

On 21 March 2019, a commencement order was laid before the Scottish Parliament which brings section 74 and section 76 of the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015 into force. This adds new sections 45A to 45C to the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the 1982 Act) and allows the Council to introduce a discretionary licensing regime for **Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs)**.

What is a sexual entertainment venue?

A SEV is defined as a premises where the sexual entertainment is performed live, is for the direct or indirect financial benefit of the organiser and is for the sole purpose of sexual stimulation of members of the audience. For the avoidance of doubt, the definition in the legislation does not cover those premises which may be used as massage parlours or saunas.

How are these premises controlled at the moment?

Edinburgh's Licensing Board regulates the sale of alcohol, but there is no specific legislation controlling sexual entertainment in these premises.

The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 allows the Council to consider whether to pass a resolution to license SEVs, now or in the future.

If the Council does not adopt this power, SEVs will be able to operate without any direct control from the Council.

The Council can also set a limit on the number of SEVs operating in Edinburgh.

Why regulate Sexual Entertainment Venues?

These powers would allow the Council to improve standards in the industry, ensuring the safety of performers and customers, regulating the impact on the local area and improving local accountability and control. This will be achieved through various means including inspections of premises and joint working with Police Scotland.

The purpose of regulating this type of activity is to help the Council achieve the following objectives:

- Preserve public safety
- Preserve public order
- Prevent public nuisance
- Prevent crime
- Protect children and young people from harm, and
- Reduce violence against women