

PUBLIC TOILETS AND EMOTIONAL DISTRESS:

Exploring the Psychosocial Impacts of Inadequate Public Toilets on Unhoused Communities Focusing on Rough Sleepers In Leeds.

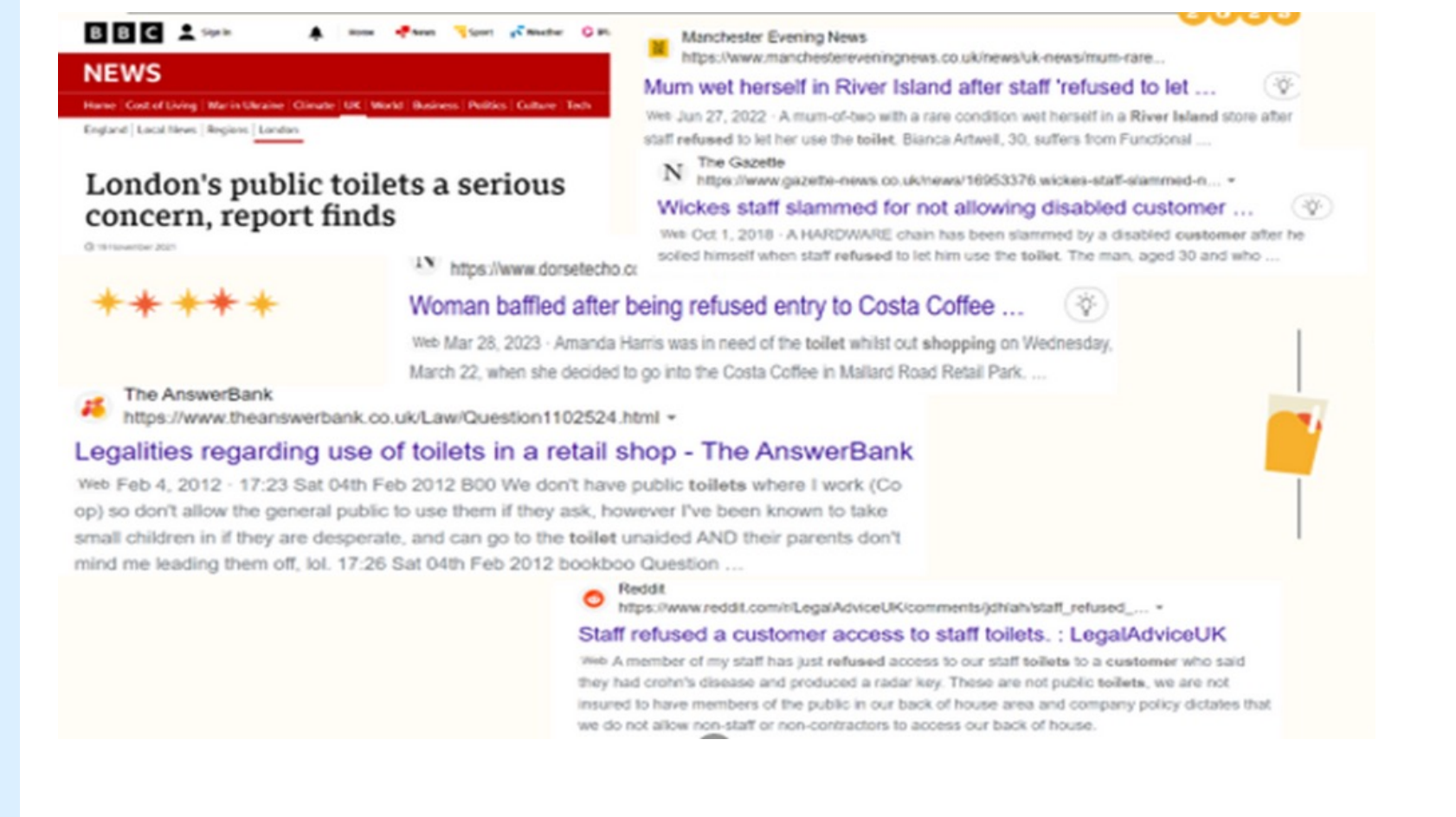


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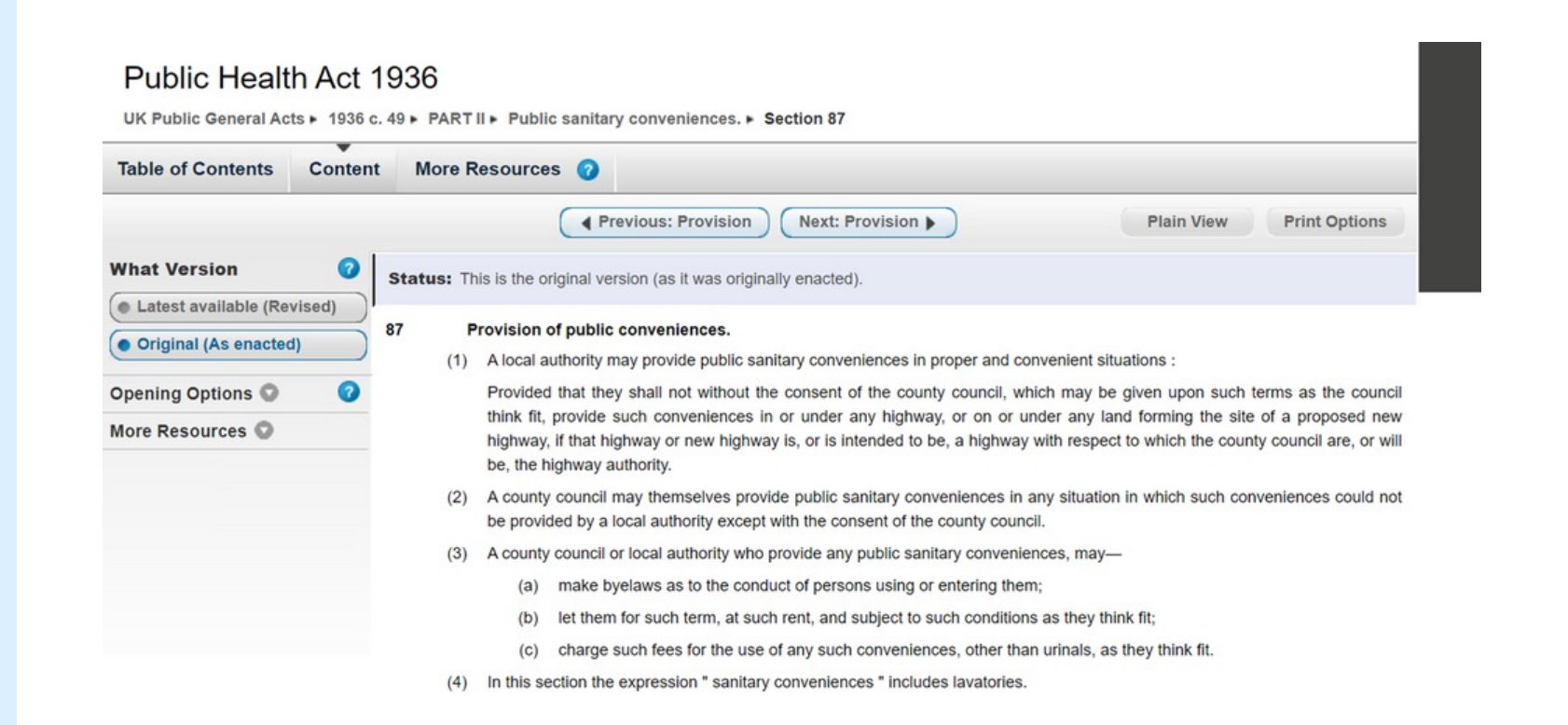
1. Overview

There is a noticeable decline in public toilets in UK cities, Bichard and Knight (2012) argued that there are many toilets on the UK high streets which can be used by members of the public. This research aims to rationalise how the that inadequate public toilet provision in LCC and the assumed replacement by publicly available facilities provide opportunities for different levels of inequalities.

2. Why It Matters

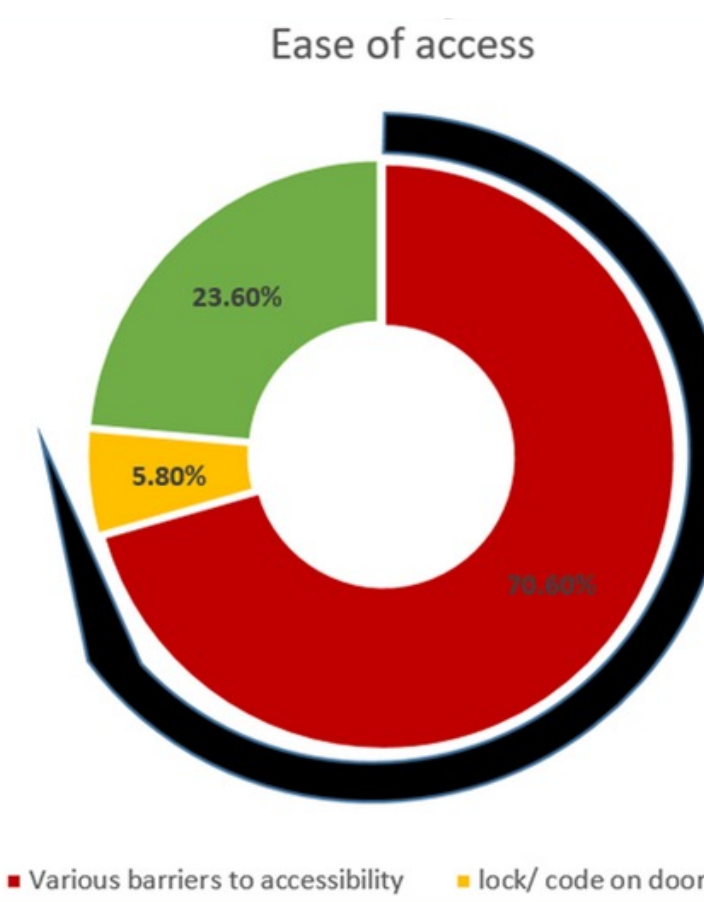
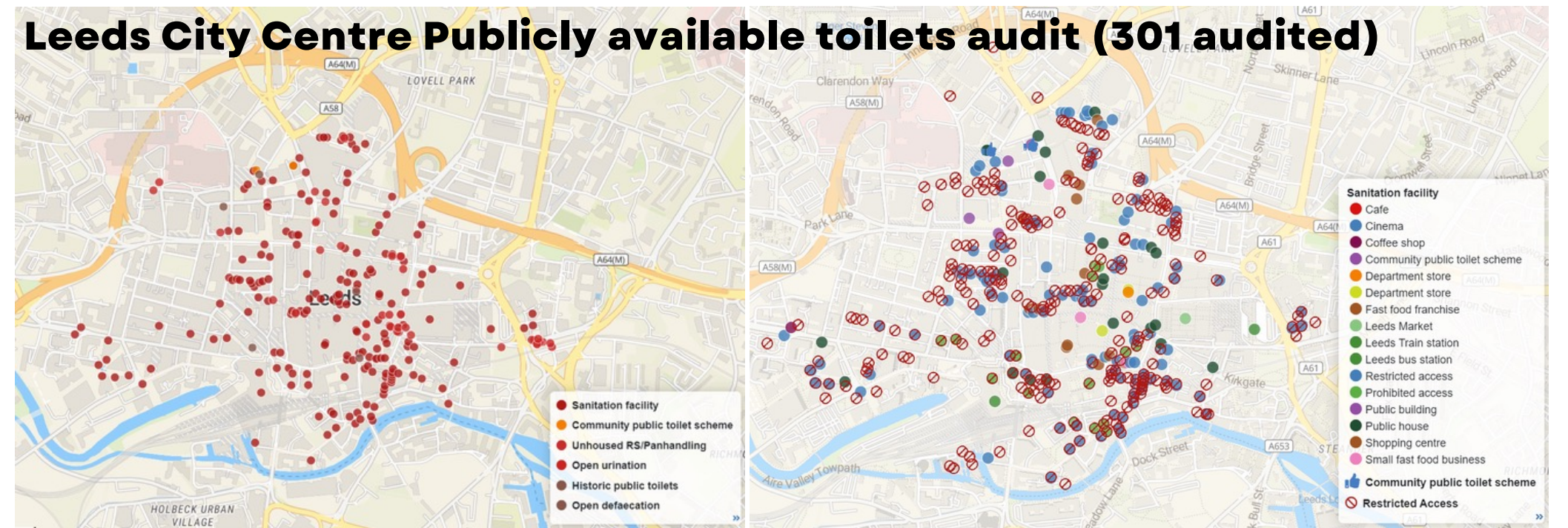


3. What Does Policy Say?



There is no legal obligation for Local Authorities to provide public toilets.

4. Results



Key Findings:

There are visible and hidden accessibility barriers when using publicly available toilets.
There is lack of information regarding accessibility and availability of these facilities.
Evidence of open urination and defecation in LCC.

Physical Accessibility Parameters



Easily accessible:

Researchers walked into the premises, used the toilets, take pictures and walked out without asking for permission or being accosted by staff.

Prohibited access:

Security at the door, closed during the day or limited opening hours, customers only enforcement notices.

Negotiated access:

Accosted by staff upon entering the premises as a non-customer, having to explain yourself or negotiate for access

5. Next Steps

Ethnographic data involving interviews with unhoused rough sleepers about how they cope with and/or transform everyday sanitation challenges in LCC.



Recent Article for the University of Leeds' WASH Blog:
Women's rights and the "loo leash": the fight for public toilets in the UK

<https://wash.leeds.ac.uk/womens-rights-and-the-loo-leash-the-fight-for-public-toilets-in-the-uk/>