

# Supplementary Papers for Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026



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**5. Wiggle, 159 Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth, BH1 1JS**

Applicant's response to objections enclosed.

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Response to objections

Wiggle Bournemouth

2026

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# Objection 1

Susan Stockwell

## Allegation: Unsuitability due to drug concerns / nitrous oxide debris

The reference to “special licence conditions” relates to measures introduced over 10 years ago, which have been fully complied with at all times. These conditions demonstrate a proactive and precautionary approach and have been consistently reviewed during licensing visits.

The Police, as the responsible authority for crime and disorder, have not raised any objection to this renewal application, nor have they identified any ongoing concerns regarding drug use at the premises.

In relation to the alleged nitrous oxide debris:

The incident referenced in 2022 occurred during a period when the premises was closed due to COVID restrictions, over four years ago.

The debris was found externally and cannot reasonably be attributed to activity within the premises.

Since that time, no further incidents have been identified, and the premises is maintained in a clean and well-managed condition.

There is **no evidence** linking the premises to drug use or drug-related issues.

## Allegation: Premises unsuitable due to windows being closed / ventilation concerns

The requirement for windows to remain closed is a standard licence condition for Sexual Entertainment Venues, designed to ensure that no internal activity is visible from outside the premises.

The premises is equipped with a fully operational internal ventilation system, which provides appropriate air circulation and ensures compliance with all relevant health and safety requirements.

There is no evidence that the premises fails to meet any environmental or safety standards.

## Crime and sexual assaults in the area (police.uk data)

No evidence has been provided linking the premises to:

- Sexual assaults
- Violent crime
- Any increase in criminal activity

Generalised references to crime statistics or publicly available mapping tools do not establish any causal link to this specific premises.

Importantly:

- The Police have **not objected** to the application
- No evidence has been presented of incidents arising from the operation of the venue

The premises operates with robust measures including:

- SIA-licensed security staff
- Comprehensive CCTV coverage
- Strict customer management policies
- These measures actively contribute to a controlled and safe environment.

## Proximity to Horseshoe Common / St Peter's Church / vulnerable groups

St Peter's Church is not in the immediate vicinity of the premises and is located several streets away. It is highly unlikely that individuals attending the church would pass the premises as part of normal access routes.

Both the church and the premises have coexisted for many years without issue, and no previous objections have been raised on this basis.

Horseshoe Common forms part of the wider town centre environment, which has long supported a mixed and diverse range of uses, including hospitality, leisure, and licensed venues.

There is no evidence that the premises has any adverse impact on vulnerable groups or nearby uses.

## Equality Act 2010 (s149) – SEVs undermine duty to eliminate harassment

The Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149, applies to **the Council as decision-maker**, not as a prohibition on lawful businesses.

Sexual Entertainment Venues are a **lawful and expressly regulated category of premises** under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Parliament has clearly determined that such venues may operate, subject to licensing controls.

There is no **legal authority or statutory guidance** which establishes that the operation of a Sexual Entertainment Venue is, in itself, a breach of the Equality Act.

Refusing a licence solely on the basis that it is a Sexual Entertainment Venue, or due to generalised moral or ideological objections, would risk being:

- Inconsistent with the statutory licensing framework, and
- Potentially unlawful or discriminatory if not based on relevant evidence and proper grounds

The Applicant operates responsibly and in a manner that:

- Promotes safety
- Maintains strict management controls
- Ensures appropriate conduct within the premises

## White Ribbon / policy considerations

The full White Ribbon document referenced has not been provided, and therefore its context and relevance cannot be fully assessed.

However:

- White Ribbon is a **policy and advocacy initiative**, not statutory licensing guidance
- It does **not prohibit the operation of Sexual Entertainment Venues**
- It does not override the legal framework under which this application must be determined

The Applicant is committed to responsible operation and welfare, including:

- Supporting performers
- Providing welfare initiatives, including chaplaincy support through organisations such as City Life Church and associated services

## Promotion via branded vehicle / social media

The reference to a “Wiggle branded vehicle” relates to a temporary promotional activity, not specific to Bournemouth.

The vehicle was liveried as part of a European road-trip, and is not used for local promotional activity.

There is:

- No evidence that the vehicle was used to promote the Bournemouth premises locally
- No breach of licence conditions identified
- No enforcement action taken by any authority

This matter is not relevant to the determination of this application.

## HMO fine

The matter referred to relates to a **separate property issue**, not the licensed premises.

Furthermore:

- The fine was issued to a **managing agent**, not the Applicant for this licence
- It has **no relevance** to the operation or management of the Sexual Entertainment Venue

## Wiggle Portsmouth SEV renewal

The reference to a petition in Portsmouth is not relevant to this application.

For completeness:

- The Sexual Entertainment Venue licence in Portsmouth has been successfully renewed.

## Cracks in the building

No evidence has been provided to support any claim of structural concern.

Any minor cracking is consistent with normal building settlement and does not indicate any breach of licence conditions or safety requirements.

The premises complies with all relevant safety standards.

## Customer assaults

No evidence has been provided to substantiate this claim.

If any such incidents had occurred and were attributable to the premises, they would be:

- Recorded
- Investigated
- Raised by the Police

No such concerns have been raised by responsible authorities.

## White Ribbon implies “nil cap” on SEVs

No evidence has been provided to support the claim that White Ribbon requires or promotes a “nil cap” policy on Sexual Entertainment Venues.

Licensing decisions must be based on:

- The Council’s adopted policy
- The statutory framework

Not external advocacy positions.

## Event themes (Eventbrite)

The references relate to **historic events**, which are no longer promoted or operated.

As acknowledged, these listings are shown as **past events only**.

The current operation of the premises complies fully with all licence conditions and standards.

# Objection 2

## Character of the Area

Residential dwellings, student accommodation and other mixed uses have existed in the area for many years alongside the premises. The venue has also operated for many years without issue.

There have been **no noise complaints or nuisance complaints** raised with Environmental Health in relation to the premises.

Old Christchurch Road remains a hub for hospitality and night-time economy uses, including bars, restaurants, clubs and other licensed premises.

The reference to a cumulative impact zone supports this, as such areas are specifically identified as locations where the night-time economy is concentrated.

There have been **no material changes to the locality or completed developments since the previous licence renewal** that would justify a different decision at this stage.

## Use of Nearby Premises

The premises operates **during late evening and night-time hours only** and is closed during the day.

The venue is run in a discreet manner, in accordance with licence conditions:

- No visibility into the premises
- No external displays
- Controlled entry

As a result, persons passing the premises during the day or early evening would not be aware of its use.

There is no evidence that the premises has had any negative impact on nearby residents, students, or vulnerable individuals.

## Suitability of the Location

The objector correctly notes that longevity alone is not determinative. However, the premises has:

- Operated lawfully for many years
- Complied fully with licence conditions
- Not been subject to review or enforcement action

There have been **no additional residential developments completed since the previous licence renewal** that would materially change the character of the area.

The area remains a **well-established hospitality and leisure location**, and the premises continues to operate appropriately within that setting.

## Nature of Sexual Entertainment Venues

Sexual Entertainment Venues are a **lawful and regulated form of entertainment**, licensed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

The premises operates strictly within this framework and is subject to robust conditions and controls.

The objection raises general concerns about the nature of such venues but provides **no evidence** that this particular premises is unsuitable or has caused any issues.

# Objection 3

## Character of the Area

The objector refers to changes in the town centre, including increased residential and mixed-use development.

As set out in response to other objections:

- Residential and mixed uses have existed in the area for many years alongside the premises

The premises has operated for a significant period without:

- Complaints
- Enforcement action
- Objection from responsible authorities

There have been **no material changes since the previous licence renewal** that would alter the suitability of the premises.

Old Christchurch Road remains a well-established town centre location, with a strong mix of hospitality and leisure uses forming part of Bournemouth's night-time economy.

## Women's Safety / VAWG Strategy

The objector refers to national and local strategies relating to violence against women and girls.

The Applicant fully supports the importance of ensuring that public spaces are safe and well-managed for all.

However, no evidence has been provided linking this premises to:

- Violence against women
- Harassment
- Any form of criminal behaviour

The premises operates as a controlled and regulated environment, with:

- SIA-licensed security
- CCTV coverage
- Strict customer management policies

These measures are designed to promote safety and prevent inappropriate behaviour.

If there were any concerns relating to crime or safety, the Police would be expected to raise them. **No such objections have been made.**

## General References to Cultural or Societal Issues

The objection raises broader points about:

- Cultural attitudes
- Public perception
- The role of organisations such as White Ribbon

While these are important societal discussions, they are **not matters that can be determined through the licensing process.**

Sexual Entertainment Venues are:

- A lawful and regulated category of premises
- Permitted to operate under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
- Subject to strict licensing controls

The Committee must determine the application based on **relevant statutory considerations**, not generalised or national policy discussions.

## Suitability of the Premises

The objector suggests that the Committee should reconsider whether the premises remains appropriate.

In response:

- The premises has operated lawfully and without issue for many years
- It is well-managed and compliant with all licence conditions
- There is no evidence provided by the objector of nuisance, crime, or harm associated with its operation.

The premises is also operated in a discreet manner, ensuring:

- No visibility into the venue
- No external promotion that would impact the surrounding area
- Controlled entry and supervision

# Objection 4

## Response

The objection raises general concerns regarding public safety, community well-being and the character of the area but provides no specific evidence to support these claims.

There is no evidence that the premises has had any negative impact in these areas. The venue has operated for many years without complaint, enforcement action, or objection from responsible authorities.

The premises operates with appropriate measures in place, including SIA security, CCTV and strict management controls. If there were any concerns regarding public safety, the Police would be expected to object. No such objection has been made.

Old Christchurch Road remains a recognised town centre hospitality and night-time economy location, and there have been no material changes since the previous licence renewal.

The objection does not identify any grounds upon which the application should be refused.

# Objection 5

## Character of the Area

The objector refers to a perceived change in the character of the area, including references to crime and prostitution.

No evidence has been provided to support these claims, and no link has been established between such issues and the premises.

The premises has operated for many years without:

- Complaints
- Enforcement action
- Objection from responsible authorities

If there were any concerns regarding crime or disorder linked to the premises, the Police would be expected to raise them. **No such objection has been made.**

## Gender Balance / Perception of Safety

The objector refers to a personal observation regarding the proportion of men and women in the area and suggests that women feel unsafe.

This is based on a **single, anecdotal observation** and is not supported by any formal evidence.

There is no evidence that:

- The premises has contributed to any imbalance in the area
- The premises has caused women to feel unsafe

The venue itself operates as a controlled and supervised environment, and it is important to note that:

- Women also attend Sexual Entertainment Venues
- The premises is not exclusively male-oriented
- Entry is controlled and behaviour is strictly managed

The operation of a licensed venue with security, CCTV and supervision can in fact contribute to a **safer and more regulated night-time environment**, compared to unmanaged public spaces.

## Allegations of Harassment / Assaults in the area

The objector refers to incidents in the wider area but accepts that these are **not directly linked to the premises**.

Licensing decisions must be based on the impact of the specific premises.

There is no evidence that this venue has:

- Contributed to harassment or assaults
- Failed to operate in a safe and controlled manner

The premises operates with:

- SIA-licensed security staff
- CCTV coverage
- Strict management policies

These measures are in place specifically to prevent inappropriate behaviour and protect customers, and the wider public.

## Nature of Venue

The objection refers to the nature of Sexual Entertainment Venues more generally.

Such venues are **a lawful and regulated form of entertainment**, permitted under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

The premises operates strictly within this framework and complies with all licence conditions.

The objection raises general views about the nature of such venues but does not provide evidence that this particular premises is unsuitable.

## Proximity to School

The objector raises concerns regarding a nearby school.

The premises operates during **late night hours**, with closing times between approximately 4am–5am.

These hours are **not aligned with school operating times**, and there is no overlap with children attending school.

There is no evidence that the premises has any impact on children or school activities.

# Conclusion

The objections received raise a number of general concerns regarding the character of the area, public safety, and wider social issues. However, they do not provide evidence that the premises has caused harm, is unsuitable, or has been operated in a manner contrary to its licence.

The premises has operated for many years as a **well-managed and compliant Sexual Entertainment Venue**, without enforcement action, review, or objection from responsible authorities, including the Police.

Old Christchurch Road remains a **recognised town centre location for hospitality and night-time economy uses**, and there have been no material changes since the previous licence renewal that would justify a different decision.

The venue operates under **strict licence conditions**, with appropriate measures in place including SIA security, CCTV, and controlled management of customers, contributing to a **safe and regulated environment**.

The objections largely rely on generalised views, anecdotal observations, or matters not directly linked to the premises, rather than evidence relevant to the statutory grounds for refusal.

Accordingly, there are **no substantiated grounds to refuse the application**, and the Applicant respectfully requests that the licence be renewed.

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