



Report of: **Service Director, Public Protection**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Licensing Sub-Committee	26 March 2012	BS	Caledonian

Delete as appropriate	Non-exempt
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**Subject: SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE APPLICATION
THE FLYING SCOTSMAN, 2-4 CALEDONIAN ROAD, LONDON N1 9DT**

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This is an application for a new sex establishment licence to permit the premises being used for sexual entertainment under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
- 1.2 The council has had the ability to regulate premises operating as sexual entertainment venues since April 2011. Special transition arrangements apply to new applications from premises that were operating before 1 April 2011 under a Licensing Act 2003 premises licence, if a new licence application was submitted between 1 April 2011 and 30 September 2011.
- 1.3 The application in respect of 'The Flying Scotsman' must be considered under these transitional arrangements along with 3 other premises.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 In making a decision about the application the sub-committee will need to take into consideration:
 - the transitional requirements for determining new applications as detailed in section 3.
 - the Council's Sex Establishment Licensing Policy
- 2.2 If the sub-committee grants the application it
 - 2.2.1 should be subject to the standard conditions applicable to Sexual Entertainment Venues

2.2.2 come into effect on 1 April 2012

3. Background

3.1 Adoption of new licensing controls

3.2 On 2 December 2010 the council adopted schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1982 as amended by the section 27 of the Police and Crime Act 2009. The effect of the 2009 Act was to classify lap dancing and other forms of entertainment involving nudity as sexual entertainment venues and to give Local Authorities the power to regulate such premises as Sex Establishments.

3.3 By bringing sexual entertainment venues into the licensing regime Local Authorities were given the power to set a limit on the number of sexual entertainment venues in any given locality.

3.4 As there were a number of premises that were permitted to operate prior to the new powers being introduced under the Licensing Act 2003 regime special transition requirements were put in place for existing operators.

3.5 Transitional Requirements

3.6 As the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1982 allows Local Authorities to refuse applications having regard to the number of sex establishments considered appropriate for the area, special transitional requirements apply to applications from existing businesses.

3.7 This means that new applications from existing operators submitted between 1 April 2011 and 30 September 2011 have to be considered together on the basis of merit.

3.8 There were 7 such premises providing sexual entertainment in Islington when the transitional period began on 1 April 2011. Of these 7 premises 4 have applied for new Sex Establishment Licences and need to be considered by the sub-committee at the same time.

3.9 The four premises are:

3.9.1 For Your Eyes Only

3.9.2 Platinum Bar

3.9.3 Club Aquarium

3.9.4 The Flying Scotsman

3.10 The Flying Scotsman

3.11 This premise has been operating in Islington for many years. Prior to 2005 it was licensed for music and dancing under the London Government Act 1963 and when the Licensing Act 2003 came into effect the premises successfully applied for a Premises Licence to permit the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment.

3.12 The Premises Licence permits the premises to remain open for licensable activities Monday to Saturday 09:00 to 23:00 and Sundays 09:00 to 22:30.

3.13 The premise was trading with express permission when the transitional period began on 1 April 2011.

3.14 Papers relevant to this application are attached as follows:-

Appendix 1:	application form and current premises licence;
Appendix 2:	representations
Appendix 3:	premises location map

3.15 **Sex Establishment Licensing Policy Limits on the number of licensed premises**

3.16 The council has determined that there are a sufficient number of sexual entertainment venues currently operating in the borough, and it does not want to see an increase in the numbers of premises that are currently providing these activities.

3.17 It acknowledges that there were a number of premises providing sexual entertainment before the new powers and the Sex Establishment Policy were adopted. Although the policy imposes a nil limit on the number of sex establishments in the borough, the policy explains the approach that the council intends to take in respect of existing premises that were trading with express permission for the type of entertainment which is now defined as sexual entertainment on 2 December 2010, the date that the licensing provisions were adopted.

3.18 **Representations**

3.19 The council has received representations from one ward councillor.

4. **Implications**

4.1 **Financial implications**

The current fee for sexual entertainment venues is £13,847 with the same amount on renewal. If an application is refused the total refund given is £1,755.

4.2 **Legal implications**

4.2.1 When determining a licence application, the sub-committee must have regard to any rights the applicant may have under Article 10 (right to freedom of expression) and Article 1, Protocol 1 (protection of property) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

4.2.2 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 prescribes the following discretionary grounds of refusal:

- The applicant is unsuitable to hold a licence by reason of having been convicted of any offence or for any other reason
- That if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself
- That the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality
- That the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard

- to the character of the relevant locality
- to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
- to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

4.3 Environmental Implications

The environmental impacts have been considered and it was identified that the application if granted would have no adverse impacts on the following:

- Energy use and carbon emissions
- Use of natural resources
- Travel and transportation
- Waste and recycling
- Climate change adaptation
- Biodiversity
- Pollution

4.4 Equality Implications

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 This is an application for a new sex establishment licence to permit sexual entertainment. The premises has been providing this type of entertainment for many years but now that the council has adopted new regulatory controls the premises operator needs to apply for a Sex Establishment Licence to continue operating.

5.2 In determining the application the sub-committee needs to consider three other applications from existing operators at the same time.

5.3 In reaching a decision the sub-committee needs to fully consider:

- The application
- The views of anyone making a representation
- The Sex Establishment Policy – in particular the application of the policy to premises trading prior to the adoption of the policy
- The requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1982.

Background papers:

The Council's Sex Establishment Licensing Policy
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
Home Office Guidance on Sexual Entertainment Venues
LBI Standard Conditions for Sexual Entertainment Venues

Final Report Clearance

Signed by


Service Director – Public Protection

Date 12/3/12

Received by

Head of Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Date

Report author: Janice Gibbons

Tel: 020 7527 3212

E-mail: Janice.gibbons@islington.gov.uk

WRY/111233722



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TL.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE

Please read the Council's Sex Establishment Licensing Policy before you complete this application form.

Type of Licence applied for

- Sex Shop
- Sex Cinema
- Sexual Entertainment venue

COMMERCIAL LICENSING

20 SEP 2011

PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION
222 UPPER ST. LONDON N1 1XR

Applicant's details

1. THIS PART TO BE COMPLETED IF APPLICATION IS MADE BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR PARTNERS

	Full Name	Permanent Private Address	Date of Birth	UK resident in the last 12 month?
a)				
b)				
c)				
d)				
e)				

ISLINGTON COUNCIL LICENSING	
Date	27/9/11
Fee Paid	13,847.00
Cash/Cheque	101,337
Number (please circle)	
Receipt Number	49197
Received By	JWL

2. THIS PART TO BE COMPLETED IF APPLICATION IS MADE BY A LIMITED COMPANY OR OTHER INCORPORATED OR UNINCORPORATED BODY

a)	Name of company or body	THE BRILL UK LLP
b)	Address of Registered office (or principal office in case of unincorporated body)	51 QUEEN ANNE STREET LONDON W1G 9HS COMP. N° 00338731
	Name of Director(s) with responsibility for management of premises	ROBIN NORRIS . D.O.B. 4-6-1974 PETER ALEXANDER D.O.B. 9-5-1956
	Position held	PARTNERS

Date of Birth	
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3. THIS PART TO BE COMPLETED IF APPLICATION IS MADE BY A COMPANY

a)	Is the applicant a wholly or partly owned subsidiary of another company?	No
b)	If yes, give name of the parent company and of any ultimate holding company	Not Applicable
c)	In which country is the company incorporated?	UNITED KINGDOM
d)	What is the date of incorporation of the company?	15 TH JULY 2008

4. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY ALL APPLICANTS

a)	Has a licence been revoked for any sex establishment with which any party to this application has been connected?	No		
b)	Has a licence been refused for any sex establishment with which any party to this application has been connected?	No		
c)	Has any person employed or to be employed by you has held a sex establishment licence which has been refused?	No		
d)	Has the applicant or any director or other person directly or indirectly responsible for the management of the applicant body or any person named in response to question No. 10 been convicted of a criminal offence?	YES PETER ALEXANDER - SPENT CONVICTION		
e)	Give the following details of every person who is to be responsible for the management of the premises in the absence of the licence holder			
	Full Name	Position Held	Permanent Private Address	Date of Birth
	PETER ALEXANDER	D.P.S.	4 SPRING COURT ROAD ENFIELD EN2 8JP	9 TH MAY 1956

5. PREMISES DETAILS

Trading name THE FLYING SCOTSMAN

Address 2-4 CALEDONIAN ROAD, LONDON N1 9DT

Do you have planning permission for intended use and hours of operation?
 Yes No

Contact details of person to be ^{contacted} connected in connection with this application

Name Kingsley Hoddimott

Address JAMES-MOTION
SUITE 1 ESSEX HOUSE
STATION ROAD, UPMINSTER ESSEX

Tel Number RM14 2SJ
01708-229955

Email Address khoddimott@james-motion.co.uk

I/We declare that the above particulars are, to be best of my/our knowledge, true in every respect.

Date: 19/09/11

Signature: [Signature]

Name of Signatory: K HODDIMOTT

Designation of Signatory: AGENT TO THE APPLICANT

Please note that any person, who in connection with any application for a licence, makes a false statement which he knows to be false in any material respect or which he does not believe to be true, shall be guilty of any offence rendering him liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding £10,000.

Checklist

- Application fee paid
 - Two passport sized photographs of applicant completing section 1 or manager of premises if applicant is a limited company.
(NB photographs are not required if no change since last application)
 - A plan showing the internal arrangement of the premises. (Scale 1:100)
 - A plan showing the location of the premises. (Scale 1:1250)
- (NB Plans are only required for new application or where there has been a change in layout since last licence granted).
- Newspaper advert prepared and sent to newspaper for publishing within 7 days of submitting application
 - Display notice of application on premises for 21 days following submission of application

**PREMISES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 2003**

Premises licence number	150794/4250		
Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description			
FLYING SCOTSMAN 2-4 CALEDONIAN ROAD			
Post town	London	Post code	N1 9DT
Telephone number	020 7278 5072		

Where the licence is time limited the dates
Not Applicable

Licensable activities authorised by the licence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of regulated entertainment by way of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The performance of live music The playing of recorded music The performance of dance • The provision of entertainment facilities for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making music Dancing • The provision of late night refreshment • The sale by retail of alcohol

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities																												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The provision of regulated entertainment for the performance of live music: <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>09.00</td> <td>to</td> <td>23.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>09.00</td> <td>to</td> <td>23.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday</td> <td>09.00</td> <td>to</td> <td>23.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>09.00</td> <td>to</td> <td>23.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>09.00</td> <td>to</td> <td>23.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saturday</td> <td>09.00</td> <td>to</td> <td>23.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sunday</td> <td>09.00</td> <td>to</td> <td>22.30</td> </tr> </table> 	Monday	09.00	to	23.00	Tuesday	09.00	to	23.00	Wednesday	09.00	to	23.00	Thursday	09.00	to	23.00	Friday	09.00	to	23.00	Saturday	09.00	to	23.00	Sunday	09.00	to	22.30
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Saturday	09.00	to	23.00																									
Sunday	09.00	to	22.30																									



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- The provision of regulated entertainment for the playing of recorded music:

Monday	00.00	to	00.00	the following day
Tuesday	00.00	to	00.00	the following day
Wednesday	00.00	to	00.00	the following day
Thursday	00.00	to	00.00	the following day
Friday	00.00	to	00.00	the following day
Saturday	00.00	to	00.00	the following day
Sunday	00.00	to	00.00	the following day

- The provision of regulated entertainment for the performance of dance:

Monday	09.00	to	23.00
Tuesday	09.00	to	23.00
Wednesday	09.00	to	23.00
Thursday	09.00	to	23.00
Friday	09.00	to	23.00
Saturday	09.00	to	23.00
Sunday	09.00	to	22.30

- The provision of entertainment facilities for making music:

Monday	09.00	to	23.00
Tuesday	09.00	to	23.00
Wednesday	09.00	to	23.00
Thursday	09.00	to	23.00
Friday	09.00	to	23.00
Saturday	09.00	to	23.00
Sunday	09.00	to	22.30

- The provision of entertainment facilities for dancing:

Monday	09.00	to	23.00
Tuesday	09.00	to	23.00
Wednesday	09.00	to	23.00
Thursday	09.00	to	23.00
Friday	09.00	to	23.00
Saturday	09.00	to	23.00
Sunday	09.00	to	22.30

- The provision of late night refreshment:

Monday	23.00	to	23.30
Tuesday	23.00	to	23.30
Wednesday	23.00	to	23.30
Thursday	23.00	to	23.30
Friday	23.00	to	23.30
Saturday	23.00	to	23.30
Sunday	23.00	to	23.30

• The sale by retail of alcohol:

Monday	10.00	to	23.00
Tuesday	10.00	to	23.00
Wednesday	10.00	to	23.00
Thursday	10.00	to	23.00
Friday	10.00	to	23.00
Saturday	10.00	to	23.00
Sunday	10.00	to	22.30

Except on:

Good Friday, 12.00 to 22.30 hours

Christmas Day, 12.00 to 15.00 and 19.00 to 22.30 hours

New Year's Eve, except on a Sunday, 10.00 until the time authorised on the following day

New Year's Eve on a Sunday, 12.00 to until the time authorised on the following day

If there are no permitted hours on the following day, midnight on 31st December

The opening hours of the premises:

Monday	09.00	to	23.30
Tuesday	09.00	to	23.30
Wednesday	09.00	to	23.30
Thursday	09.00	to	23.30
Friday	09.00	to	23.30
Saturday	09.00	to	23.30
Sunday	09.00	to	23.00

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and/or off supplies

On and off supplies

Name, (registered) address, telephone number and e-mail (where relevant) of holder of premises licence

The Brill UK LLP
51 Queen Anne Street
London
W1G 9HS
020 7833 7752

Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)

OC338731

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

Simon Dean Barton Guthrie
4 Aslett Street
Wandsworth
London
SW18 2BN

Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises the supply of alcohol

10142 – London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Islington Council
Public Protection Division
222 Upper Street
London
N1 1XR
Tel: 020 7527 3031
Email: licensing@islington.gov.uk


Assistant Director - Public Protection

10/2/09
Date of Issue

Annex 1 - Mandatory conditions

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence-
 - a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
 - b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.
2. Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Annex 2 - Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule

1. Alcohol shall not be sold, supplied, consumed in or taken from the premises except during permitted hours. In this condition permitted hours means the authorised hours specified on this licence for the sale by retail of alcohol. This restriction does not prohibit:
 - a) during the first twenty minutes after the above hours the consumption of the alcohol on the premises;
 - b) during the first twenty minutes after the above hours, the taking of the alcohol from the premises unless the alcohol is supplied or taken in an open vessel;
 - c) during the first thirty minutes after the above hours the consumption of the alcohol on the premises by persons taking meals there if the alcohol was supplied for consumption as ancillary to the meals;
 - d) consumption of the alcohol on the premises or the taking of sale or supply of alcohol to any person residing in the licensed premises;
 - e) the ordering of alcohol to be consumed off the premises, or the despatch by the vendor of the alcohol so ordered;
 - f) the sale of alcohol to a trader or club for the purposes of the trade or club;
 - g) the sale or supply of alcohol to any canteen or mess, being a canteen in which the sale or supply of alcohol is carried out under the authority of the Secretary of State or an authorised mess of members of Her Majesty's naval, military or air forces;
 - h) the taking of alcohol from the premises by a person residing there; or
 - i) the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises to any private friends of a person residing there who are bona fide entertained by him at his own expense, or the consumption of alcohol by persons so supplied; or
 - j) the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises to persons employed there for the purposes of the business carried on by the holder of the licence, or the consumption of liquor so supplied, if the liquor is supplied at the expense of their employer or of the person carrying on or in charge of the business on the premises.

2. No person under fourteen shall be in the bar of the licensed premises during the permitted hours for the sale by retail of alcohol unless one of the following applies:
 - a) He is the child of the holder of the premises licence.
 - b) He resides in the premises, but is not employed there.
 - c) He is in the bar solely for the purpose of passing to or from some part of the premises which is not a bar and to or from which there is no other convenient means of access or egress.
 - d) The bar is in railway refreshment rooms or other premises constructed, fitted and intended to be used bona fide for any purpose to which the holding of the licence is ancillary.

In this condition "bar" includes any place exclusively or mainly used for the consumption of intoxicating liquor. But an area is not a bar when it is usual for it to be, and it is, set apart for the service of table meals and alcohol is only sold or supplied to persons as an ancillary to their table meals.

3. Unless otherwise specified on this licence no regulated entertainment shall take place at the premises with the exception of pre-booked private events limited to the provision of music and dancing for pre-invited guests.
4. This licence is subject to such further conditions as are consistent with any restrictions imposed on the use of the premises for the existing licensable activities under the licence by virtue of the enactments hereinafter set out:
 - Children and Young Persons Act 1933
 - Cinematograph (Safety) Regulations 1955
 - Sporting Events (Control of Alcohol Etc) Act 1985
5. The licence is subject to the following Additional Conditions referred to in the Standard Conditions for Places of Public Entertainment:
 - ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS D: APPLICABLE TO PREMISES USING DOOR SUPERVISORS.
 - ADDITIONAL CONDITION GO: APPLICABLE TO THE KEEPING OF GOOD ORDER.
 - ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS SX: FOR PARTICULAR CONTROL OVER STRIPTEASE OR SIMILAR ENTERTAINMENT INVOLVING NUDITY.
6. The licence shall be subject to the Council's standard conditions for Places of Entertainment
7. The licence shall be subject to the Council's technical standards for Places of Entertainment
8. The maximum number of persons accommodated at any one time in the premises shall not exceed the following:

Ground Floor: 125 (including staff and performers)

9. Dancing shall be restricted to the stage.

Annex 3 - Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority

None

Annex 4 – Plans

Reference Number: 1219/01

Tomashevski, Katie

From: Cllr Paul Convery [Paul.Convery@islington.gov.uk]
Sent: 29 October 2011 23:37
To: Licensing; Perry, Rupert; Convery, Paul; Pullen, Charlynnne
Cc: Tomashevski, Katie; Lane, Terrie
Subject: RE: Premises Licence Application: Sexual entertainment venue - The Flying Scotsman

I object to this application.

Please can you tell me whether there have been any other objections recorded?

Paul Convery

Labour Councillor for Caledonian Ward, LB Islington

Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Planning, Transport and Leisure

Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

020-7527-3051 (PA)

Home: 94 Gifford Street, London N1 0DF

07768-117120 (mobile)

www.islington-labour.org.uk <<http://www.islington-labour.org.uk/>>

www.callylabourcouncillors.org.uk

From: Williams, John [mailto:John.Williams@islington.gov.uk]
Sent: 27 September 2011 14:44
To: Perry, Rupert; Convery, Paul; Pullen, Charlynnne
Cc: Tomashevski, Katie; Lane, Terrie
Subject: Premises Licence Application: Sexual enterttainment venue - The Flying Scotsman

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have received the following application for a Premises Licence (New):

Premises Name: The Flying Scotsman

Address: 2-4 Caledonian Road, London. N1 9DT

Received by the licensing team: 26/09/11

Last date for representations: 24/10/11

As a member of the council you are able to make a representation. The representation must be received in writing by the Licensing Team before the last date for representation, be premises specific and relate to one or more of the licensing objectives, i.e:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- the protection of children from harm
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance.

If you submit a representation you will be invited to attend the Licensing Committee hearing the application.

Please contact me if you would like a copy of the application.

Regards,

John Williams

LicensingSupportOfficer
Licensing Team

PublicProtectionDivision
Environment & Regeneration

Islington Council

222UpperStreet,

London, N11XR
Tel:02075273031/3803 Fax:02075273430

Email:licensing@islington.gov.uk
Website: www.islington.gov.uk <file:///www.islington.gov.uk>

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Cllr Paul Convery
94 Gifford Street
London N1 0DF
020-7609-2189
07768-117120

Public Protection
Environment & Regeneration Department
LB Islington
222 Upper Street
London N1 1XR

26th January 2012

Licence application:
The Flying Scotsman, 2-4 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DT

I write setting out my objections to this licence application. I have read the Borough's Sex Establishment Licensing Policy and consider that the application premises fall outside the parameters within which granting a license might be acceptable. Overall I consider that granting such a license would:

- be detrimental to the regeneration of the area;
- have an adverse effect on community safety;
- reduce residents' amenity due to closeness of new residential accommodation opposite and nearby;
- be unacceptable due to the proximity of Copenhagen, Winton and Blessed Sacrament primary schools and the access routes to these schools
- be unacceptable due to proximity to places of worship at the former Welsh Congregational Church adjacent to 245 Pentonville Road N1 9NJ and the Al Nehar Mosque 84 Caledonian Road N1 9DP and the access routes to these places.

It is the policy of LB Islington to reduce to zero the number of establishments licensed for sex entertainment. The policy recognises that existing sex entertainment venues may be allowed to continue trading if they meet stringent conditions, namely "high standards of management; a management structure and capacity to operate the venue; the ability to adhere to the standard conditions for sex establishments". The track record of the Flying Scotsman pub is not good at all. I have regularly spotted exotic dancers outside on the street smoking with very slight clothing barely covered by overcoats or other coverings. From the outside it appears to be quite a rowdy pub at times and at risk of disorder particularly on the pavement outside. The premises appear to be quite cramped and I do not think they are suited to effective management of sex entertainment.

From reviewing license applications for 6 and 8 Caledonian Rd it is my understanding that all the premises stretching from number 272-276 Pentonville Road (hostel-style accommodation on the corner of Caledonian Road) to 8 Caledonian Road (the Brill Bar) are a single inter-connected building. There are staircases and passages between 2-4, 6 and 8 Caledonian Rd and I strongly suspect that the applicants intend to use parts of these premises for sex entertainment.

I also consider there is an important over-riding reason to deny a license. In recent years it seems there is a residual perception that Kings Cross is a more acceptable place to locate premises offering sex entertainment. In my view, there is no justification for any type of sex entertainment venue in this neighbourhood. I believe the presence of such an establishment creates the impression that Kings Cross is an area where sexual services and associated products can be purchased. Within Camden's jurisdiction there are a number of "sauna" clubs, for example on Kings Cross Road, where it is evident that paid-for sex can be procured.

This reinforces an adverse perception that Kings Cross is an area characterised by sex, drugs, transient accommodation and a marginalised population. They attract people looking for some kind of sexual experience – and this encourages a range of unacceptable and illegal behaviour such as kerb crawling and solicitation which is regularly reported at locations further up Caledonian Road.

A key feature of regeneration of Kings Cross during the last decade has been a determination to stamp out the vice and sleaze that had blighted the area for several generations. This has been predominantly successful with LB Islington successfully closing-down unlicensed premises and restricting the scope of licensed premises.

The existence of any premises with a sex entertainment license will continue to reinforce the old image, stigmatise the area and damage existing retail or deter the arrival of more reputable traders and investors. It also undermines the aspiration of community and political leaders in this area to ensure we develop a balanced, sustainable community living here.

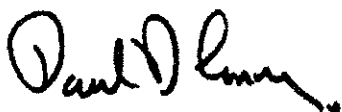
The simple fact is that, over the last few years, Kings Cross has changed considerably – and for the better. Scores of new businesses and hundreds of new jobs have arrived in the area alongside a slew of good quality entertainment and hospitality businesses.

We now have a substantial amount of residential accommodation in the area with new long-term residents including many more families with children. Within just a few metres of the applicant premises are new housing developments including a range of affordable family homes and we have a new, multi-cultural and multi ethnic population living in this neighbourhood.

One feature of this population is the high proportion of people who have a strong religious conviction and I have been contacted by constituents of Christian and Muslim faiths who find the presence of sex venues in their neighbourhood to be abhorrent to their faith. I have been lobbied by people of no faith who, like myself, simply have standards of decency that are neither illiberal nor prudish but just plain common sense. And I have been approached by parents who are appalled at the prospect of explaining to their children why this pub has blacked-out windows and why scarcely-dressed women are standing around outside smoking. As the vice chair of governors (and a parent) at one of the neighbourhood schools, I know that parents, governors and staff at these nearby schools do not view this establishment with any enthusiasm at all, as their children walk past the location on Caledonian Road.

I would urge members to reject renewal of the license for the reasons above.

Regards



Paul Convery
Councillor for Caledonian Ward (Labour)

