Written evidence submitted by Jay Ginn

1. Whether criminal sanction in relation to prostitution should continue to fall more heavily on those who sell sex, rather than those who buy it.

1.1 I believe it should not because it’s important that the women (or rent boys) should be protected from abuse and this is hard to achieve if they cannot report to the police without fear of penalty.

1.2 But in order to discourage demand, buyers should be arrested and penalised if guilty as charged. Demand from buyers drives prostitution, including trafficking in women (and children). Reducing demand through penalising buyers, pimps and brothel operators has several benefits, as shown by Swedish laws:

- 1.3 It will discourage exploitation of women and children for profit, including trafficking
- 1.4 It will discourage women from entering the sex industry and with support from NGOs will help them to leave and obtain other work
- 1.5 It will stem the flow of money into the sex industry, so that such money can be spent in other ways that bring more benefit to the economy and more tax. This diversion of men’s money away from prostitution may help to reduce household debt.

2. What the implications are for prostitution-related offences of the Crown Prosecution Service's recognition of prostitution as violence against women.

2.1 Women helped and supported to get off any pimp-induced drug habit and to find other work.

3. What impact the Modern Slavery Act 2015 has had to date on trafficking for purposes of prostitution, what further action is planned, and how effectively the impact is being measured.

3.1 I have no information on this. It’s early days.

4. Whether further measures are necessary, including legal reforms, to:
- Assist those involved in prostitution to exit from it
- Increase the extent to which exploiters are held to account
- Discourage demand which drives commercial sexual exploitation

4.1 I’m not an expert in legal reform but;

- 4.2 Assisting exit requires prostituted women to be treated as citizens not criminals
- 4.3 If the sex industry’s activities are criminalised, police must themselves understand that the implicit abuse and degradation involved in prostitution of women and children is serious and hence pursue exploiters vigorously and not dismiss prostitution as a ‘lifestyle choice’ on the part of the exploited.
- 4.4 Discouraging demand is key, see above, so all levels of sex industry management must be penalised, as well as the punters themselves.

5. Declaration of interest. I write as a social scientist, having no connection with the sex industry;