

The Herald

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Sex shop chain promises to fight on against Glasgow's zero tolerance policy

THE UK's biggest chain of hardcore sex shops yesterday promised to fight on in its attempt to open premises in Glasgow.

Darker Enterprises, which runs 85 shops in England and Wales under the Private name, warned it would take Glasgow City Council to court, "even to Europe", if it rejected an application for a sex shop licence in future.

On a more conciliatory note, it also offered to organise a visit for Glasgow councillors to one of its sex shops if they wanted to inspect one for themselves.

The Essex-based company was giving its official response to the council's decision in September to refuse a sex shop licence at 69 Gordon Street, next to Central Station.

The city's licensing committee, which had received 450 letters of objection, turned down the application after ruling the appropriate number of sex shops for Glasgow was zero.

Although the law allows councils to set the appropriate number for a given "locality" at zero, Darker Enterprises contends a locality cannot be the same as an entire council area.

The company successfully overturned a similar blanket ban in Cheltenham.

The legislation in Scotland is slightly different to that in England, but Darker Enterprises argues it all flows from Westminster's desire to see sex shops regulated in the UK, rather than banned outright.

The Private chain specialises in sex toys and explicit pornographic magazines and videos.

Edinburgh currently has five licensed sex shops - the only ones in Scotland.

A Glasgow council spokesman said: "We will consider any new application from this company when and if it comes along."

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12526698.sex-shop-chain-promises-to-fight-on-against-glasgows-zero-tolerance-policy/>