Thank you for responding to the Local Government and Regeneration Committee's Call for Evidence on the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. All submissions will be examined and considered as part of the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill.

Please be aware that questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer before you can submit the form.

Follow the Local Government and Regeneration Committee's Twitter feed - all Committee tweets on this Bill will have the hashtag #aw&lbill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name: Stephen McDonald, Chairman ALAEVsScotland
Organisation: Association of Licensed Adult Entertainment Venues, Scptland
Address 1: 
Address 2: 
City/Town: 
Postcode: 
Country: 
Email address (if no email leave blank): 
Phone Number: 
* 2. Please confirm that you have read and understood the Scottish Parliaments “Policy on the treatment of written evidence by subject and mandatory committees”:

✔ Yes

* 3. Please confirm whether you are content for your name to be published with your submission:

✔ Yes

☐ No

* 4. Which of the three categories below best describes your interest in the Bill (please tick only one)?

☐ Personal

☐ Professional

✔ Commercial

* 5. Do you wish your email to be added to the Committee’s distribution list for updates on progress of the Bill:

✔ Yes

☐ No
6. Invitations to give oral evidence to the Committee on the Bill will be based on the submissions received. If you wish your submission to be included amongst those considered for possible invitation to give oral evidence, please indicate here.

✔ Yes

☐ No

7. You may answer questions on the entire Bill, or on any part of the Bill. Please indicate which parts of the Bill you are responding to? (You may select as many options that apply).

☐ All of the Bill

✔ Equalities, climate change and other Scottish Government objectives

☐ Air Weapons

✔ General licensing issues

✔ Alcohol licensing

☐ Civic licensing – taxi/private hire car licensing

☐ Civic licensing – scrap metal dealers

☐ Civic licensing – theatre licensing

✔ Civic licensing – sexual entertainment venues
4. Alcohol Licensing

You may respond to all questions or only those you have a specific interest in. (Text boxes have no word limit, they will increase in size accordingly).

28. In what ways will the Bill’s provisions on alcohol licensing allow for reductions in crime and the preservation of public order?

ALAEVs Scotland note the proposal to bring back the fit and proper test. The Association believes this will be a benefit to the administration of licensing provided information brought to boards and committees is properly evidenced at least to the civil test on the balance of probability.

29. Are there any other measures which should be taken to assist in the reduction of crime and the preservation of public order?

Police Scotland visits are welcomed by ALAEVs Scotland members and believes these visits are generally of benefit to the whole licensed trade.

30. In what ways will the provisions in the Bill enhance the licensing objectives set out in the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005?

The Association believes the Bill will harm the 5 objectives and in particular will encourage criminality if passed in its current form as regards adult entertainment/sexual entertainment venues as those activities may be driven underground to the certain harm of performers and potential harm to customers.
31. In what ways will the re-introduction of the “fit and proper person” test assist with the implementation of the licensing objectives set out in the 2005 act?

The Association considers the reintroduction of the fit and proper test to be reasonable provided the test relates to facts which would affect the running of premises and believes that any submissions must be properly evidenced.

32. Have there been any unintended consequences arising from the 2005 Act, for example, in rural areas or the economic regeneration of areas?

The Association’s members do not operate in rural locations however members note that the definition of sexual entertainment or adult entertainment could affect rural premises offering strip-ograms, kiss-o-grams and the like and the requirement to obtain a sexual entertainment licence for such activities would likely cause many rural premises to cease to permit such activities on their premises which will result in an overall loss of revenue in many already hard pressed venues.

33. Which, if any, types of spent relevant offences should be required to be disclosed and what do you think the benefits of disclosure will be?

The Association believes that only those spent convictions which link to current convictions demonstrating a pattern of criminality should be so disclosed.

34. Do you have any other comments to make on the alcohol licensing aspects of the Bill?
The Association is concerned with the proposal that the chief constable can bring any information to a licensing board and believes that any information brought to a board must be relevant to the application and properly evidenced to prevent abuse of police powers.