

Sex shop or sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue licence

To run a sex shop - i.e. any premises selling sex toys, books or videos - you need a licence from St Albans City & District Council.

To run a venue where explicit films are shown to members of the public, you also need a licence from St Albans City & District Council.

To run a venue where sexually explicit entertainment such as lap dancing or pole dancing is offered to the public, you need a licence from St Albans City & District Council. The forms of "relevant" entertainment commonly understood to be connected with Sexual Entertainment Venues are (though this is not a comprehensive list):

Lap dancing; Pole dancing; Table dancing; Strip shows; Peep shows; Live sex shows

There is an exemption for premises where the sexual entertainment is provided infrequently, i.e. Not more than eleven occasions in a twelve month period, they must be greater than one month apart and must not last for more than 24 hours. These premises will still be regulated under the Licensing Act 2003 and would need to apply for Temporary Event Notices.

Licence summary

If you wish to make any amendments to an existing licence you must submit a new application.

The Licence is valid for 12 months and renewed annually.

Please note that St Albans City & District Council have made nil resolutions in respect of sex shops and cinemas and sex entertainment venues. This means that they consider the appropriate number of sex shops and, cinemas, and sex entertainment venues in the District is zero. This means that applications will not generally be deemed to be appropriate however each application will be dealt with on its merits. This can be used as a reason for refusing an application. Fees are non refundable.

An applicant:

- a) must be at least 18 years old;
- b) must not be disqualified from holding a licence;
- c) must have been resident in the UK at least six months immediately before the application or, if a body corporate, must be incorporated in the UK;
- d) must not have been refused the grant or renewal of a licence for the premises in question within the last 12 months unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal;
- e) a person may apply to St Albans City & District Council requesting them to waive the requirement of a licence;

Eligibility Criteria

You may wish to print the guidance notes before completing the application online:

<http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/Images/Tacit%20Authorisation%20Policy%20Draft%20tcm15-14089.pdf>

A summary of the regulation relating to this licence can be found here:

Regulation

Summary	<p>http://www.opsi.gov.uk/RevisedStatutes/Acts/ukpga/1982/cukpga_19820030_en_1</p> <p>The fee is £3250 for sex shop or sex cinema</p>
Cost	<p>The fee is £5000 for sex entertainment venue</p> <p>Yes</p>
Will Tacit Consent Apply?	<p>No. It is in the public interest that the authority must process your application before it can be granted. If you have not heard from the local authority within a reasonable period, please contact it. You can do this online if you applied through the UK Welcomes service or contact Licensing@stalbans.gov.uk</p>
Apply online	<p>From 28th December 2009, to comply with the European Union Services Directive, an application for a sex establishment licence may be made electronically:</p> <p>https://online.ukwelcomes.businesslink.gov.uk/etm/action/search?classification=3</p>
Apply by submitting a paper copy	<p>You can also apply by downloading, completing and returning the application form – To do so please look at the St Albans Council website.</p> <p>http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/business/BusinessLicences/SexualEntertainmentVenueLicensing/</p>
If your application is refused	<p>Please contact Licensing@stalbans.gov.uk</p> <p>We would always advise that in the event of a complaint about a specific business you contact the business initially and then if you are still dissatisfied the Council.</p>
Consumer Complaint	<p>If you are dissatisfied with the Council please contact the relevant department in the first place. If you remain unhappy with the outcome, please consider the Council complaints procedure. http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/your-council/contacts-consultation-feedback/Compliments-and-complaints-council/</p>