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Karin Smyth  
Labour MP for Bristol South

Abbi Holman  
Licensing Team Leader  
Bristol City Council  
City Hall  
Bristol  
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Our Ref: ZA70732

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Dear Ms Holman

### Sex Establishment Policy

I am writing regarding the consultation on the proposed changes to Bristol City Council's policy on licensing and regulating sex establishments.

By definition Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEV) exist "solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience". The sexual objectification of women is directly linked to the incidence of sexual and domestic violence. The link between the objectification of women and discrimination and violence towards women is recognised at an international level by the United Nations Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Academic research by the Centre for Crime & Justice Studies has found that:

*"...obvious presence of the sex and porn industries into our city centres has a negative impact on women's sense of self esteem, their value as citizens, and their safety."*

Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 permits Bristol City Council to identify locations within the city which it considers inappropriate for sex establishments as well as the number of such establishments it deems appropriate.

It is my view that there is no place within the City of Bristol of which it could be said that it was situated in a locality in which it would be appropriate to licence a SEV and therefore I agree that the appropriate number for the three areas identified in the consultation should be nil.

Yours sincerely

Karin Smyth  
Labour MP for Bristol South