider opinions voiced in the past particularly by certain Bristol MP's that there is a direct link to the clubs for sexual violence in and around the city centre. I would like to see this statistic evidence as this I believe is an unfounded allegation as there is no such evidence available to support these assumptions.

The clubs are well known to the police through the "Traffic Light System" that they operate for all of the Late Night venues in the Bristol city centre and the clubs have been trouble free and cause less issues than many of the other late night establishments in the area.

The most recent public consultation on this topic, The majority of people were supportive of the existence of SEVs within Bristol at the right locations. This is an example of a Democratic consultation supporting an industry in this diverse city. In recent police reports, there have been next to no notices regarding antisocial behaviour in the vicinity or linked to these clubs at all.

The proposal for a Nil Cap in Bristol is not being based on “Fact’s”. It is rather more a Political Agenda from the current lord Mayor of Bristol and a small number of “feminist activists” that do not represent the wider Female population in Bristol. It is for this reason and those above that I find the whole proposal for a Nil cap to be unreasonable and against the most common sense approach which is to allow these Venues to remain and continue to provide a safe and diverse environment for Women to continue their careers.

The women I have met through the clubs in question are the most independent females , both in their domestic set up and also in their financial ability to support themselves, If these Venues are shut, then they have little choice than to become unemployed or worse continue in an unregulated and unlawful environment which will bring further burden to the Police and the wider communities with the social burdens unregulated unlawful activities bring with them.

I urge you to consider the repercussions of voting for a nil-cap and the impact of your decision on the wider Night time economy and would ask that you all do the sensible thing and use a common sense approach to keep these Venues open, Regulated and licenced so they can continue to operate lawfully.

Kind Regards

Claire

I am writing to express my support for the two venues that currently hold S.E.V licenses. These are clubs that work closely with the police and the council to ensure the safety of all involved by closing them you risk pushing workers underground into unregulated environments.

In having a nil cap you are taking away the women's rights to choose how they wish to work. In these already hard times you will be pushing people into more uncertainty, worry and potential poverty.

The claims against these clubs are unfounded and moralistic. These venues are just as much a part of Bristol's thriving nightlife and should continue to contribute to this, having worked for many years at both clubs I can assure you they are safe well ran places of work, they provide fun and entertainment for consenting adults which at the end of these trying times is the light relief we are all going to need.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email,

Kind regards

Kayleigh Hide

Dear Councillors,

I am writing to express my support of the two Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in Bristol. I understand that the Licensing Committee is meeting on Monday 8th March to discuss the Sex Establishments Policy Consultations and the City Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment, and there is a chance that the 'nil-cap' available to councils may be considered.

Shutting the strip clubs would lead to many workers being made unemployed and having their livelihoods taken from them; including the dancers, the security staff, bar staff and managers. The knock-on effect on the SEVs suppliers and business networks would impact negatively on the wider economy.

The two SEVs in Bristol are known to the police and the council for being law abiding, well-run clubs, actually causing far fewer problems than the other non-SEV establishments in the area (according to the 'red, amber, green' system that the police use).

The (unfounded) claim that the strip clubs cause city centre assaults is effectively punishing and blaming a majority of female workers for violence against women. The focus should always be on the perpetrators and no blame should be taken away from them. This seems like 'slut-shaming' on the highest level.

This 'debate' raises its head time and time again. The club is well run, the workers are safe. Some men commit unforgivable, horrendous crimes against women and girls – these violent criminals are where those behind this debate need to focus their wonderfully impressive amounts of time and energy NOT towards the nil-cap. That will not solve violence against women and girls; I wish it were that simple.

Speaking as a Bristolian woman I have personally experienced far more violence, sexual harassment, slut shaming and victim blaming at standard night clubs, bars, and pubs than I ever have near or in the two SEVs. I have always felt safe, protected, and empowered at the two SEV establishments, which is something I can't say about other Bristol night-life venues. If the real goal here is to reduce cases of harassment and violence, then the nil-cap would be like putting a plaster on a bullet wound - it might look like you're doing something but in reality it's totally ineffective. Instead of forcing people out of work and telling women what they can and can't do with their bodies I ask you to please consider other options such as funding anti-harassment campaigns and increasing the police force budget so that the perpetrators are caught and punished rather than the victims. This would of course take more time and effort on your part however it would create jobs instead of end them and would help to decrease crime rather than just move it elsewhere.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Ms V Brant

8th Nov Lic Committee SEV

Jeanette Plumb

Dear Councillors

I am so pleased that the principle of a nil cap for SEVs is being considered seriously again.

I'm writing from two perspectives:

- one as a woman living in the city with a daughter who grew up here and as a woman who taught for many years in a city school meeting many girls who felt that they were undervalued and treated as second class citizens, viewed by many males only as sexual beings.

- to as a representative of St Stephen's Church in the City centre - opposite Central Chambers. We have sent in submissions over the past few years highlighted how the proximity to a faith community is a stated relevant factor and yet it never seems to have an impact on the decision making.

We will again after restrictions end have a number of activities on different days of the week including evenings, some of which will be aimed specifically at people in vulnerable circumstances. We want to be a church that stands for equality and dignity and feel that the SEV illustrates precisely the opposite.

We do hope that the council takes heart from the Sheffield example and others that show it is possible for this to be implemented and to meet the aspirations of being a White Ribbon city. With all the ongoing work of opening the Old City area and making it more tourist friendly it is so clearly the right time to change the use of that building. We have supported the city plans for the rejuvenation of St John's church garden/churchyard area and indeed the pedestrianisation which actually is not very helpful to us and yet we see its value for the whole city area.

We do hope that a forward looking, courageous decision is made this time at a time when we are all looking for new ways of being positive for the future.

Thanks you all so much for your work on this and the time given to considering all views.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Plumb

I am writing to express my support of the two Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in Bristol. I believe that the Licensing Committee is meeting on Monday 8th March to discuss the Sex Establishments Policy Consultations and the City Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment, and there is a chance that the 'nil-cap' available to councils may be considered.

As a single mother of two girls, I have always been open minded and educated my girls, that there should be no boundaries to any jobs they wish to do. I also identify as a strong feminist and life long labour supporter.

However I cannot support the 'nil-cap' policy.

As a self employed visual artist, one of my income streams was to teach life drawing to Hen and Stag Parties. I have been teaching these for over 12 years. This has given me the opportunity of working in a lot of clubs in Bristol and a lot of experience with large groups of males and females, who before the pandemic would bring a lot of capital into Bristol and bolster the night time economy.

I never knew that strip clubs existed or where they were in Bristol and to me they have never been overtly advertised.

However my work brought me to the doors of Central Chambers and since then, I have worked within both clubs, Urban Tiger and Central Chambers, for the last 6 years, been totally, supported by the owners, including sponsoring an art show, which I had in the Arcade in Bristol.

Educating myself and opening my eyes to the working environment and safe conditions of both the dancers who work within both clubs and the staff, a lot of whom, including the extremely hard working owner, who is a women.

I have got to know the dancers who are educated, motivated and charming, usually studying for degrees or have family to support. They are highly skilled in pole, which is indeed amazing to watch and is true art form in itself. They choose to work in this very safe environment and I think that is the key word here, 'choose' their right, their choice and not exploitative at all.

There is a no contact rule, which you will never find in any other club in Bristol. It is a safe environment with additions to security and CCTV and the rules laid out by the SEV licence are strictly adhered to and go above and beyond. These are not your 'exploited' or 'weak minded' women, as indicated by sensational headlines in local papers and tweets from my local MP. They are strong and independent, who support their families, who pay their way through college, who pay their mortgages. I have had the opportunity to run my own life drawing classes from the clubs and the dancers are very enthusiastic in participating and show-casing their skills.

Therefore, I cannot understand, why in this current economic turmoil after a year of closures, job losses, mental health issues, especially within the arts, theatrical and hospitality sector, Bristol City Council and the mayor want to bring in a nil cap policy on strip clubs.

This is a good job, where women can work for themselves and make a good living, they may not have the public school education or privilege, to propel them into high paid employment but this enables them to pay off student loans and support their families and have a good lifestyle. For

many of the dancers, the closures of the clubs have been devastating and this has not only effected them but the staff, the security, the cleaners, not to mention the many other business's connected to the clubs, which all bring a huge revenue stream into the City.

We have already been through so much.

The (unfounded) claim that the strip clubs cause city centre assaults is effectively punishing and blaming a majority of female workers for violence against women. My daughter in fact noticed that their were more incidents of violence during the summer months in the town centre over lockdown than before lockdown. This cannot be blamed on the clubs because they were not open. The focus should always be on the perpetrators and no blame should be taken away from them. This seems like 'slut-shaming' on the highest level.

As a victim of sexual assault myself. I understand more than many that men do commit these crimes against women and girls, but this has no correlation to licensed strip clubs.

Educate your men first before blaming women.

In conclusion, I apologise for my rambling email but its my opinion.

I do not support the nil cap policy being discussed on Monday.

I also will not vote for Thangam Debonnaire, she does not represent me as a labour supporter and neither does the overdue 'mayor'. I'm very disappointed.

This is not the type of feminism I want to see, which uses its mandate to further its own personal and political ideologies and agendas and pitches women against women. I don't want to support that. You cannot make a decision purely based on hearsay.

Many thanks for your consideration.

Rebekah wills
Artist
Clifton

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to express my support of the two Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in Bristol. I understand that the Licensing Committee is meeting on Monday 8th March to discuss the Sex Establishments Policy Consultations and the City Centre Cumulative Impact Assessment, and there is a chance that the 'nil-cap' available to councils may be considered. I myself am a worker at Urban Tiger and have worked there for two years now.

Shutting the strip clubs would lead to myself and many other workers being made unemployed and having our livelihoods taken from us; including the dancers, the security staff, bar staff and managers. The knock-on effect on the SEVs suppliers and business networks would impact negatively on the wider economy.

On a personal note, I am a young carer and student. My work at Urban Tiger allows me to study and take care of my sick mother - I would not be able to afford to do this on regular 9-5 or the minimum wage of a zero hours contract, and I wouldn't have the time to do both as caring is a very time consuming duty. Taking my job away from me would mean that I would have to stop studying or try rely on government care services, and be significantly worse off financially. I don't want to have to do this. I also enjoy my job a lot, I love the girls who I work with and it is such a fun, empowering experience that I have not experienced when working as a waitress or as bar staff or as a cleaner. In fact, I would argue that the ability to have any man/customer who is rude to me or harassing me removed from the building by a bouncer is not a perk that many jobs can say they can do for women. I do identify as a feminist and I do not in any way feel like my job affects my ability to be a feminist - I think the right to bodily autonomy and the right to choose is what feminism is about.

The two SEVs in Bristol are known to the police and the council for being law abiding, well-run clubs, actually causing far fewer problems than the other non-SEV establishments in the area (according to the 'red, amber, green' system that the police use).

The (unfounded) claim that the strip clubs cause city centre assaults is effectively punishing and blaming a majority of female workers for violence against women. The focus should always be on the perpetrators and no blame should be taken away from them. This seems like 'slut-shaming' on the highest level.

This 'debate' raises its head time and time again. The club is well run, the workers are safe. Some men commit unforgivable, horrendous crimes against women and girls – these violent criminals are where those behind this debate need to focus their time and energy NOT towards the nil-cap. That will not solve violence against women and girls; I wish it were that simple, instead it punishes those who are just trying to earn a living.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Roberts

Dear Councillors and Officers,

We, the Bristol Sex Workers' Collective, were saddened and surprised to hear that the council is once again proposing a new policy change regarding SEVs in Bristol.

We would like to first express our deepest condolences for all those who have been adversely affected by the recent novel coronavirus, and our thoughts are with all who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This past year has affected our city in many ways; Bristol's nightlife has been decimated and many businesses have not survived, and furthermore it is not over yet. The government's spending watchdog the Office for Budget Responsibility expects 2.2 million people to be unemployed by the end of the year, an estimated 6.5% of all workers (King, 2021), and in Bristol unemployment has more than doubled. Under these circumstances, it seems unusually cruel to consider closing Bristol's two lap dancing clubs when more than one hundred women from Bristol and the surrounding areas rely on these clubs for income. Not only that, but many will be in a more desperate situation than ever and will be relying on flexible work hours and a steady source of income. When such options are already scarce, does the council really want to take one more out of the hands of an almost entirely female workforce, many of whom have dependents and have been unable to work for over a year?

In 2018, the council wished to review their SEV policy and so carried out a survey, with the intention of using its results to inform the proposed changes. These results found that two-thirds of responders were comfortable with the presence of SEVs, provided that they were away from schools and places of worship. Not only that, another survey failed to find a link between increased crime and the presence of SEVs, as was suggested previously in 2018. The proposal to place a nil-cap in Bristol is clearly not coming from an objective standpoint, when the evidence clearly suggests that the clubs should remain open, and so the Bristol Sex Workers' Collective would like to know what evidence is there suggesting that closing the clubs would in fact help us towards our collective goal of gender equality? If that is the argument being made by a minority of people from pressure groups, why is the onus on us, as workers, to prove that we deserve to exist and that our choices are our own? Even so, we *have* proved again and again with primary evidence that clubs should and must remain open. We have proved from a democratic perspective that clubs should remain open. We have done the work and we have found clear objective evidence that clubs should remain open. We are tired.

So now we ask of these groups, what and where is the evidence for clubs to close?

Finally, as feminists, we believe that the sisterhood depends on all factions coming together to support one another. Sex workers are feminists as well. Often, our voices can go unheard due to the stigma which surrounds our work. But now, as we have in the past, we are raising our voices and imploring you not to ignore us. But to stand by us. Please don't take away our livelihoods. We rely on these jobs to eat, for shelter and to survive. In many cases, we rely on these jobs so that our loved ones can eat, shelter and live as well.

Signed,
Bristol Sex Workers' Collective (BSWC)

STATEMENT PS 08**Submitted by Penny Gane****Title: Bristol Women's Commission Statement**

As Chair of Bristol Women's Commission, my role - and that of my fellow Commissioners - is to ensure that gender equality is embedded into decision-making here in Bristol. An official mayoral commission established 8 years ago, we remain the only women's commission of its type in the UK, comprising all the key agencies in the city and, working alongside you, have achieved a great deal to improve the lives of women and girls in the city.

We are once again urging the Council to support a nil-cap for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) in Bristol in order to meet its commitments under the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life - the charter which led to the founding of the commission in order to deliver on its aims and in line with its own One City Plan aim to rid the city of domestic abuse and gender inequality.

As outlined in the Charter, the elimination of gender stereotypes is fundamental to achieving equality of women and men. As a long-time signatory, Bristol City Council has committed itself to 'counter and, so far as possible, prevent prejudices and practices which are based on the idea of the superiority or inferiority of either of the sexes, or on stereotyped roles for women and men'; and to 'recognise that gender-based violence arises from the idea, on the part of the perpetrator, of the superiority of one sex over the other in the context of an unequal relationship of power'.

SEVs profit from and contribute to this gender inequality and the Council should not be sanctioning this. It's not only Bristol Women's Commission, Bristol Women's Voice and other women's organisations providing support to survivors of sexual and domestic violence who agree. Results from last year's [Citizens Panel survey](#) question: "Do you agree or disagree that sexual entertainment venues complement Bristol's entertainment offer?" revealed that the majority of those who voiced an opinion disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Later, you will hear more about the Citizens' Assembly which was set up to help 'create a better future for all in Bristol' post Covid-19', you'll learn more about the Council's own equality journey and will be appointing a new member to the licensing committee. All of these items are relevant to this issue and by speaking to you tonight, we wanted to ensure that you realised how important introducing a nil-cap on SEVs is as part of the city's drive for gender equality.

There has been local press coverage about the proposed nil-cap, always from the perspectives of strip club owners or the small number of women who worked in the clubs which have been closed for much of 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. Understandably, the sex industry's main concern with the nil-cap proposal is it limiting the earning potential from SEVs. And it's right that, should the nil-cap pass, any women directly affected be supported to find more work. But this isn't about employment, it's about deciding whether or not a locality is an appropriate place to have a SEV - we say there are no appropriate places for this.

Our position focuses on a bigger conversation around changing the behaviours of men and boys in order to make our city a safer, more equal place to live for all women and girls. A nil-cap on SEVs is part of that broader aim. It won't solve the problem on its own, but it will be a significant step towards doing so. We are now awaiting the launch of a consultation, after which the proposal will return to the licensing committee. We urge councillors to consider the interests of all women and girls in Bristol and seize this opportunity to become the largest UK city (along with Exeter, Swansea, Blackpool and 10 London boroughs among others) - taking a tangible step to tackle gender inequality and make the city a fairer, safer place to live for all women and girls.

Penny Gane, Chair Bristol Women's Commission

Open letter against a nil-cap on SEVs

Dear Bristol City Council,

On the 8th of March 2021 Bristol City Council's licensing committee held a meeting to debate the future of the city's Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) otherwise known as strip clubs. At this meeting, Bristol's licensing committee voted in favour of putting a proposed nil-cap policy to a 12-week public consultation. A nil-cap would make the two remaining clubs unable to renew their licence, effectively closing them permanently once their current licences expire.

The two strip clubs currently licensed in Bristol are Urban Tiger and Central Chambers. These are both family-owned businesses and female run, both are located in central Bristol. They are in good standing with Avon and Somerset Police, Bristol Nightlife and The Bristol Association of Restaurants, Bars and Independent Establishments (BARBIE).

These venues employ approximately 100 workers, including performers, hospitality staff, security and cleaners as well as providing a host of other benefits to the business community, suppliers and the wider local night-time economy. Most of those working at these venues have been out of work for over a year due to COVID. Some of them have been unable to access any financial support.

The women who chose to work in those establishments have done so for a multitude of reasons. Financial stability and flexible work shifts are the main ones, but also they do so to support themselves through education, to support their families, to work around childcare, to care for disabled family members, and many more including that they like the job. Closing these establishments would remove a key source of income for them, pushing the majority of them into either unemployment, precarious employment or underground work which would directly impact their safety.

In many cities in which nil-caps have been introduced, strip clubs have either gone underground, or dancers have resorted to working at private parties. In both cases, the performers face a huge lack of safety and an increase in violence. Pushing the industry underground does not decrease demand and removes the option of a safe working environment for these workers.

The current SEV license policy was introduced in Bristol in 2011. Licences are renewed annually, set out strict CCTV and security regulations, and are in addition to the other licences and health and safety requirements necessary to run a hospitality and live entertainment venue. There is a very extensive set of conditions that SEVs must adhere to in order to retain their licenses including a strict no-contact rule between dancers and customers, no dancing in enclosed areas, CCTV coverage of the venue, no outward marketing including ensuring no leaflets or posters, billboards or adverts are visible from outside the venue, no personal contact details to be shared between customer and performer, and more... CCTV is reviewed regularly by both police and members of the council and visits are frequently made to ensure the policy is being adhered to.

There have been no license breaches by the two currently operating clubs.

All of the dancers undergo identity checks when starting employment to ensure they have the right to work in the UK and have no criminal record. Contrary to the myth that anti strip club campaigners try to spread, it is not possible that any of the workers are "pimped out" or victims of human trafficking. All of the workers are consenting adults.

A significant number of the dancers are members of the United Sex Workers (USW) branch of the United Voices of the World union and are members of Equity. This allows them to organise and ensure fair working conditions and rights which they would be unable to do should their work be pushed underground. USW has also worked with dancers to create a progressive SEV policy in Camden and Edinburgh; there is an opportunity for Bristol to follow in their footsteps and create policy that centres the experiences and rights of the workers instead of giving credence to a puritanical and misogynistic minority who blame women, in particular sex workers, for the violence of men and the hyper-sexualisation of women in mainstream culture.

In 2019, Bristol City Council (BCC) spent thousands of pounds on a public consultation which showed that approximately 66% of Bristol residents were happy with the current number of SEVs and did not object to them. Why would the council, two and half years later, spend thousands again on another similar public consultation? It seems BCC is not going to accept any other answer from its residents than the one it wants to receive and does not respect their already-stated will.

One of the main arguments presented to argue for the nil-cap is that SEVs increase the rate of violence against women and girls (VAWG) in its surrounding areas. This is simply not true. [Avon and Somerset Police's Cumulative Impact Assessment](#) showed that from 2018-2020 neither venues were a source of concern for sexual assault in or around their premises. One venue was not even mentioned.

If the aim of BCC is to tackle VAWG in the city centre, it is strange that a club such as Pryzm - which has a sexual assault rate five times higher than Central Chambers and Urban Tiger combined - is under no threat of closure.

Statistics have also been collected from Swansea, Chester and Exeter; cities in which nil-caps have been introduced in the last few years. The closure of SEVs in those cities have shown to have had absolutely **no** impact whatsoever on reducing VAWG, the rates of sexual assault actually increased in the years following the nil-caps. There was a similar trend with Jack of Diamonds, a strip club in Old Market that lost its license in 2017. Freedom of Information data shows that violent crimes and sexual assault has risen despite it no longer being an SEV.

On multiple occasions, councillors mentioned the existence of documents which supposedly prove that the presence of SEVs has a negative impact on their surrounding area. The Bristol Sex Workers Collective (BSWC) reached out to the council on a number of occasions to ask for access to this "evidence", but was only ever met by silence. Official requests were also turned down for questionable reasons.

The current SEV policy in Bristol clearly states that moral judgments have absolutely no place when making decisions on the licensing of the establishments. As demonstrated, figures show that SEVs do not have any negative impact on crime, are safe working environments and have better regulation in place than most regular venues. We believe that shutting those places down would therefore be discriminatory, unlawful and infringe the Equality Act by taking away women's bodily autonomy and choices. And we are not alone: the BSWC started a [petition](#) against the closure of SEVs and has already gathered over 6,000 signatures so far.

We demand that Bristol City Council respects the law, democracy and honours workers' rights by voting against the proposed nil-cap.

Signatories:

Bristol Sex Workers Collective

- Megan Prescott, influencer
- Dr Katie Cruz, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Bristol
- Dr Egle Cesnulyte, Lecturer in Politics/International development, deputy director of the Gender Research Centre, University of Bristol
- Dr. Anastacia Ryan - founder Umbrella Lane, Sex Worker Wellbeing Project , Scotland
- Prerna Menon - Coordinator Umbrella Lane, Sex Worker Wellbeing Project, Scotland
- Berlin Strippers Collective
- English Collective of Prostitutes
- Prof Jutta Weldes, University of Bristol
- Dr Jessica Paddock, University of Bristol
- Dr Chris Rossdale, University of Bristol
- Prof Teela Sanders, University of Leicester
- Dr Rosie Nelson, University of Bristol
- Dr Polly Galis, University of Bristol
- Dr Jessica Simpson, London School of Economics
- Paul W Fleming, General Secretary, Equity
- Simon Curtis, National and Regional Official - Wales and South West England, Equity
- National SEV Coalition
- Momentum Bristol
- Adam Brittain, Operations Director of BARBI
- Dr Carolina Are, researcher, blogger and activist at bloggeronpole.com
- United Sex Workers
- Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Bristol branch
- Hannah Nicholls, Pink Kitten Dance School
- Lily Fitzgibbons, Green Councillor for Bishopston and Ashley Down
- Young Greens
- All Black Lives UK
- East London Strippers Collective CIC
- Cleo Lake, activist and former Lord Mayor
- Bristol Labour Against Transphobia
- Cllr Ani Stafford-Townsend
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**United Voices of the World (UVW) Union Statement to the Bristol City Council's
Consultation in support of the continued Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues
(SEVs)**

United Voices of the World (UVW) are submitting this statement in support of the continued licensing of sexual entertainment venues in Bristol. As a union representing strippers in clubs across the United Kingdom, including those in Bristol, we are concerned that implementing a nil cap will only serve to undermine the Council's aims to preserve public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder, by forcing workers into unsafe and unregulated spaces.

Policy actors are well aware of structural inequities, unjust labour market conditions, the impacts of austerity, the cut to Universal Credit, the housing crisis, insufficient statutory sick pay, the burden of childcare and education, and COVID-19 poverty; all of which may preclude strippers from quitting the industry despite being unable to access safe workspaces if the nil cap is implemented. A nil cap policy will only end safe employment opportunities for those workers within the council's boundaries.

At United Voices of the World, we feel that one of the most effective ways of reducing harm in the workplace is the right for workers to organise collectively, access trade union representation and enter collective bargaining conversations with their bosses. By implementing a nil cap SEV policy, Bristol City Council would be effectively forcing workers into private spaces without the protection of those rights offered within the existing strip clubs.

We question why Bristol City Council are hosting another public consultation on SEV policy in the name of public safety, when there is no empirical evidence which proves a correlation between strip clubs and sexual violence against women in Bristol, and Bristol's strip clubs are in good standing with Avon and Somerset Police. We also question why new legislation is being proposed without specific targeted consultation with the workers most affected by these policy decisions.

The strippers working within the clubs, the majority of whom are women, are a community of interest and should be an asset in drafting subsequent SEV policy. If Bristol City Council are committed to the safety of its residents and precluding any potential threat of exploitation, they should recognise this unique opportunity to enshrine workers rights in their SEV policy, and to give worker safety equal importance within the drafting of this policy.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with members of the council to ensure any future SEV Policy considers the rights of the workers, as well the safety of members of the public - which we feel is one and the same.

United Voices of the World
unitedsexworkers@uvwunion.org.uk

CONDITIONS RELATING TO SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

Standard Conditions for Sexual Entertainment Venues

1. The Council makes these regulations pursuant to its power under paragraph 13 of the Third Schedule to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (“The Act”).
2. In these conditions
‘Audience’; ‘Sexual Entertainment Venue’; and ‘Relevant Entertainment’; each have the meaning given in the Act .
‘Performer’ means any individual who performs or actively participates in Relevant Entertainment (whether or not they are an employee) and “Performance” and “Performing” shall be construed accordingly.
‘Permitted Relevant Entertainment’ means entertainment falling within the description specified on the licence as being permitted at the licensed premises
‘Relevant Offence’ means
 - a. An offence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 3.
 - b. A sexual offence, being an offence listed in Part 2 of Schedule 15 to the Criminal Justice Act 2003, other than the offence mentioned in paragraph 95 (an offence under section 4 of the Sexual Offences Act 1967 (procuring others to commit homosexual acts));
3. Every Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence granted, renewed or transferred by the Council shall be presumed to have been so granted, renewed or transferred subject to the standard conditions contained in the schedule unless they have been expressly excluded or varied by the Council.
4. Only Permitted Relevant Entertainment is authorised under this licence.
5. Permitted relevant entertainment may only take place on those parts of the premises as are identified on the plan annexed to the licence.
6. Relevant entertainment shall not occur in private rooms, cubicles or other enclosed areas. For these purposes a room, cubicle or other area is private unless it is completely open on one side so that activities within may be supervised from the exterior.
7. The Council shall be provided with a Code of Conduct for Performers and Rules to be observed by members of the audience.

8. The Code and Rules referred to in Condition D above shall be brought to the attention of all performers and members of the audience and reasonable measures shall be taken to ensure that they are complied with.

A copy of the code of conduct should be signed and dated by each performer and a member of the management team, and a copy held on file at the premises for a minimum of 12 months after the last provision of relevant entertainment given by that performer. A copy of the signed code of conduct must also be given to the performer. Documents held at the premises shall be provided to an authorised officer on request.

9. At no time during the performance may there be any physical contact between a performer and a customer. Prior to the performance or at the completion of the performance there may be hand-to-hand payment for the performance.

10. At no time except during the performance may a performer or employee be unclothed. Immediately following the performance, the performer must dress, so that (for example) the performer may not be unclothed when seeking payment for a performance.

11. No performer or employee may at any time (and whether or not performing), whilst on the premises:

- a. sit or lie on the lap or any other part of any customer, performer, employee or other person;
- b. kiss, stroke, fondle, caress or embrace any customer, performer, employee or other person;
- c. engage in any other contact of a sexual nature with any customer, performer, employee or other person.
- d. undertake any performance that includes a sex act with any other performers, patrons, employees, contractors, or with the use of any objects.
- e. Customers must remain fully clothed at all times.

12. In these conditions:

- a. "customer" means any person visiting the premises other than employees or performers, whether or not they have paid for or intend to pay for services provided;
- b. "employee" means any person working at the venue whether under a contract of employment or some other contract;
- c. "unclothed" means when breasts and/or genitals and/or anus are fully or partially uncovered.
- d. "other contact of a sexual nature" means contact which must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating the customer.

13. As soon as is reasonably practicable, and in any event within seven days, the Council shall be notified of any material change in the management structure,

where a material change means one which is at variance with the information provided in the most recent application for a license, or its renewal or variation as the case may be;

14. No person shall be employed or shall perform at the premises who has unspent convictions for any Relevant Offence;
15. Copies of the license and the conditions applicable to it shall be displayed on the premises in a place where it is likely to be seen by every member of the audience;
16. The licensee shall retain control over all parts of the licensed premises when used for Relevant Entertainment;
17. Customers shall be made aware of any charge for admission to the premises, and of any further charges that may be levied in connection with the provision of Relevant Entertainment, before being admitted to the premises;
18. There shall be no display either upon or outside of the licensed premises (in such a way that it is visible on the exterior) of photographs or other images which indicate or suggest that Relevant Entertainment is provided upon the premises, with the exception of any registered trade mark, trading name or trading symbol that has been provided to the Council in connection with the most recent application for licence, its renewal or variation as the case may be;
19. The licensee shall ensure that no area where Relevant Entertainment may take place can be viewed from outside the licensed premises at any time;
20. The licensed premises shall be sufficiently illuminated to ensure that usable CCTV images can be captured;
21. Performers shall not be permitted to share the following facilities with any customers and suitable separate provision must be made;
 - a. water closet;
 - b. washing facilities;
22. Performers and customers shall not be permitted to share any smoking area
23. No customers shall be permitted to enter any changing area used by Performers

24. All external doors affording access to the licensed premises shall be fitted with a device to provide for their automatic closure and such device shall be maintained in good working order;
25. The availability of relevant entertainment shall not be marketed or advertised in any of the following ways:-
- a. by means of personal solicitation in the locality of the licensed premises;
 - b. by means of leafleting in the locality;
 - c. by means of externally displayed advertisement (such as on billboards) in any part of the Council's administrative area
26. The following shall be made available without charge to performers and the Audience: literature and contact names and telephone numbers of organisations that provide advice and counselling on matters relating to rape, sexual assault and gender based violence
27. No telephone number, residential address, email address or other information that may facilitate further contact between performers and members of the Audience is passed from audience to performer, or vice versa including through the use of social media accounts.

This prohibition shall be brought to the attention of all performers and members of the Audience

28. Contracts

- a. Performers may perform only in accordance with written contracts, which define their rights and obligations, including terms as to the nature of their performance and payment. No deduction shall be made from such payment unless permitted by the contract, and no deduction by way of penalty shall be permitted. Contracts must be provided in a language in which a performer is competent, at the expense of the management. If contracts are for self-employment, clear advice in a language in which the performer is competent, must be provided concerning the definition of self-employment, required contributions for tax and NIC, and rights of self-employed workers as well as limitations of self-employment including regarding health insurance, sickness and maternity pay and pension contributions
- b. No relevant entertainment shall be provided by any performer unless sufficient checks have been made of documents evidencing the performer's age, identity and right to work in the United Kingdom;
- c. The licence holder shall keep a record of the name, address, contact details and stage name of each performer at the premises.
- d. Copies of all documents referred to in (a), (b), and (c) above shall be retained for not less than 12 months after the last provision of Relevant Entertainment by the said Performer and shall be produced to an

authorised officer of the Council or a Constable upon request at any reasonable time.

29. The licensee shall exercise all due diligence and take all reasonable steps to ensure that the terms and conditions imposed on the licence are observed and complied with at all times.

30. CCTV.

CCTV shall be in use at the premises.

- a. Where a CCTV system is to be installed, extended or replaced, it shall be to an appropriate standard as agreed with the Licensing Authority in consultation with the Police. Where a CCTV system is to be installed it shall be fully operational by commencement of the licence.

- b. The CCTV equipment shall be maintained in good working order and continually record when licensable activity takes place.

- c. The premises licence holder shall ensure images from the CCTV are retained for a period of 31 days. This image retention period may be reviewed as appropriate by the Licensing Authority

- d. The correct time and date will be generated onto both the recording and the real time image screen.

- e. If the CCTV equipment (Including any mobile units in use at the premises) breaks down the Premises Licence Holder shall ensure the designated premises supervisor, or in his/her absence other responsible person, verbally informs the Licensing Authority and the Police as soon as is reasonably practicable. This information shall be contemporaneously recorded in the incident report register and shall include the time, date and means this was done and to whom the information was reported. Equipment failures shall be repaired or replaced as soon as is reasonably practicable and without undue delay. The Licensing Authority and the Police shall be informed when faults are rectified.

- f. The premises Licence holder shall ensure that there are trained members of staff available during licensable hours to be able to reproduce and download CCTV images into a removable format at the request of an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or a constable.

- g. There shall be clear signage indicating that CCTV equipment is in use and recording at the premises during all trading hours
 - h. If relevant entertainment is specifically provided for an audience of one (for example what is sometimes referred to as a private dance) the camera must be positioned and operated so as to ensure that both parties are clearly identifiable from the captured images.
 - i. All monitors shall be positioned so that customers may not observe images.
 - j. All areas to which the public have access shall be covered by CCTV. There shall be no 'blind spots' in any area that is accessible to the public other than inside customer WCs
31. Relevant entertainment shall not include any word, action or imagery that endorses or depicts, or might reasonably be taken as endorsing or depicting, or be promoted as including, any conduct which, if taking place in reality, would amount to a criminal offence; for the avoidance of doubt this imposes a prohibition on any performer being clothed in a school uniform or otherwise attired or presented as being a school student or a child or being promoted as such in any media.

Standard Conditions for Sex Shops and Sex Cinemas

Save where they have been expressly excluded or varied, or any additions made, as set out on the licence, the licence is granted subject to the terms, conditions and restrictions prescribed by the Authority and set out as the standard conditions applying to sex shops and sex cinemas

1. A copy of this licence together with a copy of the conditions shall be exhibited.
2. In these Conditions the following expressions shall have the following meanings:
 - (i) 'The Council' - The City Council of Bristol.
 - (ii) 'Sex Establishment', 'sex cinema', 'sex shop', and 'sex article', shall have the meanings given them in Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
 - (iii) 'Premises' any vehicle, vessel, stall or premises (which shall include any building, any part thereof, forecourt, yard or storage place in connection with any building) which is the subject of a licence granted under Schedule 3 aforesaid.
 - (iv) 'Special Conditions' any terms, conditions or restrictions contained or referred to in the Schedule to a licence granted under Schedule 3 aforesaid.
3. A sex shop or sex cinema shall not be open to the public before 9 a.m. and shall not be kept open after 8.00 p.m.
4. The licensee shall ensure that the public are not admitted to any part or parts of the premises which have not been licensed by the Council.
5. No part of the premises shall be used by male or female prostitutes for the purposes of soliciting.
6. The licensee shall notify the Council in writing of the person responsible for management of a sex shop or sex cinema at any time and no person may be responsible for such management unless he is approved by the Council.
7. The name of the person responsible for management of a sex shop or sex cinema shall be prominently displayed on the premises throughout the time of his management.
8. Where the licensee is a body corporate or an unincorporated body any change of director, company secretary or other person responsible for management of the body shall be notified to the Licensing Authority in writing within 14 days of the change.
9. The licensee shall not let, licence or otherwise dispose of any part of the premises.
10. Any displays must be arranged in such a way that the interior of the premises, other than the window display itself, is not visible from the exterior.

11. Wording shall not be used in any window display or on the exterior of the premises that could be considered as stimulating or encouraging sexual activity, or acts of force or restraint associated with sexual activity.
12. No article or material shall be displayed on the premises so as to be visible from outside of the premises that are for use in connection with, or for the purpose of stimulating sexual activity, acts of force or restraint associated with sexual activity, genital organs, urinary or excretory functions.
13. A maximum of three mannequins may be used in any window display for the purpose of displaying such clothing as lingerie, nightwear, fancy dress, etc. Such displays shall not include any clothing or item which could be considered to be for use in connection with, or for purpose of acts of force or restraint. Where mannequins are used they shall not be posed in such a fashion as to suggest sexual activity or acts of force or restraint.
14. If the Council notifies the licensee in writing of the unsuitability of any poster, photograph, sketch, painting, image or any form or display visible to members of the public who are not on the premises, then the item shall be removed or obscured from the sight of members of the public not on the premises
15. Neither the licensee nor his servant or agent shall personally solicit custom for a sex establishment outside or in the vicinity of a sex shop or sex cinema.
16. There shall be no change of use from a sex cinema to a sex shop or from a sex shop to a sex cinema without written consent from the Council.
17. No sex articles or other things intended for the use in connection with, or for the purpose of stimulating or encouraging sexual activity or acts of force or restraint which are associated with sexual activity shall be displayed, sold, hired, exchanged, loaned or demonstrated in a sex cinema.
18. All sex articles and other things displayed for sale, hire, exchange or loan in a sex shop shall be clearly marked with their prices.
19. All printed matter offered for sale, hire, exchange, or loan shall be available for inspection prior to purchase.
20. Alterations or additions either internal or external shall not be made to the licensed premises without written consent from the Council.
21. The licensee shall take all reasonable precautions for the safety of the public and employees.
22. In the event of any inconsistency between these conditions and any special conditions of the licence the special conditions shall prevail.
23. Where in these Conditions reference is made to 'approval' or 'consent' by the Council this shall be approval or consent in writing from the Licensing Authority and no approval given under any other powers of the Council will be

sufficient, e.g. planning permission approval under building regulations, and approval given under any other powers exercised by the Council shall not preclude the necessity for approval or consent in writing under these Conditions.

Appendix 18 – Summary of changes

Sex Establishment Policy – Summary of changes between old and new policies

Current Policy (Jan 2012)	Revision
Contents	New addition of contents page
1. Introduction	Amended to update and include reference to all types of sex establishment
	Minor changes to wording
2. Scope	Amended to include reference to all types of sex establishment Addition of definitions of sex shop and sex cinema Removal of glossary of terms (moved to Appendix B) Removal of paragraph excluding sex shops and sex cinemas from scope
Transitional Provisions	Removal of entire section
3. Decision making responsibility	Clarification of determination powers and reference to licensing committee
4. Determining applications	Addition of paragraph about considerations. Amendment of wording
5. General obligations	Amended to include reference to all types of sex establishment Detail of obligations expanded in relation to Human Rights, Equalities Law, Crime and Disorder Legislation. Additions to obligations of the Regulators Compliance Code and the Provision of Services Regulations.
6. Considering applications	Removal of reference to Neighbourhood Partnerships as they are no longer in existence. Minor amendment to wording Additional minor amendment to wording Addition of EQIA for each valid application Change to determination process in that all applications will normally be referred to committee. Removal of reference to standard objection form
7. Grounds for refusal	Minor change to wording to clarify time period for refusal based on previous revocation Amended to include reference to all types of sex establishment Addition of section on general presumption of refusal for localities made up of certain types of premises Addition of wording clarifying locality and grounds Clarification of locality in relation to consideration of applications
8. Conditions	Addition of section regarding conditions

10. Waiver	Amended to include reference to all types of sex establishment Removal of sentence regarding likeliness of waiver
Appendix A	Addition of sentence clarifying numbers
Appendix B	Addition of Glossary of terms

Sex Establishment Conditions – Summary of changes since consultation

Proposed conditions on consultation	Revision
Entire document	Renumbered all conditions and formatting
Sexual Entertainment Venues	
8. Code and Rules	Addition of requirements for completion and retention of documents, copies provided to performers
11. Performer interaction	Addition of restrictions in respect of contact with others whilst on premises
26. Information to be available to performers	Amendment to information to be made available
27. Contact between performer and customer	Addition of restrictions to social media accounts
28. Contracts	Addition of wording relating to language, self employment rights and contact details retention
30. CCTV	Addition of wording relating to requirement to prevent blind spots within premises.
Sex Shops and Sex Cinemas	
No changes	

Appendix 19 – Local Area Profile



Local Area Profile – Sex Establishments

Purpose

This area profile has been developed to enhance the Statement of Policy in respect of Sex Establishments and provide guidance to applicants, operators and the public about the types of venues, both licensed and unlicensed, within the Council's administrative area.

Bristol Profile

Geographical facts

- The population of Bristol is estimated to be **463,400** people.
- At **42** square miles, Bristol is the largest city in the south west and one of the ten 'core cities' in Great Britain.
- The city is divided into **34** Wards.

In June 2017, Bristol City Council developed an extensive dataset of profiles containing statistical information by Ward. These were updated in December 2021. Each document contains statistical information in relation to population, deprivation, quality of life, health and wellbeing, life expectancy, child poverty, crime, education, social care, housing and ethnicity, and can be viewed on the Council's website at <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/statistics-census-information/new-wards-data-profiles>

Information is also available by different themes such as geography and areas, environment, and business and economy, amongst others on the Open Data Bristol webpage.

Defined Localities

There are currently three localities which have been defined for the purpose of determining applications for sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas. Localities are generally defined on application for a new venue, and are subject to change depending on the nature of the application and consideration of its location within the city.

The current localities are:

City Centre area – the area from Welshback and Castle Park at the South to Colston Street at the North, and including the Harbourside area at the West to Temple Way Underpass at the East.

The area is a mixed use area, with a range of daytime and nighttime activities. It is the primary location for nighttime economy within Bristol, and incorporates many of the late night

dance venues within the city. It is also increasingly residential, with development taking place in areas which were historically retail, hospitality or industrial premises. It incorporates the Harbourside area where there is a significant hospitality offer, as well as the Central Promenade and Old City which includes three theatres, a transport hub, and significant levels of footfall on weekends and evenings. There are also the Broadmead and Cabot Circus shopping areas, which are primarily given over to retail, hospitality, and activity premises. There are also a number of LGBTQ+ venues within this area.

Old Market/West Street – the area of Old Market Street and West Street approximately bounded by New Street and Lawfords Gate to the north, Trinity Road and Trinity Street to the east, Unity Street and Waterloo Road to the south and Temple Way Underpass to the west

The Old Market/West Street area is mixed use, with residential and office accommodation generally above and behind retail and hospitality uses. The area has historically been host to a cluster of LGBTQ+ venues.

Bishopston / Redland / Cotham /Ashley Locality – the area including Cheltenham Road and Gloucester Road, and the residential areas directly abutting these roads.

This area is primarily residential, with a primary road which is mainly retail and hospitality running through the centre.

Sexual entertainment venues, sex shops and sex cinemas

Sexual entertainment venues (SEVs), sex shops and sex cinemas are regulated under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982.

There are currently two licensed SEVs in Bristol in the City Centre area, along with one licensed sex shop.

There is one licensed sex shop in the Old Market/West Street area. There are no licensed sex cinemas in the Bristol administrative area.

Sexual entertainment venues are premises where there is a performance to an audience, that may or may not include nudity, and where the performance is intended to sexually stimulate.

Any premises which has a licence to sell alcohol on the premises may provide this type of entertainment up to 11 times in a 12 month period, no more than once a month without the need for a licence under this regime. Some premises have a condition stating that this type of entertainment can't take place, and therefore they wouldn't be able to use this exemption.

Sex shops are any shop which mainly sells sex articles, including items for sexual stimulation, or films intended to sexually stimulate, commonly known as R-Rated films.

Sex cinemas are any premises which shows films intended to sexually stimulate, commonly known as R-Rated films. Cinemas which only show films rated U, PG, 12A, 15 or 18 do not require a licence under this regime.

Other sex related premises

The Council recognises that in a large and diverse city there will be a wide range of other sex related premises which may but do not necessarily fall into a licensing regime or may be dealt with by other agencies. An outline of some of these types of venues are included below.

Entertainment or performance premises – some premises may have performances which include elements of nudity but do not fall into the category of a sexual entertainment venue. Examples of this are burlesque, where the primary purpose of the performance is not sexual stimulation. Whilst there may be some nudity the focus is on the performance. We are aware of a number of entertainment venues who have performances of this nature on a regular basis. It is generally considered that these types of performance do not require licensing under this regime.

Sex on sex premises – premises where sex between consenting adults takes place. This may be in individual rooms or within shared spaces. It is reasonable to assume that some of these events also take place within private residences or short-term rented accommodation. Examples of this are swingers' clubs, or BDSM clubs. We are aware of several clubs of this nature within the city. Clubs where performances take place for an audience with an intention to sexually stimulate are likely to require licensing, but cases would be considered on their individual circumstances and nature of the venue.

Sex for payment premises – premises where sex is available for payment are not licensable by the local authority. If they are being run as a brothel then they are unlawful and would be dealt with by the police. They are commonly identified as massage parlours on advertising. We are aware that there are a number of premises within the city which match these criteria. The council have no powers in respect of the sex element of these premises.

Other events or occasions with a potential sex-related element – Life drawing classes, nude or partially nude butler services, nude dining events and other events of a similar nature are unlikely to require licensing.



Equality Impact Assessment [version 2.10]

Title: Sex Establishments Policy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Strategy <input type="checkbox"/> Function <input type="checkbox"/> Service <input type="checkbox"/> Other [please state]	<input type="checkbox"/> New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Already exists / review <input type="checkbox"/> Changing
Directorate: Growth and Regeneration	Lead Officer name: Nick Carter
Service Area: Regulatory Services	Lead Officer role: Head of Regulatory Services

Step 1: What do we want to do?

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment is to assist decision makers in understanding the impact of proposals as part of their duties under the Equality Act 2010. Detailed guidance to support completion can be found here [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

This assessment should be started at the beginning of the process by someone with a good knowledge of the proposal and service area, and sufficient influence over the proposal. It is good practice to take a team approach to completing the equality impact assessment. Please contact the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) early for advice and feedback.

1.1 What are the aims and objectives/purpose of this proposal?

Briefly explain the purpose of the proposal and why it is needed. Describe who it is aimed at and the intended aims / outcomes. Where known also summarise the key actions you plan to undertake. Please use [plain English](#), avoiding jargon and acronyms. Equality Impact Assessments are viewed by a wide range of people including decision-makers and the wider public.

This equality impact assessment is a live document, which we have continued to update in light of emerging evidence and consultation. The previous version of the EQIA can be found on the [Council's website](#). The Council adopted a policy on the licensing of sexual entertainment venues in 2011. The policy is now being reviewed and expanded to deal with all types of sex establishments. It sets out the policy framework to allow consideration of applications in respect of these premises, as well as other connected matters (such as requests to waive the need for a licence).

The purpose of the policy is to enable Bristol City Council to have clear guidelines in relation to the licensing of sex establishments in its area. The policy sets out the Council's approach to licensing sex establishments so that is clear to residents, applicants and workers - and ensures a transparent and consistent approach, as well as giving direction and focus to the Licensing Committee in determining applications.

There are three types of premises which are covered by the broader definition of sex establishments:

- Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs)
- Sex Shops
- Sex Cinemas

There are statutory definitions of what these premises are, but a short description of each is included here:

Sexual Entertainment Venue:

These offer relevant entertainment. Relevant entertainment is a performance which is intended to sexually stimulate, which may or may not include nudity. Any place where there is a performance primarily intended to sexually stimulate a live audience is likely to require a licence. An audience might be one person. Examples are lap/pole dancing and strip clubs.

Conversely a burlesque show might not require a licence, provided its primary purpose is not to sexually stimulate the audience, even if there is nudity. Other examples might include life drawing classes or naked dinner clubs. Any premises which has a licence to sell alcohol on the premises may provide relevant entertainment as defined above up to 11 times in a 12 month period, no more than once a month without an SEV licence. Some premises have a condition stating that this type of entertainment can't take place, and therefore they wouldn't be able to use the exemption. There are currently two licensed SEVs in Bristol.

Sex Shop:

Any shop which mainly sells sex articles, including items for sexual stimulation, magazines intended to sexually stimulate, or films intended to sexually stimulate, commonly known as R-Rated films, would need a licence. Shops which sell some sex articles, but primarily sell other items are unlikely to need a licence. For example some high street lingerie stores or health and beauty retailers which sell a small selection of sex articles alongside their main offer would be unlikely to need a licence. There are currently four sex shops in Bristol.

Sex Cinema:

Any premises which shows films intended to sexually stimulate, commonly known as R-Rated films, would need a licence. Cinemas which only show films rated U, PG, 12A, 15 or 18 do not require a licence under this regime. There are currently no sex cinemas in Bristol.

Any premises falling into the descriptions above would be likely to require a licence. The current policy provides a framework for facilitating consideration of applications for licences for sexual entertainment venues. It sets out information about the application process, what is expected of applicants and how people can make objections about applications. It also sets out the types of controls that are available to the Council when decisions are made about licence applications and prescribes what action can be taken if complaints are received.

At a meeting of the Licensing Committee on 21 January 2011 members approved the existing policy, which came into effect in Bristol on 31 January 2011. The Licensing Committee is now being asked to consider a revision of the Council's current policy. It has been several years since the Council adopted the ability to licence sexual entertainment venues under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, as amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. Although there is no statutory requirement to undertake a review, as a significant amount of time has passed the purpose of the review is to ensure the policy remains up to date and relevant.

Any decision to approve this updated policy must be made by the Licensing Committee¹ rather than by Full Council or Cabinet etc.

1.2 Who will the proposal have the potential to affect?

<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol City Council workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service users	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The wider community
<input type="checkbox"/> Commissioned services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City partners / Stakeholder organisations	

1.3 Will the proposal have an equality impact?

Could the proposal affect access levels of representation or participation in a service, or does it have the potential to change e.g. quality of life: health, education, or standard of living etc.?

If 'No' explain why you are sure there will be no equality impact, then skip steps 2-4 and request review by Equality and Inclusion Team.

If 'Yes' complete the rest of this assessment, or if you plan to complete the assessment at a later stage please state this clearly here and request review by the Equality and Inclusion Team.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	[please select]
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Step 2: What information do we have?

2.1 What data or evidence is there which tells us who is, or could be affected?

Please use this section to demonstrate an understanding of who could be affected by the proposal. Include general population data where appropriate, and information about people who will be affected with particular reference to protected and other relevant characteristics: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/measuring-equalities-success>.

Use one row for each evidence source and say which characteristic(s) it relates to. You can include a mix of qualitative and quantitative data e.g. from national or local research, available data or previous consultations and engagement activities.

Outline whether there is any over or under representation of equality groups within relevant services - don't forget to benchmark to the local population where appropriate. Links to available data and reports are here [Data, statistics and intelligence \(sharepoint.com\)](#). See also: [Quality of Life Survey](#); [Bristol Open Data](#); [Joint Strategic Needs Assessment \(JSNA\)](#); [Ward Statistical Profiles](#).

For workforce / management of change proposals you will need to look at the diversity of the affected teams using available evidence such as [HR Analytics: Power BI Reports \(sharepoint.com\)](#) which shows the diversity profile of council teams and service areas. Identify any over or under-representation compared with Bristol economically active citizens for different characteristics. Additional sources of useful workforce evidence include the [Employee Staff Survey Report](#) and [Stress Risk Assessment Form](#)

Data / Evidence Source [Include a reference where known]	Summary of what this tells us
Census 2011 and Census 2021 2011 Census Key Statistics About Equalities Communities	The Census details the demographic profile of Bristol. The detailed results of the 2021 census will not be available until later in 2022, so demographic data is still informed by 2011 census and other population related documents (listed below)
The population of Bristol	Updated annually. The report brings together statistics on the current estimated population of Bristol, recent trends in population, future projections and looks at the key characteristics of the people living in Bristol.
New wards: data profiles Ward Profiles - Power BI tool	The Ward Profiles provide a range of data-sets, including demographics, health and wellbeing disparities etc. for each of Bristol's electoral wards.
2021 Consultation Responses (<i>Please see Appendix 12 for further details as this EqIA only highlights the main findings</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the majority of respondents (86%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with a proposed (nil-cap) policy approach

- Female respondents somewhat more likely to agree with overall approach (although 70% still disagreed)
- Proportions of respondents who feel safe in the city centre after dark (20%) are broadly comparable with other data from Quality of Life Survey, including that women feel less safe overall
- Male respondents more likely to say SEVs have no impact on safety
- Majority of respondents (79%) said they thought the impact of SEVs on the night time economy was positive or very positive, but this was lower (63%) for female respondents
- Some differences by sexual orientation in the extent to which respondents feel SEV has an impact on safety and night-time economy
- *(See section 2.4 below for diversity summary of respondents, and Appendix 12 for full details)*

Quality of Life 2020-21 — Open Data
Bristol

Bristol Quality of Life survey 2020/21 final
report

There are significant disparities based on personal characteristics and circumstances in the extent to which people in Bristol feel safe outdoors after dark, and for whom feeling safer from crime would encourage them to visit venues and events more often at night.

	% who feel safe outdoors after dark	% for whom feeling safer from crime would encourage them to visit venues and events more often at night
Bristol Average	54.4	22.3
Most Deprived 10%	36.7	33.1
16 to 24 years	41.1	35
50 years and older	55	22.8
65 years and older	54.7	22.2
Female	45.2	27.5
Male	63.9	17.1
Disabled	38.6	32.4
Black, Asian and minority ethnic	60.6	25.7
Asian/Asian British	60.7	28.8
Black/Black British	69.7	30.6
Mixed/Multiple ethnic groups	61.5	14.4
White	54.2	21.8
White Minority Ethnic	51.6	22.8
White British	54.6	21.7
Christian	53.6	23.5
Other religion	55.1	33.2
No religion or faith	55	20.2
Single parent	38.8	29.6
Two parent	56.9	19.4

	No qualifications	48.4	26.6
	Owner Occupier	56.3	19.1
	Rented from housing association	45	33.6
	Rented from the council	47	32.7
	Rented from private landlord	53.3	25.9
	Non degree qualifications	49.9	27.8
	Degree qualifications	57	19.5
	Part-time carer	54.5	23
	Full-time carer	46.6	33.8
	Carer (All)	52.6	25.5
	Parents (All)	54.6	20.7
	Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual	52	26.1
Local crime statistics Avon and Somerset Constabulary Police.uk (www.police.uk) Bristol Cumulative Impact Assessment	Crime levels in the areas where the two current SEVs are located are consistent within a city centre night time economy locality, and we do not have evidence to indicate that any particular crime, or increased incidence of crime, is directly associated with the two currently licensed premises.		
Research on wider impact of SEVs Example: Briefing Paper from Bristol Women's Voice Briefing VAWG and SEVs.docx (bristolwomensvoice.org.uk)	<p>Some local stakeholders and respondents to the consultation have highlighted research examining the link between SEVs, sexual objectification of women, male attitudes, and potential links with sexual violence and domestic abuse – including e.g. that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lap dancing clubs normalise the sexual objectification of women. • Lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in the local vicinity • SEVs may attract and generate prostitution. • Performers can suffer humiliation and sexual harassment on a regular basis, from customers and staff/management. • Many performers begin working in lap dance clubs through lack of choice. • Working conditions and terms of employment for performers in SEVs are inadequate. • Links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and an increase in the levels of sexual violence • Evidence that the sexual objectification of women is linked to sexual violence perpetration in combination with alcohol use². 		

² [Understanding the Link Between Men's Alcohol Use and Sexual Violence Perpetration: The Mediating Role of Sexual Objectification \(University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2014\)](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence in young people of a direct relationship between the sexual objectification of girls and aggression towards them³.
<p><u>European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in local Life</u></p>	<p>Bristol is a signatory to the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in local Life. One of the Principles of the Charter is the elimination of gender stereotypes which is seen as fundamental to achieving equality of women and men. Local and regional authorities must promote the elimination of the stereotypes and obstacles upon which the inequalities in status and condition of women are based, and which give rise to the unequal evaluation of the roles of women and men in political, economic, social and cultural terms. In addition, under Article 22.2 it must recognise that gender-based violence arises from the idea, on the part of the perpetrator, of the superiority of one sex over the other in the context of an unequal relationship of power. Bristol Women’s Commission and other stakeholders have stated that the continued licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues by Bristol City Council fails to meet our obligations under the Charter, disregards the safety of women and girls, undermines the dignity of women and girls and diminishes the status of Bristol as a modern European City where both women and men can lead fulfilled lives in a safe and fair society.</p>
<p><u>JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2021/22 (Domestic Violence and Abuse)</u></p>	<p>Nationally, 27% of women experience domestic abuse in their lifetimes, with negative impacts on mental and physical health and further impact on families including children. In Bristol, females over the age of 16 are 2.9 times more likely to be a victim of a domestic abuse related crime than males. Nationally, the number of domestic abuse crimes recorded by the police in England and Wales in the year ending March 2021 increased by 6%; from 798,607 in the year ending March 2020 to 845,734. This follows increases seen in previous years and may reflect improved recording by the police alongside increased reporting by victims.</p>
<p><u>Nomis - Official Labour Market Statistics (nomisweb.co.uk)</u></p>	<p>Within the West of England, Bristol is the primary economic centre and prior to COVID-19 nearly half of all the jobs (44.8%) and enterprises (40.1%) were located in Bristol. The employment rate in Bristol is 78.1% which is higher than the national average at 74.8%. Bristol has a lower proportion of people employed in caring, leisure and other service occupations 6.9% than for Great Britain (9.2%). While the diverse and high skilled economy of the city has provided protection for some of our key industries and employment, there has been significant impact on key sectors e.g. hospitality, retail and leisure. 10,500 working age residents were unemployed in the 12 months ending December 2021.</p>

<p><u>Delivering an inclusive economy post COVID-19 – Bristol Women’s Commission</u></p>	<p>Local research into the impact of COVID-19 and women with recommendations on what decision makers can do to enable women to overcome barriers to work, including recognising the importance of self-employed and freelance workers to the economy.</p>
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2.2 Do you currently monitor relevant activity by the following protected characteristics?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender Reassignment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marriage and Civil Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Race
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual Orientation

2.3 Are there any gaps in the evidence base?

Where there are gaps in the evidence, or you don’t have enough information about some equality groups, include an equality action to find out in section 4.2 below. This doesn’t mean that you can’t complete the assessment without the information, but you need to follow up the action and if necessary, review the assessment later. If you are unable to fill in the gaps, then state this clearly with a justification.

For workforce related proposals all relevant characteristics may not be included in HR diversity reporting (e.g. pregnancy/maternity). For smaller teams diversity data may be redacted. A high proportion of not known/not disclosed may require an action to address under-reporting.

We do not have reliable local diversity data for some protected characteristics, especially where this has not historically been included in statutory reporting. Most of the detailed representation and feedback we have received has been regarding sexual entertainment venues rather than sex shops or sex cinemas. Whilst many of the issues raised would be likely to apply to sex cinemas, sex shops may not generally be perceived as having the same degree of potential negative impact. However some stakeholders have said the issues require further consideration.

SEVs are required to renew their licences annually, giving an opportunity for persons affected by them to put their views forward. Over the last seven years, objectors have exercised this right, and the committee have been able to consider these views along with the applicants. This gives insight into the views of those who object to this type of activity. Generally objections are received from persons who do not want these types of venues to be licensed and only occasionally do people make representations in support in relation to either sexual entertainment venues or sex shops.

2.4 How have you involved communities and groups that could be affected?

You will nearly always need to involve and consult with internal and external stakeholders during your assessment. The extent of the engagement will depend on the nature of the proposal or change. This should usually include individuals and groups representing different relevant protected characteristics. Please include details of any completed engagement and consultation and how representative this had been of Bristol’s diverse communities. See <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/equalities-groups>.

Include the main findings of any engagement and consultation in Section 2.1 above.

If you are managing a workforce change process or restructure please refer to [Managing change or restructure \(sharepoint.com\)](#) for advice on consulting with employees etc. Relevant stakeholders for engagement about workforce changes may include e.g. staff-led groups and trades unions as well as affected staff.

Past engagement and consultation:

We carried out a pre-consultation questionnaire as part of the original policy review which revealed a wide range of responses as to whether it was appropriate to have sex establishments both generally and in Bristol, providing some insight into the views of the public about these types of venues. The

questionnaire was open between 3 April 2018 and 31 May 2018 and sought responses from the public to questions around the appropriateness of these types of venues in relation to locations, other types of premises, and specific locations within Bristol. We carried out an initial consultation which also revealed a wide range of responses to the proposed draft policy, providing further insight into the views of the public about these types of venues. This consultation was open between 16 August 2019 and 10 November 2019 and asked a number of questions in relation to the draft policy. It was also sent to the Citizen Panel for comment. For further details on our previous engagement and consultation please see Section 2.1. of [EQIA SEV Policy Review 2021](#)

2021 Consultation:

More recently we carried out a public consultation for 12 weeks in September to December 2021 on a proposed 'nil-cap' approach to our Sex Establishment Policy. We asked a series of questions including whether people agree or disagree with a nil-cap (zero) approach for the city centre and other relevant areas; how safe people feel in the city centre after dark and how the presence of SEVs affects this; and about the impact of SEVs on Bristol's night time economy. Additionally we invited people to tell us any other comments about the proposals in a draft Sex Establishments Policy. The consultation was available online, and paper copies of the questions and alternative accessible formats were available on request. The questionnaire was publicised through media, social media and communications with the public - including relevant responsible authorities, equalities groups, and stakeholders. The majority (90%) of respondents were members of the public, and we had 6,273 responses overall, as well as additional comments and representations. See Appendix 12 for further details.

Diversity monitoring summary of 2021 consultation respondents:

- 58% were living in the City of Bristol; 22% from the wider Bristol area and adjoining local authorities
- Age: 19% aged 18-24; 9% aged 55+
- Female – 54%; Male 27%
- Non-Binary, Agender, Gender-fluid - 2%; Other 1%
- Disabled people – 11%
- Ethnicity: Asian/Asian British – 2%; Black/Black British – 2%; Mixed/Multi Ethnic 4%; Other Ethnic - <1%; White British – 68%; Other White ethnicity 7%; Gypsy, Roma + Traveller <1%
- Religion and Belief: No religion/belief 59%; Christian - 13%; Other faith group – 7% (of which Muslim 1%)
- Sexual Orientation: Heterosexual (Straight) - 44%; Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual – 28%, Other – 3%
- Trans – 2%

2.5 How will engagement with stakeholders continue?

Explain how you will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout the course of planning and delivery. Please describe where more engagement and consultation is required and set out how you intend to undertake it. Include any targeted work to seek the views of under-represented groups. If you do not intend to undertake it, please set out your justification. You can ask the Equality and Inclusion Team for help in targeting particular groups.

Any licensed premises are required to renew their licences annually, giving an opportunity for persons affected by them to put their views forward.

Step 3: Who might the proposal impact?

Analysis of impacts must be rigorous. Please demonstrate your analysis of any impacts of the proposal in this section, referring to evidence you have gathered above, and the characteristics protected by the Equality Act 2010. Also include details of existing issues for particular groups that you are aware of and are seeking to address or mitigate through this proposal. See detailed guidance documents for advice on identifying potential impacts etc. [Equality Impact Assessments \(EqIA\) \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

3.1 Does the proposal have any potentially adverse impacts on people based on their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Consider sub-categories (different kinds of disability, ethnic background etc.) and how people with combined characteristics (e.g. young women) might have particular needs or experience particular kinds of disadvantage.

Where mitigations indicate a follow-on action, include this in the 'Action Plan' Section 4.2 below.

GENERAL COMMENTS (highlight any potential issues that might impact all or many groups)

For illustrative purposes we have highlighted in the table below separate mitigations/comments regarding potential impact of two contrasting options, however this does not mean that these are the only options available to the Licensing Committee:

Option 1:

SEVs - Nil Cap City Centre Locality, Nil Cap Old Market Locality, Nil Cap Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley Locality. The remaining localities are to be determined on a case by case basis. Sex Shops – Numbers remain as per current policy.

Option 2

SEVs – Maintain current numbers – 2 City Centre Locality, 1 Old Market Locality, Nil Cap Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley Locality. The remaining localities are to be determined on case by case basis. Sex Shops – Numbers remain as per current policy.

Whilst UK Parliament has established that SEVs are a lawful activity, Home Office Guidance 2010 states that a nil cap may be appropriate, and some other local authorities have adopted this approach. The Council must consider this alongside the public sector equality duty.

The council has a public sector equality duty to have due regard when carrying out its functions to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations⁴. There is a significant risk of challenge (for both options) if the policy approach does not sufficiently address this duty.

As decision makers The Licensing Committee must fully understand and consider the issues that have been raised and take into account the potential wider impact for Bristol citizens when approving the revised Sex Establishment Venues policy.

Some respondents have raised concerned that if a nil cap policy was introduced this could lead to sexual entertainment to be 'driven underground', or that licensed premises might operate without controls under the exemption afforded to premises who have sexual entertainment on no more than eleven occasions per year⁵ (or TENs regime⁶). However there is a counter-view that if there was a 'nil-cap' policy then demand would also go down accordingly because the industry is fuelled by the supply of

⁴ This is a brief summary of the PSED duty which is described in more detail here

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty>

⁵ Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1983, Schedule 3, S2A (3)(b)

⁶ Temporary Events Notices <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/licensing/permits/temporary-event-notice>

performers, not by a demand for performances. We are not aware of evidence at this time in other areas with a nil-cap of any marked increase in sexual entertainment evenings under the TENs regime.

The existing policy has been designed in part with the protection of performers in mind - and conditions, although specific to each venue, aim to ensure the protection of specified employees as well as reducing the impact on the wider public and the wider environment. There is an ability for the Council to set the appropriate number of premises or types of premises within a particular locality, and a wide range of issues can be considered when determining both the locality and what an appropriate number would be.

In the current policy approach a license may be refused on various discretionary grounds which are defined in the legislation, and overall there is a presumption that a licence will be granted unless one of the statutory grounds applies. The grounds include that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard:

- (i) to the character of the relevant locality; or
- (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
- (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made

The current policy states: *“The Council will take into account all relevant considerations including:-The character of the locality:*

- residential
- leisure
- educational establishments
- *Other uses in the locality:*
 - faith / religious institutions
 - churches
 - family friendly facilities
- *Impact on regeneration*
- *Impact on tourism, including considerations of the perception of the City at gateway locations*
- *Impact on retail attraction*
- *Risk of public nuisance*
- *Whether the locality is subject of stress caused by a cumulative impact of premises authorised to provide licensable activities under the Licensing Act 2003;*
- *Impact on crime and disorder*
- *Public perception of the safety of the locality and impact on that perception, e.g. typical footfall at material times, level of street lighting, use by lone females*
- *Existence of social problems in the locality and impact on any initiatives to tackle them, e.g. kerb crawling, prostitution.*
- *Levels of recorded crime*
- *Levels of anti-social behaviour”.*

NB For both Option 1 and Option 2 – we are not currently aware of any significant potential negative impacts from the continuing licensing of Sex Shops.

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Age: Young People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Underage people may attempt to enter SEV premises as a customer. Increased numbers of people living in the City Centre and Old Market including new student accommodation (predominantly for young people) may mean that the licencing of SEVs in these areas is no longer appropriate.

Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1(locality nil caps introduced):</u> These potential issues would be entirely mitigated in those localities where a nil cap was introduced.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> The legislation prohibits persons under the age of 18 being admitted to or employed on licensed premises. It is also likely that any premise licensed as a sexual establishment venue will also be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. This primary legislation provides for various offences and requirements associated with the protection of children from harm and the sale and consumption of alcohol by children. The policy holds that sex establishments may be inappropriate near to particular sensitive uses, including schools, family leisure facilities, residential dwellings, youth facilities and cultural facilities. The policy requires the Council to take into account on a case-by-case basis all relevant considerations including the character of the locality; residential, leisure and educational establishments; other uses in the locality including family friendly facilities; the risk of public nuisance; whether the locality is subject of stress caused by a cumulative impact of premises.</p>
Age: Older People	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations / Comment:	
Disability	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	The application and representation process for SEV licensing may not be sufficiently accessible for disabled people.
Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1(locality nil caps introduced):</u> This potential issue would not be applicable in localities where a nil cap was introduced.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> We will ensure that the application and representation process has a clear timetable with information advertised online (licensing web pages) as well as being available in different languages and formats if requested. Responses can be made online or through electronic means as well as in hard copy. Public notice must be given of all applications, and we intend to prescribe a form of application that facilitates public representations, including, for example, requiring applicants to identify the brand name under which the premises are intended to operate and other material information. The policy says that the council will also display additional notices in the area making use of street furniture and community notice boards. It also intends to notify local councillors about applications within their wards.</p>
Sex	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Introducing a 'nil cap' policy in any locality where there are existing SEVs is likely to have a disproportionately negative impact on the livelihood of predominantly female employees. In the 2021 consultation there were 450+ references to this issue, including comments that potentially 100+ workers and auxiliary staff would be likely to lose their job, leading to significant financial hardship and further negative consequences. Some respondents have said that closing down legal strip clubs will further stigmatise workers and make it harder to maintain or enhance established workers' rights.
Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced):</u> We are not aware of any specific mitigation for this risk. A 'nil cap' policy approach would need to be justified on the basis that the overall benefit for citizens outweighed the potentially significant negative economic impact for a largely female workforce.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> This potential issue would be entirely mitigated if there is no change to current policy.</p>
Potential impacts:	Some research has found that women who work in SEVs can be subject to high levels of abusive behaviour from customers e.g. verbal harassment and

	<p>unwanted touching from customers⁷, and assaults experienced by performers may not always be reported to outside agencies by SEV staff. There is no standardised Code of Conduct that performers or audience members should comply with to protect the rights and safety of performers and aspects of the policy which aim to protect performers may not be complied with. Some stakeholders have raised the issue that the provision of literature and signposting to sexual problems, family planning and sexually transmitted diseases suggest that performers engage in prostitution and gender-based violence is a more likely occurrence during their work.</p>
<p>Mitigations / Comment:</p>	<p><u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced):</u> SEV workers may still be at increased risk of harm despite the strict rules imposed by licensing conditions. Some consultation respondents have commented that they think SEV work is inherently harmful to workers – including that SEVs are an entry point into other sex work, and that female sex workers are at much higher risk of violence than in any other employment. This potential issue would be mitigated in localities where a nil cap is introduced, to the extent that if the venue is removed then any potential risk to the performer within that venue is also removed.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> Some consultation respondents who are SEV workers have said they feel safe and would feel less safe if the clubs were to close. Licensing conditions for SEV premises aim to protect employees and the policy has strict rules prohibiting any physical contact between workers and customers in SEVs. Licences can only be refused or revoked on statutory grounds, which are listed in the legislation. We would consider further how the wording of the final policy can ensure that the gravity of any evidence of harm to women linked to SEVs activity is properly considered, without prejudicing licensing hearings. The policy proposes a number of standard conditions attached to licences which include requirements for CCTV, code of conduct and rules for performers and customers, and prevention of physical contact between performers and customers. The code of conduct and rules must be displayed in the venue, and all staff and customers made aware of them. Unannounced enforcement visits take place which include randomised checks of the CCTV footage to ensure the rules are being followed. Penalties are available under the regime where breaches of the licence, or other concerns, are proven to have taken place. Licences are required to be renewed on an annual basis, and concerns may also be raised at this time, with the licence able to be revoked, or additional conditions imposed, if deemed appropriate. We fully endorse providing information and guidance on sexual problems, family planning and sexual transmitted diseases in SEVs as it is good harm-reduction practice. Similar information and guidance is provided in many other places e.g. universities and we do not think that this is an indicator that performers in SEVs are engaged in prostitution or that gender-based violence is a likely occurrence in their work.</p>
<p>Potential impacts:</p>	<p>Activity in SEVs may be seen to reinforce gender inequality and contribute to a culture that perpetuates negative, sexist interactions between men and women - because the majority of activity in SEVs involves men paying women to dance for their sexual gratification. The granting of licences to SEV establishments may be seen to contradict other policies and obligations the City Council has in</p>

⁷ For example: University of Leeds Faculty of Education, Social Sciences and Law, The Regulatory Dance
<http://www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/research/projects/regulatory-dance>

	tackling exploitation and violence against women – e.g. The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, White Ribbon City status, and Bristol Against Violence and Abuse Strategy, which specifically refers to sexual entertainment venues and includes an aim to challenge the sexualisation and subordination of women and children.
Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced):</u> This potential issue would be mitigated in localities where a nil cap is introduced, to the extent that if the venue is removed then any potential reinforcement of gender inequality arising from that venue would then be removed.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> We have not identified any direct mitigation for this potential issue. However SEVs are lawful activity, and the licensing committee must assess the extent to which the proposed policy approach addresses the public sector equality duty (PSED) to e.g. eliminate harassment of women and advance equality of opportunity between men and women. They must also consider the PSED in conjunction with their statutory obligations under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (LGMPA82) under which sex establishments are licensed.</p>
Potential impacts:	<u>Domestic Violence:</u> As above - there is a risk that by continuing to license SEVs the council is perpetuating a culture which promotes the sexual objectification of women, which some research indicates has clear links to increased domestic violence. Domestic violence may not happen in the vicinity of SEVs but be perpetrated by men at other time e.g. travelling home, or in peoples' homes as a direct result.
Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced):</u> This potential issue would be mitigated in localities where a nil cap is introduced, to the extent that if the venue is removed then any potential sexual objectification of women arising from that venue would then be removed.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> We have not identified a direct mitigation for this potential issue. Ensuring the safety of women is a shared responsibility for everyone including Bristol City Council, and other public bodies and organisations. The existing policy approach would need to be justified on the basis that SEVs are lawful activity and whilst there is academic research relating to the damaging effects of sexual entertainment on attitudes to women and girls, we do not have sufficient local evidence to clearly link Bristol SEV with an increase in crimes or sexual assaults in the vicinity of surrounding areas.</p>
Potential impacts:	There is a concern that trafficked or exploited women could end up working in SEVs and that clubs themselves have responsibility for checking documents.
Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced):</u> This potential issue would be mitigated in localities where a nil cap is introduced, to the extent that if the venue is removed then any potential trafficking of exploitation of women arising from that venue would then be removed.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> The draft policy states that no person shall be employed or shall perform at the premises who has unspent convictions for any Relevant Offence; No relevant entertainment shall be provided by any performer unless sufficient checks have been made of documents evidencing the performer's age, identity and right to work in the United Kingdom. These checks must also be available to the council on request, and unannounced spot checks are undertaken to ensure the documents are complete and the clubs are compliant with the requirement.</p>
Potential impacts:	<u>Safety outside premises (including feeling safe):</u> Women (including employees) may be at increased risk of assault in the vicinity of SEVs.

	<p>There may be a negative impact on women passers-by if they find the presence of SEVs make them feel threatened or uncomfortable.</p> <p>Some consultation respondents have commented that they think existing SEV premises are too close to transport hubs and student accommodation.</p>
Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced):</u> A number of responses in the consultation identified that some women feel uncomfortable or threatened simply by passing these types of premises, whether they are easily identifiable or not. This potential issue would be mitigated in localities where a nil cap is introduced to the extent that if the venue is removed then any potential reduction in safety or perceived safety arising from that venue would then be removed.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> Some consultation respondents felt SEVs provided a safe space with e.g. visible and helpful door staff, and that mainstream venues were significantly more problematic in terms of violence and sexual harassment. Whilst CCTV cannot alone ensure protection from crime it is a deterrent. The policy requires that licensed premises shall be sufficiently illuminated to ensure that usable CCTV images can be captured. There must be working CCTV and signage to say it is in operation, and there is consideration of sightlines and 'hidden' areas where effective monitoring may be hampered. The draft policy stipulates that there must be no display on or outside of the licensed premises which indicates or suggests that sexual entertainment is provided there (except for agreed sign/branding), and no activity can be viewed from outside. There must be no personal solicitation, leafleting or adverts in the nearby area.</p>
Sexual orientation	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Some respondents commented that the SEVs are welcoming because they are sex-positive and provide a safer space for LGBTQ+ and other marginalised communities.
Mitigations / Comment:	See above comments re. safety of premises and surrounding areas.
Pregnancy / Maternity	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations / Comment:	
Gender reassignment	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	Premises which admit men only or women only may potentially discriminate against trans and gender non-confirming people.
Mitigations / Comment:	<p><u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced):</u> This potential issue would not be applicable in localities where a nil cap was introduced.</p> <p><u>Option 2 (no change to current caps):</u> We are not aware of any licensed premises which do not permit persons of a particular gender entering or being employed within Bristol. Operators of licensed premises are required to comply with the Equality Act 2010.</p>
Race	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations / Comment:	
Religion or Belief	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	People from certain faith groups (e.g. Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism) may be offended or have moral objections to the presence of a sex establishment.

Mitigations / Comment:	<u>Option 1 (locality nil caps introduced)</u> : This potential issue would be entirely mitigated in localities where a nil cap was introduced. <u>Option 2 (no change to current caps)</u> : The policy holds that sex establishments may be inappropriate near to particular sensitive uses, including places of worship, and should have regard to any potential impact on these premises on a case-by-case basis.
Marriage & civil partnership	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations / Comment:	
OTHER RELEVANT CHARACTERISTICS	
Socio-Economic (deprivation)	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	As above - introducing a 'nil cap' policy in any locality where there are existing SEVs is likely to have a disproportionately negative economic impact on the livelihood of predominantly female employees.
Mitigations / Comment:	See comments under 'Sex' above
Carers	Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Potential impacts:	
Mitigations / Comment:	
Other groups [Please add additional rows below to detail the impact for other relevant groups as appropriate e.g. Asylums and Refugees; Looked after Children / Care Leavers; Homelessness]	
Mitigations / Comment:	
Mitigations:	

3.2 Does the proposal create any benefits for people based on their protected or other relevant characteristics?

Outline any potential benefits of the proposal and how they can be maximised. Identify how the proposal will support our Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- ✓ Eliminate unlawful discrimination for a protected group
- ✓ Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't
- ✓ Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't

Option 1: This policy approach would aim to advance commitments towards women's equality such as those made in The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life, White Ribbon city status, and Bristol Against Violence and Abuse Strategy (which specifically refers to sexual entertainment venues).

Option 2: This policy approach would preserve existing employment for a largely female workforce and aim to ensure the Council is well placed address any adverse impact in respect of protected groups when it is engaged in considering applications. It is intended that regulatory controls would offer protection to all SEV workers, residents, businesses and visitors in the city.

Step 4: Impact

4.1 How has the equality impact assessment informed or changed the proposal?

What are the main conclusions of this assessment? Use this section to provide an overview of your findings. This summary can be included in decision pathway reports etc.

If you have identified any significant negative impacts which cannot be mitigated, provide a justification showing how the proposal is proportionate, necessary, and appropriate despite this.

<p>Summary of significant negative impacts and how they can be mitigated or justified:</p> <p>Option 1: (locality nil caps introduced) In summary - by introducing a nil cap for City Centre Locality, Old Market Locality, and Bishopston/Redland/Cotham/Ashley Locality the council would mitigate the main concerns raised by stakeholders about potential issues for citizens on the basis of their protected characteristics. However there would be likely negative economic impact for those currently employed by SEVs (mostly women) which would need be justified on the basis of other considerations.</p> <p>Option 2 (no change to current caps) In summary - by securing a detailed framework for considering applications, including using information gathering powers, maintaining the existing policy approach would seek to ensure that council is well placed to identify any adverse impact in respect of protected groups when it is engaged in considering applications. However it is not clear how this policy approach would entirely mitigate wider concerns raised by those opposing the licensing of SEVs, and whilst parliament deems them lawful the Council must still consider the PSED duties in this regard.</p>
<p>Summary of positive impacts / opportunities to promote the Public Sector Equality Duty:</p> <p>Option 1: External communications to provide a clear message to equalities stakeholders and Bristol citizens about changes made to the policy approach.</p> <p>Option 2: By licensing sex establishment venues in a safe and appropriate manner there may be an opportunity for responsible providers to make their own organisational commitments to improving accessibility and advancing equality of opportunity for their workforce etc.</p>

4.2 Action Plan

Use this section to set out any actions you have identified to improve data, mitigate issues, or maximise opportunities etc. If an action is to meet the needs of a particular protected group please specify this.

<p>Whichever overall policy approach is adopted we will ensure that the policy includes a clear and unequivocal commitment to meeting the equalities duty in the exercise of all of the functions under the Equality Act 2010 including the Public Sector Equality Duty. The policy and the documentation flowing from it are intended to be a key means of facilitating compliance with all of the council’s obligations.</p>
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4.3 How will the impact of your proposal and actions be measured?

How will you know if you have been successful? Once the activity has been implemented this equality impact assessment should be periodically reviewed to make sure your changes have been effective your approach is still appropriate.

<p>Depending on the overall policy approach adopted, we will carry out ongoing review of successful and unsuccessful licensing applications after that time.</p>
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Step 5: Review

The Equality and Inclusion Team need at least five working days to comment and feedback on your EqIA. EqIAs should only be marked as reviewed when they provide sufficient information for decision-makers on the equalities impact of the proposal. Please seek feedback and review from the [Equality and Inclusion Team](#) before requesting sign off from your Director⁸.

<p>Equality and Inclusion Team Review:</p>	<p>Director Sign-Off:</p>
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⁸ Review by the Equality and Inclusion Team confirms there is sufficient analysis for decision makers to consider the likely equality impacts at this stage. This is not an endorsement or approval of the proposal.

<i>Reviewed by Equality and Inclusion Team</i>	
Date: 07/07/2022	Date: