

Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill: Introductory Questions



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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&bill.

*1. Please supply your name and contact details:

Name:	<input type="text" value="William McDonald"/>
Organisation:	<input type="text"/>
Address 1:	<input type="text"/>
Address 2:	<input type="text"/>
City/Town:	<input type="text"/>
Postcode:	<input type="text"/>
Country:	<input type="text"/>
Email address (if no email leave blank):	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number:	<input type="text"/>

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*** 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

Name/Organisation:

William McDonald

6. Civic Licensing – Sexual Entertainment Venues

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).

50. What are the consequences of operating the new licensing regime using the definitions set out at section 68 of the Bill?

- 'sexual entertainment venue'
- 'audience'
- 'financial gain'
- 'organiser'
- 'premises'
- 'sexual entertainment', and
- 'display of nudity'

Theses venues are for adult entertainment and a customer choosing to enter such venues. It cannot be assumed that all adults see dancing as 'sexual entertainment'.

51. The Bill specifies that a venue hosting sexual entertainment on three occasions or less within a 12 month period would not be treated as a sexual entertainment venue: does this have any unintended consequences?

There is no way in which it can be monitored that a venue would have less then 3 occasions of sexual entertainment. An adult entertainment venue should be licenced at all times.

52. Local licensing authorities will be able to set the number of sexual entertainment venues in their area to below the existing level, or zero: are there any advantages or disadvantages to this approach?

Yes there are disadvantages as Edinburgh and Glasgow may then have very different rules and guidance. This is confusing for both customers and staff who may visit or work in two cities.
An authority which controls alcohol licensing should not have authority on these venues and decisions.

53. The Bill relies mainly on the existing licensing regime for sex shops as set out in

section 44 and Schedule 2 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (application, notification, objections and representations, revocation of licences etc., enforcement and appeals): is this mechanism adequate for the licensing of sexual entertainment venues - if not, please explain why?

54. Are there any barriers to licensing authorities operating the new licensing regime?

Yes. There are well run and well established adult entertainment venues who have their place in a society where people have the right to choose what they find 'entertaining'.

55. Civic Licensing

Do you have any other comments to make on the civic licensing aspects of the Bill?

I have a member of family who works in a lap dancing club and I know she is not a sex slave or a prostitute. I think it is ridiculous what you are trying to do. I ask you to think again about closing lap dancing clubs as they do no harm customers or staff who choose to work there. Many staff are happy in the environment and women should be free to choose their job. We do not want Scotland to regress.