

## **MEMO**

**To** Members of the Licensing **From** Norman Stanley

Committee Licensing Service Manager

**Location** 3S/09 **Phone** 01895 27 (7418)

**Date** 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 **Subject** Sex Encounter Establishments

To all Members of the Licensing Committee,

## CONSULTATION ON THE CHANGES TO THE REGULATION OF LAP-DANCING CLUBS

You are advised that one of my Licensing Officers, Sharon Garner, attended the Institute of Licensing Legal and Technical Forum, on my behalf, on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. One of the agenda items was the Home Office consultation on the regulation of lap dancing clubs.

It was understood that the consultation document was sent out 'inter-alia' to all local authorities for comment. Consequently, I contacted Jan Adams, Executive Assistant to Hugh Dunnachie, as such consultations are normally sent to local authority Chief Executive departments. Jan Adams informed me that their office have no record of the document.

I have now managed to obtain the consultation document via the Home Office website (attached) and I note that the consultation is due to close on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

As the next meeting of the full Licensing Committee is not until 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010, I have decided that the best way to deal with this particular consultation is as follows:

- a) Send a copy of the consultation to each member of the Licensing Committee to seek views in respect of the Home Office's proposals
- b) Request that members of the Licensing Committee forward their responses (if any) to me by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009.
- c) To convene a meeting with Cllr Josephine Barrett in her role as the Chair of the Licensing Committee to study the responses from members of the Licensing





- Committee before the end of November 2009 and to formulate a suitable response to the Home Office.
- d) Seek a meeting with Cllr Sandra Jenkins in her role as the member with the portfolio for the Environment in the first week in December 2009 to obtain her endorsement of the Licensing Committee's response to the Home Office.
- e) On obtaining Cllr Jenkins' approval, I will respond direct to the Home Office before the official closing date, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

I do hope that my proposed actions in respect of this consultation, meets with your approval.

The full consultation document is attached for your information and your attention is drawn particularly to paras. 14, 15 and 40.

Paragraph 14 gives a summary explanation of the new definition of relevant entertainment, '...provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of the audience...'

Paragraph 15 summarises the main changes to the Local Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 which include:

- Giving local people more say about the appropriateness of this type of venue;
- The requirement for the annual renewal of licences;

W ~

- Giving licensing authorities discretion to grant/refuse licences based on the character of the area;
- Allow licensing authorities powers to limit the number of venues within an area and
- Allows the licensing authority to impose a range of conditions.

Paragraph 40 highlights what the changes will mean for local people as it is proposed that local people will have the right to make representations to the local authority.

As I am on leave between 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2009, I have therefore nominated Stephanie Waterford to lead on this subject, so if you need further information or clarification on any matter, then please contact her direct.

Yours faithfully

Norman Stanley

Licensing Service Manager

