

Hi

I can see from your licensing portal that there is currently an SEV application live on this premises.

This is my objection-

The owners of the applicant have previously been refused a license to operate a strip club in Portsmouth where they already have more than one club. The decision notice mentions a licensing policy preventing more strip club opening and also that there had been objections from the public to the application. At a recent licensing hearing in Weymouth the applicant's director stated that the locals in Portsmouth were happy for the move as it was in the same postcode and only the licensing policy was the reason for the refusal.

The applicant's director has also been fined in Portsmouth for failing to have an HMO license. The write up from the appeal for this makes clear that the HMO was dangerous. The applicant's director's legal advisor told a licensing hearing in Bournemouth last year that the premises were not dangerous.

Shortly after the licensing hearing for the Bournemouth club it emerged that the council licensing officer had visited the club and seen breaches of the license. That license also was subject to an application to vary it to remove licensing conditions regarding drug testing which had been imposed ten years before following observations of license breaches and drug use. In addition the license was varied so that the toilets could be altered so that women no longer had to walk past men using the urinals to access the women's toilets.

The Southampton policy on licensing sex establishments mentions that being near parks may not be appropriate for licensing a sex establishment. This venue is opposite Watts Park and backs onto another park. Even with all the changes that have happened in Southampton since I was a child, the Titanic Memorial and even a museum now are nearby, as is the Art Gallery and Library. There are numerous places of worship on the other side of the park behind the premises. It is also near bus stations and zebra crossings so people will need to walk past it to use these routes without a car. I invite the members of the committee to visit Google Street view to see exactly what people have to see on the outside of the building and judge for themselves how clear it is as to what is happening inside and the level of indecency of the images used.

These premises are also very near university premises where there are young persons as mentioned in the Southampton sex establishment licensing policy.

The premises are located within Southampton's Cultural Quarter.

I ask that the license be refused on the grounds of the location and applicant being unsuitable for the reasons given above.

In considering this please take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty as the existence of this type of establishment undermines your duty to promote good relations between the sexes.

Kind regards