Should Aberdeen City have a Licensing system for SEVs? - Reasons for Answer - please provide evidence	Should Aberdeen City have a Licensing system for SEVs? - Reasons for Answer - please provide evidence
No	Waste of time and money. Likely to be detrimental to the night time economy & demographic of the city.
No	
No	Current system fine as is
No	The local authority should look to work with the staff, unions and owners of these venues to promote good working practices.
	Making it harder for these venues to operate will only force them underground and create more risk for the women working in them
No	While I believe it is sensible to know about such venues for the purposes of monitoring and enforcement of current laws, I do not believe we should create a mechanism that can be abused so as to limit or approve the existence of otherwise legal establishments.
	If "licencing" was a requirement for operation, but not subject to approval by the council, then that might prove workable.
No	Don't see a need for this at all, the only thing the Council should do is make sure premises are run appropriately and the employees are not an any danger or being mistreated by employers, plus customers are not at risk.
No	Nothing wrong with the way things are at the moment

No	This seems totally unnecessary and just another loophole for businesses to have to jump through. It could create unlicenced 'black market' establishments where the safety of employees and customers cannot be monitored. If anything we should be looking to decriminalise adult work and create safer work environments for sex workers.
No	As they are already regulated as any other stablishment I don't feel they need more regulation at burocratic level.
No	I dont believe they are good for our city, encourage typically men to look down on females. We have plenty local bars and pubs which could be utilised instead.
No	they'll just f**k it up
No	
No	Too many times over the last few years local authorities have tried to nanny the people soon I'll have to ask permission to leave the city
	Ok maybe thats a bit far but what has changed over the last five years? Why, what are the reasons NOW?
No	If there is no problem and operators are observing the law and any Council requirements then any licence would simply be an income generator
No	
No	Just another way to take money from businesses.
No	Current setup and provision works satisfactorily, no need to change.
No	The status quo is acceptable
No	No reason to be treated any different from any other night time venue.

No

Aberdeen has been successfully operating without SEV's for a number of years if not decades. The number of locations operating within the city appears to have found its level. From my own workings I believe there are now 5 premises operating within the city. Over the years a few have shut down and a few have opened or reopened in the same location. I feel it would be alarmist to believe that there would be multiple more premises opening. There is no evidence of this potentially happening. I truly believe the SEVs are being brought in to close down all facilities within the city.

Having had a number of friends who have worked in or previously owned these premises over the years I know the background to why these people are working. These are not women being exploited, these are women working under their own free will. The majority of those I met were students within the city covering law and literature for example. There were also a number of single mothers who would travel from afar to hopefully benefit from the wealth of aberdeen. Could they work elsewhere, yes, could they potentially make the money they do whilst working there, probably not. It also allows flexibility of working and working at night.

Having multiple premises allows for movement of workers giving them freedom of choice over commission rates. Reducing the number of premises in the city will reduce this freedom and open up the owners to be able to set higher commission rates.

No	Having been a customer in <i>Name Redacted</i> in Aberdeen I find it very well run at present amoung the highest standard of any licensed premises in Aberdeen that I have visited. The industry in the north east employs hundreds of jobs which could be lost due to extreme licensing conditions put onto premises. No only dancers but cleaners, bar staff, door staff and management. Surely any licensing 'issues' could be dealt with under the venues existing licence if this is an issue.
No	As most SEVs already have a license to sell alchol there would be a massive cross over of objectives within the agreement which is already implemented with in the SEVS.
No	After only encountering strip clubs a few months ago as I have recently got a new job I was surprised at how much of chilled and easy environment it was to be in. Personally I believe that strip clubs that I have encountered (Names Redacted) have very clear rules that they follow to make sure it is a safe environment for both the girls working, their bar and other staff and the people attending and paying money to go to the venue. I feel they are a normal part of society and that having any extra regulations or licensing on these type of clubs could take away from what they already do. I believe that everyone involved in running these clubs have enough care for them and know how they work and put the best interest of all the stakeholders. I don't see them any differently from going and sitting in a normal bar, club or pub and honestly feel safer there than I do in a night club.

No	No evidence that they cause any more/worse disruption than any other type of venue in the city. People with positions of power who are against them on "moral" reasons will negatively effect the positive economic impact these clubs provide.
No	I personally believe that if councils had more control over what these clubs can/can't do, it will only lead to clubs being closed down, women, and men, being out of work, and sex workers turning to unsafe working environments. Councils having control over wether these clubs can exist, is definitely not in sex workers best interests.
	Strip clubs, lap dancing clubs, etc, provide a safe space for sex workers to conduct their work. Taking these safe spaces and securities away, would leave sex workers vulnerable.
	If you really want to improve things for sex workers, focus on safety within these clubs, making sure workers are not being harassed by either clients or management.
	Sex work, is real work.
No	

No	I do not think they need licensing as some people work in jobs that are not deemed conventional too survive for several personal reasons. Too introduce licensing is too possibly revoke those peoples jobs and also too lose taxpayers money spenditure which is a vital income for the government and local business. I think this is another way to try stamp out sex workers lifestyle choices and I ask that you reconsider this idea and properly think about who else might be affected from this possible licensing. Aberdeen's clubs and night life suffers enough as it is don't take action on a big part of its income in finances.
No	They operate safely currently and don't cause problems most of the time, putting out this license will affect the business, which might lead to them having to close and therefor there will be a lot more people that are not employed.
No	
No	Aberdeen seems to be not doing so well in terms of business potential and I don't believe having extra restrictions or more work imposed on a, comparatively, a small group of businesses will help Aberdeen show its true artful community.
No	For Aberdeen economy, this SEV License system is not a good idea. Because Aberdeen is not busy and business is not good now.
No	Aberdeen economy is already bad and that affects the clubs too. Licensing would lead to more businesses closing and lower taxes for the Council.
No	Bad for the city night life and the business
No	It seems the rich people in the council chambers want to take more money from businesses in a city that is already struggling to get business.

No	Clearly just another tax grab by this Tory council along with their red Tory friends. What purpose does this serve to the public's interest other than generating revenue from already struggling venues and industry? Are more redundancies the only goal of a Tory council? Asking for everyone involved in the SEV industry.
No	If we haven't needed a licence yet then there is no need for one now. There are already rules and regulations about the ages of people to attend such venues and can't say that the ones in aberdeen cause any issues that I've heard about
No	Àberdeen is suffering because of the poor economy. This situation affects the market in general and businesses have already closed their doors the past years. We do not need regulations that create harder conditions for any investor. And that includes clubs that offer sexual entertainment too.
No	Business market is already taking a hit. This will make it worse.
No	Aberdeen streets are not busy enough to justify imposing harder regulations for businesses including sexual entertainment venues
No	The strip industry is realy slow last years the earning is not high anymore its not need to do a licensing system as self employer it will make my economic situacion more difficult.
No	Aberdeen not busy not good bisnes
No	Because Aberdeen is not busy not good business not need license
No	Aberdeen has no need for this. It will only effect the already struggling industry in the city.

No

Gentlemens Clubs in Aberdeen are not a problem and well run establishments. They have less police related incidents than any other licensed premises, have more compliance regulations regarding workers with personal files kept of every dancer which are available at any time for LSO or police to view.

No history of any offences at clubs.

If council should decide to have licensing system then they should ensure they grant grandfather rights to any club that has a clean record and been well run establishments

I realise one of benefits to council is to have ability to decide if they have reached the capacity for this sector which they cant at moment.

And fair discussion with the trade to set high standards and those conditions attached to any licence. It shouldn't be based on moral issues.

It would be highly unfair to as in our case we were granted licence 20 years ago and on that basis bough the building and refurbished it with understanding if we broke no rules we could happily operate.

It should also be remembered this cant be a female only licence and would effect both sexes with venues holding hen parties with male dancers and stripogrammes included . And there was talk of granting limited occasional licences but who would police this and open to shady operators running occasional events moving from venue to venue.

Another fear is if clubs were to close that stag nights would simply move to unmonitored hotel suites, with danger to girls. Finally the economic benefits of having the clubs in a city and how to make a zero policy would reflect on peoples perception of Aberdeen as a night time destination. There are enough empty clubs in the city as it is.

No	I am very happy doing this job for years now and i love my job
No	This has been my job for 8 years and has helped me further my life
No	I have visited a a few of the venues in Aberdeen and the
	venues give good entertainment
	and i feel the provide a safe environment for the people that work there
No	I am a dancer I like my job and I enjoy doing my job.
No	I am a dancer I like my job and I enjoy doing my job.
No	I am a dancer I like my job and I enjoy doing my job.
No	This is an extra burden on the already heavily regulated licence laws 99% of all licenced
	premises in Aberdeen city and shire whether bars or clubs are well run and have regular visits from LSOs and police checks. I therefore cannot see why we need more costs and regulation.
No	We feel our premises is already fully compliant with all the current legislation, rules and regulations. Further regulations could jeopardise jobs.
No	I don't understand why it should be licensed. I will leave this to Scottish government.
Yes	
Yes	So that premises can be checked for sex trafficking
Yes	to assist in potentially enabling a better monitoring of sexual workers in a positive sense. licencing may potentially assist in investigations with regard to sexual exploitation, trafficking and abuse.

Yes	Licences for businesses protect the business, the staff and the customers. If a business is required to operate within licencing restrictions, this means they are also subject to specific criteria to be awarded the licence and to keep it. Licensing SEVs ensures that a minimum standard would be required which could go towards protecting those employed. I am actually surprised this is not already a requirement it seems a sensible requirement.
Yes	
Yes	Licensing will provide visibility on activities within these venues, and will allow ACC to control number allowed to operate
Yes	Keep tabs on numbers, realistically I would have thought that the downturn would have reduced the need for so many of these establishments.
Yes	Best if the council have control over what is going on in the city with this negative activity.
Yes	Far to many littered in one area poorly looked after outside frontage and at night walking and driving by looks terrible with girls ckad at doorways.

Yes	SEVs should be licensed for several reasons :
	 To establish limits on the number on such venues in Aberdeen as a whole and only in certain areas of the city. To ensure that those who wish to operate such a venue is a fit and proper person to do so. To ensure that HSE standards are in place and maintained. To ensure that operating practices are ethical and legal for the protection of employees, customers and the wider general public. To ensure that owners/operators of such venues do not engage in human trafficking to fulfill the roles of performers.
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	These places shouldnt exist but if they must then they should be licensed and checked.
Yes	This should be required to ensure the premises is abiding by local laws and customs
Yes	Yes and there should be zero limit. No need for places like this in the city
Yes	Two many strip clubs
Yes	Like any business, companies should have the appropriate license. The license should not be expensive or cause unnecessary 'red tape' but should exist to regulate the sev businesses and ensure best practices.
Yes	Keeping performers safer

Yes	Many parts of central Aberdeen look tired, run down and scruffy, especially Union Street - the city has lost the classiness it once had. Part of this problem is the allowance of mobile phone shops on Union Street and the many SEVs on the side streets. Side streets such as Bridge Street and Chapel Street which in my opinion are being brought down by these establishments. Aberdeen City Council has allowed SEVs to spring up around the centre of Aberdeen. Every city has SEVs and Aberdeen obviously has a requirement, however I feel strongly they should be closely monitored and reduced in number. There should also be
Yes	guidelines to prevent their 'shop fronts' looking tacky.
Yes	I think this would be a great idea to protect both the staff and the customers who use this type of entertainment venues. And to make sure that they cant just pop open all over aberdeen. We have a really good town centre and i dont think we need any more of this type of venue or too many of them in one place.
Yes	There is a need for such things to be regulated to prevent the abuse of decency in our city. A free-for-all approach will leave us open to all kinds of abuse, which will not be in the best interests of the people of Aberdeen and those visiting our city.
Yes	It's a vile trade and should not be allowed full stop

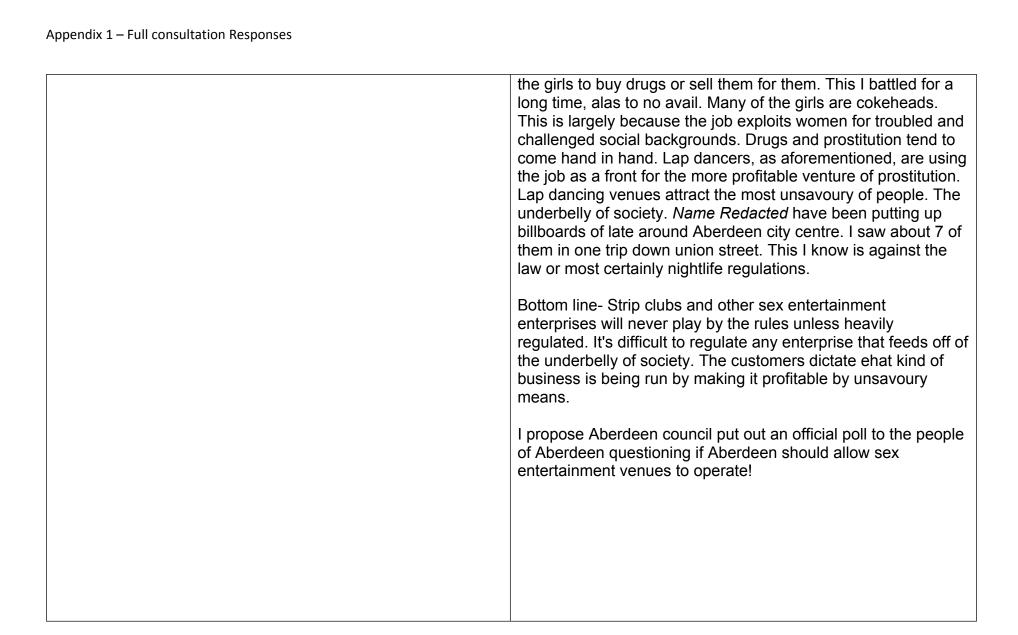
Yes	All organisations having sexual entertainment for men / women / mixed should be licensed, and members carry some sort of identification that they are allowed into the premises. If the members carry a card that can be swiped when entering that might cut down on any trouble inside and known troublemakers will not be issued a card. This is for the safety of staff and customers.
Yes	so that the whole system can be controlled by a responsible group
Yes	Better control of venues
Yes	The council regulates everything being offered by 3rd parties on the Highstreet. Not just that, most areas need operating licences and official standards to comply with. How is it possible that in 2019 this area is completely unregulated and unlicenced.
Yes	simply to provide assurance to dancers/performers that the venue treats them fairly. It should not add an extra layer of regulatory bureaucracy to in a sly way to prevent and/or reduce the amount of SEVs in certain areas, but instead to ensure the venues are operating in an ethical way; checking IDs of performers, paying a fair wage, ensuring the security of performers etc.
Yes	It's a discriminating work environment towards women and could lead to the workers getting abused by the customers
Yes	I think people should know what the licence is being granted for
Yes	To ensure that the people providing such services are properly protected and regulated. Don't see the need my self but no objection if properly controlled.

Yes Having worked at a strip club for six years, initially as a door supervisor working my way up the ranks eventually to General Manager, I have seen from all perspectives. 1. The girls are exploited by the owners. This is done by putting on more girls than can fairly make money. I've seen 10-12 on a Monday when there are more girls than customers. The house fee they pay (45 on a monday) is still payable and goes down as debt which is recouped hence. The girls are constantly paying back debt and rarely have a day where they have a decent take home. Limiting the amount of dancers on per night would help remedy this. The owners also give travelling girls false promises. Dancers who travel different clubs in the UK. This is obviously to get a free house fee regardless of the dancers take. It also fills up the owners flats which he charges a nightly fee for. The girls that stay in flats long term have no contract, pay cash and can be kicked out any time with no warning or record of staying there. The owner has sent guys round to kick girls out before. 2. The customers are exploited. The dancers will ply The customers with drinks to get them as wasted as possible in order to achieve higher card payments. Sometimes the dancers will remember the customers pin and basically just scam him. Most won't report this as it is embarrassing to report a high spend in a sex venue. I have also seem staff and managers give higher spenders free drinks to encourage further spend. Level of drunkenness isn't always seen as a problem as long as the customer was spending on the girls. 2. Prostitution. As the general manager, I sacked one girl from

the club for prostitution. I caught her engaged in a sexual act in

the dance area and immediately dismissed her. The owner simply put her to another club. I had caught dancers engaging in similar acts before when I worked as a door supervisor. The higher earning girls rarely got punished. If they were punished, it would be a cash fine payable to the owner and the fine would still leave the girl in reasonable profit. Other girls just take the money from customers for the promise of sex and leave. I have witnessed this hundreds of times. It leaves a them vulnerable at closing time.

- 3. Security. Alot of the club's have cut security hours back to minimal which is problematic. When I worked security it was open until half past close. drinks up at quarter past and then wait for the girls to leave safely. None of the club's in Aberdeen pay doorstaff to stay late now. A mere15 minutes. I stayed out of principal but not many will. The girls safety is imperative and they are at high risk of assault already as sex workers and even more with the aforementioned behaviours at play.
- 5. Money Laundering and tax evasion. The money the girls are paid out by card is just dumped in their accounts. Most of the girls are Romanian and send it home via western union. It barely rests within our own economy for a day. The debt system is set up quite cleverly. Too many girls put on to work so unpaid fees rests as debt. The debt repaid I do not believe is taxable as it is listed as debt recouped as oppose to income. The money taken for flats is run through the club. There is a spreadsheet on the computer that keeps track. All moneys are dealt in cash through the club but handed in a envelope to the owner.
- 6. Drugs. Strip clubs are havens for drug dealers to try and use



Yes	Hopefully this is to make safer working conditions for people working in this environment and this may reduce exploitation of vulnerable people.
Yes	To safeguard performers, to ensure that their physical and mental wellbeing are assessed before and during their employment.
	To ensure appropriate persons hold licence for establishments.
	To prevent any form of trafficking.
	Strict protocols to be set to protect the public.
Yes	I think its better for it to be overseen - so that the council is aware of the number of such venues. It would also avoid a proliferation of them in certain areas. It gives the council control over where SEVs can operate.
Yes	A licensing system is better in order that premises providing this type of entertainment can be monitored ensuring that both performers and paying clients are not exploited.
Yes	To provide an additional layer of protection for sex workers, and to hopefully prevent premises opening without any prior government knowledge, which should prevent unnecessary trafficking.
Yes	These venues can oftentimes be fronts for other kinds of activity. They can also be exploitative and as such they should be monitored and licensed so there is oversight, not just as part of liquor licensing but as an SEV venue as well
Yes	These clubs provide entertainment and work for the girls working there. Obviously each venue needs a licensing system but these can be adhered to easily.

Yes	The venues provide entertainment and safe and secure environment for the girls that work in the venues, i visit the strip clubs when i am out in town and the girls are well looked after and they love what they do!
	Don't take this away from Aberdeen it will just drive things underground and the girls and bar staff will have no job's and it could lead to the girls been in danger
Yes	
Yes	
Yes	It is important that these premises are regulated and potentially monitoring the age of the workers
Yes	We would wish to see a regulatory system in place for the activities that fall within the current definition of sexual entertainment, principally for public safety reasons; the protection and well-being of performers, participants and audience and to minimise the risk of exploitation of any party involved.
Yes	SEVs exploit vulnerable women and lead to crime and disorder and are a sordid blight on the City. If they cannot be banned (as they should be) then at least the City can license them and provide some measure of protection to the public.
Yes	Why not
Yes	Ensure correct working practices, protection for those working in the industry. Ensure employers are keeping safe and legal working conditions. I also think that sexualisation of people in a "me too" culture should not be considered the "norm" and that negative sexual behavior isn't endorsed by local authorities but that tighter controls should be enforced.

Yes	I belive that licence should remain in aberdeen city as this has provided an opertunity for many woman like myself to work and make a honest living for myself i have done this job for the last 5years
Yes	I have worked in the sexual entertainment industry in Aberdeen for the last 10 years and it has been a great opportunity for my self to make a living in a controlled environment and I do hope that I may continue to keep working in this industry
Yes	I came to aberdeen in 2018 to have a fresh start at life and this line of work has given me the chance at the new begining that i need and working in a club that has all the correct procedures in place has helped me settle in and feel safe and confident in the job im doing
Yes	I had began my employment in 2013 and it was my first job since leaving school and it has been a great job, the girls are all welcoming and take great pride in their line of work and they are all looked after so that we may ensure there is no issues in the venue. You also get to know all the woman working within the venue and their storys as to why they want to work in this industry and I'm glad to have worked along side them and look forward to hopefully continue to work with them for many more years to come
Yes	

Yes

This outdated industry is partly responsible for the often depraved, misogynistic & sexist views of women that we still have to endure and survive in, up to this day world wide. Venues of this nature are basically a green light to allow this wholly unacceptable and unhealthy behaviour and attitude to continue.

It also has to be noted the likelihood of many of the workers true back stories would be far from pleasant to hear; more so in this internet era where human/sex slave trafficking is a lucrative industry, which gets murkier, seedier and more dangerous by the day.

During this obvious and so far successful face lift & modernisation of the city and its reputation, I think making it official that such places need to be carefully monitored for reasons like mentioned above, can and will only further highlight the positive and healthy changes underway already.

As a city that welcomes many foreign students, clients & investors from far and wide, having a seedy poster at the haudagain roundabout is without a shadow of a doubt, embarrassing, crass & setting a very cheap undertone of what to expect from the city.

Hopefully this draconian industry, (although it cannot be made illegal) can instead be made more aware, accountable and responsible of its duty to protect its work force safety, integrity and reputation.

It cannot go unnoticed that the location and prominence of such places indirectly reflect a city and its surrounding areas

Yes	To make sure workers are not being exploited. Also to stop them handing out leaflets is possible, you find heaps of them if you walk down union street in the morning and it doesn't show a very good image of the city.
Yes	Why should we have any restrictions? I don't think the way for our city to move forward is moving back with unnecessary regulation. There's also a financial aspect to think about.
Yes	I have been working as a self-employed for the past 8 years as a dancer and this job has put me on my feet over the past few years now, I have been very happy doing this job and I can't ask for anything better. I really love my job and I enjoy doing my job.
Yes	
Yes	

Yes	Would allow for:
	Confirmation of ages of customers just as a bar would for
	serving alcohol
	Confirmation of ages of the girls/boys/women/men performing to ensure against child exploitation.
	Possible background checks for entertainers e.g. health
	checks, proof of age, identity
	Would possibly help monitor against human trafficking-
	concerns over exploitation/slavery.
	Comments:
	Concerns about prostitution, could this be used as a front?
	Aberdeen as a post has a history of a visible sex industry.
	Protection of those in vulnerable position as performers. A
	consistently of policy for all those engaged in the sex industry in
	the city.
	Health concerns covered health drug use raises concerns over
	Health concerns, sexual health, drug useraises concerns over how performers are paid? Employed/self employed/casual
	workhow can we ensure they are not being exploited e.g.
	endentured by human traffickers?
	Some questions:
	How many hen/stag parties take place in Aberdeen? And how the introduction of SEVs might impact hotels/bars?
	the introduction of one vs. might impact note is/bars:
	Why has Scot Gov not legislated to make this compulsory?
	Concerns over what is sexual entertainment? What are the

boundaries?
Should there be guidelines for patrons to be aware offor example what to look out for if anyone is being misused/trafficked/enslaved?
How would a SEV be monitored?