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: Siobhan Murphy
Organisation: 
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
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'

I think the term sexual entertainment could be misleading to customers, as there is no form of sex available on the premises

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?

I would not agree that lap dancing in any random venue would be appropriate. The clubs are licenced and have proper security and cctv in place therefore making it a safe environment for all staff and dancers.
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?

I cannot see any advantage of the existing number of clubs in Glasgow being zero. Lots of people out of work and no dancing bars for the clients to enjoy a night out. The dancers would be forced to travel to Edinbrugh or Newcastle to work perhaps even further a field where the regulations of lap dancing are different from Glasgow.

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?

As far as i’m aware the licensing authorities licence alcohol and not pole or lap dancing.
55. Civic Licensing

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

My name is Siobhan Murphy my stage name was [REDACTED] when I worked in [REDACTED] Glasgow. I am twenty seven years old when I was dancing I worked in club for approximately two and a half years working mainly Saturday and the odd Sunday nights. I have a career as a hairdresser and work full time so the club offered me flexible shifts and a good way of saving money.

In the time I worked as a dancer I met lots of girls who were around my age I made friends with most of them and also met my boyfriend who is one of the managers in the club. It gave me a chance to make money to save as my wages from hairdressing are only just enough to live on and paying high rent on private lets and lots of bills is difficult so having extra money for dancing was helpful. There is a good social element to it also working along side friends and meeting new people.

The club had lots of staff and was a comfortable place to work there are lots of security and is a safe place to be. I did not mind the lap dancing as I was always in control I never felt under pressure and always made money for myself and for the club. Sometimes it could be quiet and if you did not earn enough to pay club fees they were always reasonable ensuring you never left the workplace worst off.