

16 December 2020

Upper Hutt City Council/Te Kaunihera o Te Awa Kairangi ki Uta
Private Bag 907
Upper Hutt 5140

Tēnā koe

Re: Submission on Brothels Bylaw Review - Upper Hutt

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on this consultation document.

Regional Public Health (RPH) serves the greater Wellington region, through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa and as a service is part of the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier and safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori, and working with primary care organisations. Our staff includes a range of occupations such as: medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, and public health analysts.

RPH supports the proposal to revoke the current Brothels Bylaw and manage brothels through the existing District Plan. The purpose of the Prostitution Reform Act includes promoting the welfare, occupational health and safety of sex workers as well as create an environment that is conducive to public health. However, the Brothels Bylaw of 2003 effectively restricts brothels from operating in almost any business-viable part of the city.

Managing brothels through the existing District Plan would allow the legal operation of brothels that meet the plan requirements within the city of Upper Hutt, and promote the health, wellbeing, and rights of sex workers and their clients. This would be consistent with the Prostitution Reform Act of 2003 and also, the overarching work of RPH.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission. The contact point for this submission is:

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Ngā mihi

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