

The Licensing Officer,
Exeter City Council.

Good evening,

I am writing to object to the application by Mr Hemming, Simply [Pleasure.com](https://www.pleasure.com), to use the above premises as a sex shop.

My objection is on the following grounds:

1. Public safety. Exeter has a commitment to the safety of women at night charter (SWaN) and has encouraged local businesses to sign up and support this initiative. This business would be likely to undermine the initiative and harm the safety of the area. Many women who already feel unsafe in the city (not only at night) are likely to feel their safety is threatened further by premises that attract customers of the sex industry into their neighbourhood. Hardworking existing food stores, barber shops and food outlets on Sidwell St, which bring the neighbourhood its income, energy, diversity and vibrancy, may lose custom from those who feel unsafe and unwelcome in the vicinity of a sex shop.
2. Protection of children. Few city councils can have failed to be concerned by the emergence of evidence that many vulnerable children and young people have been groomed, abused and exploited by adult sexual predators in cities across Britain, often centred on premises with a legal purpose, where children have been attracted by offers of food, drink etc. Premises for the sex industry, however much they adhere to the law inside, may attract customers who stay in the vicinity, and of these some may be a serious threat to vulnerable children.

The application appears to present a serious negative change to the safety of the Sidwell St area.

Yours sincerely,

