

Additional Comments

The following additional comments in response to the consultation were also received:

Comment 1

Good morning Rhoda

I am replying to this in a personal capacity as I haven't had a meeting to consult with SpeysideCC members.

Sex Entertainment - I realise that this is something that the Council is required to consult on and hopefully SEVs will not be licensed in Moray. I am aware that there are two sides to the argument but I believe that any licensing arrangement would open the floodgates to exploitation of vulnerable individuals, both adults and children. Poverty, however, caused, should not force people into the 'sex industry'. It would encourage human trafficking and be demeaning for those who are involved in this trade.

I don't know if you have seen the film 'I, Daniel Blake' but this was a scenario for one young mum on benefit who didn't have the money to buy her children shoes for school and she resorted to being an 'escort'.

Commercial freedom in this matter is about exploitation and in this day and age, is this really something that should be allowed? Surely we should have respect for everyone's dignity and self-worth.

Kind regards

Marion Ross

Comment 2

Dear Ms Banfro,

I am responding on behalf of the Mission and Service Committee of Moray Presbytery to your communication of 9 July 2019 concerning the licensing of Sex Entertainment Venues in Moray.

I have consulted members of the Mission and Service Committee, whose remit covers such issues and have completed the questionnaire accordingly. However, I would like to point out that the committee feels that there is no place for such a facility in Moray.

I am a member of 'Integrity' a Church of Scotland committee, which has over the past year been producing resources for congregations in respect of violence against women and gender justice. In my opinion, permitting SEVs to operate encourages unhealthy attitudes to women, and thus damage society as a whole.

I would also bring to your attention that the Scottish Government's strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls defines "violence" as including lap dancing, stripping and pornography and it is impossible to reconcile this with a decision to licence venues which provides these activities as a form of entertainment.

Licensing SEVs flies in the face of the stated Scottish Government aim of achieving gender equality, as SEVs militate against equality by denigrating and objectifying women. SEVs are also known to be linked to human trafficking and therefore it is not realistic to anticipate that the operators of SEVs will,

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as seems to be proposed in the Guidance, co-operate with local authorities in actively identifying potential victims of trafficking in their recruitment and notifying Police Scotland.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Brumby

Convenor of Mission and Service Committee

Moray Presbytery

Comment 3

From Street Pastors.

1. How is the so called licence to be policed? The resources of the police and council are already stretched. A licence does not guarantee compliance. After all a drviign licence does not ensure every driver complies with driving laws.
2. Elgin is a city in name but no tin sizer. Such premises would therefore get high prominence as against say larger cities like Aberdeen, Glasgow etc.
3. Premises such as these would attract sex tourists to the great detriment of the town which has a good degree of tourists who might be put off to stay in a town that allows such premises.
4. What would be put in place to protect the welfare of staff? It has been proven that this type of club has been used to enslave immigrant workers in order to pay for their travel and relocation.
5. There would also be added work to street pastors if such premises were located away from the normal patrol area.