



**SEX ENTERTAINMENT VENUES: REGULATING WORKING CONDITIONS: An
Economic & Social Research Council Research (ESRC) Dissemination Project
SUMMARY INFORMATION BRIEF: JUNE 2012**

OVERALL AIM

The overall aim of the project is to disseminate and make active findings from ESRC project *“The Regulatory Dance: Structural Integration of Sexual Consumption into the Night Time Economy”* (Sanders and Hardy, 2011).

THE REGULATORY DANCE RESEARCH PROJECT

Carried out during 2010-2011 “The Regulatory Dance” was the largest study to date of lap dancing in the UK and is the key study illustrating dancers experiences and working conditions. It involved a large scale survey of N=197 dancers. Follow up interviews were carried out with N=35 dancers, N=20 other people involved in the industry (including bar staff, security, ‘house mums’, managers and owners) and N=15 regulators (including licensing & enforcement officers, health and safety inspectors and the police).

1. The vast majority of dancers had made a decision to do dancing/stripping as a flexible, relatively high earning (although unpredictable), cash-in-hand form of work.
2. Most women did not report any violence and felt safe in their workplace due to security and door personnel, however but verbal harassment & unwanted touching from customers was an issue: reported variably by dancers.
3. There was no evidence of organised prostitution or trafficking / forced involvement, although some migrant workers were paying out a lot for accommodation and organisation of their work.
4. Most dancers were concerned about the high fees, commissions and fines they were paying to the management; especially on occasions when they were taking relatively little money home. 70% of respondents said they had left a shift without earning any money (due to what they had to pay out).
5. There was overall concern amongst dancers that their welfare and working conditions were not being taken seriously by the new legislation relating to licensing but rather assumptions were being made about exploitation and the community’s views were favoured against dancers.

For further information about the research project you can see the Initial findings (April 2011) and Visual Summary Findings at:

<http://www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/research/projects/regulatory-dance.php>

You can listen to dancers talk about working conditions at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPqIhWD8UQk>

Watch the lead researcher talk about the research at: <http://www.lssi.leeds.ac.uk/special-reports/teela-sanders/>

There has already been interest from some licensing departments (Leeds, Westminster, Dorset, Bristol for example) who are keen to take on board findings from the research about dancers working conditions & include issues relating to dancer welfare, working conditions and safety in their licensing arrangements.

PROJECT ACTIVITY & TIME SCALE

This dissemination project will be carried out between November 2011 and end of October 2012. The main dissemination activities we will be carrying out during this project are;

- *Producing a series of bespoke briefing paper based on the research findings.*
- *Delivering seminars & presentations for licensing practitioners, policy makers, business owners/managers & labour organisations*
- *Developing & delivering an employment rights and tax awareness educational programme for dancers, in partnership with HM Revenue & Customs*
- *Developing a website & smart phone application for dancers to communicate information about self employment, paying tax and safety*
- *Carrying out a systematic review of International Policy Evidence on Licensing of Sexual Entertainment & a review of SEV policies re inclusion of dancers welfare & safety matters*

FURTHER INFORMATION & THE PROJECT TEAM

If you would like further information about the project please contact one of the team carrying out the project;

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