

# 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:

Anonymous

Organisation:

Address 1:

Address 2:

City/Town:

Postcode:

Country:

Email address (if no email leave blank):

Phone Number:

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SUBMISSION ID  
NUMBER

45

**\* 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:

Anonymous

## 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'

Having been a former employee in the adult entertainment sector, doing security to help pay my way through my engineering degree, I feel that changing the definition of the licence gives a certain stigma which I personally feel would be degrading and have an adverse effect on future employment opportunities. I also feel that for some of the young ladies working there for similar reasons would be characterised in a degrading manner due to the change in definition of the licence.

### 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 feel this would be unfair and unjust, how can you possibly have 1 ruling for some venues allowing them to operate without a licence and in my opinion unsafely, as it would be an environment which has little to no experience of this area and could lead to young ladies being put at risk. Where as a functioning venue who has done risk assessments, has vetted and employed various members of staff to watch, lookout for, care for, and control the safety of every person within the venue is then given greater pressures and given a stigma that others are free from even though both are supplying the same service. Therefore any venue which supplies the service should be treated the same in order to be just and fair.

**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?**

This in my opinion is outrageous, how can you justify reducing the current level of venues to less than the current level or zero? This would mean closing companies that have operated legitimately for several years, thus causing numerous employees to be made unemployed and reducing the number of jobs available. Take myself and several friends I made while employed in the industry, we used this as a stop gap to help fund training and further education allowing us to better our lives. On top of this how can you let local councils choose the number of licences in their area? Surely to allow equality there has to be a ruling which gives all businesses in a given council areas the same chance, not being put at risk because some individuals in certain councils may have personal reasons as to why they dislike the industry.

**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?**

There is no comparison between adult entertainment and a sex shop so how can the frame work for one be used in the other? The adult entertainment industry is not selling items to take home but is merely supplying entertainment.

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

I feel this question is similar to one prior, if the new regime is used then we have an equality as some councils depending on their personal issues will have the chance to reduce or close currently operating businesses where as in the same country a few miles away others have the chance to increase or keep the industry.

**55. Civic Licensing**

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

Having been a former employee in the industry I feel that the new licencing regime is completely unfair and unjust and unequal :

- Unfair, employees change in stigma is degrading.
- Unjust, business closed and people could be suddenly made unemployed.
- Unequal, across country all council areas should be equal.