

French Minister backs 'sex circus'

FRENCH Minister of Culture Jack Lang has stepped into the row over whether his country's controversial circus Archaos should be allowed in Bristol.

He has written to Bristol's Lord Mayor Councillor Jim Williams with a testimonial to the circus's quality.

The city council is to send observers to the circus in Manchester next week before deciding whether a two-week booking on the Downs should be agreed.

Councillors had second thoughts after circus publicity advertised it as a "surreal sex circus" — a "steamy, seamy mix of raunchy rock and roll".

Yesterday, council spokesman Mr Barry Taylor said: "There is on the one hand the knowledge that Archaos is funded by the French Ministry of Culture and that they have a very fine reputation.

"On the other hand there is a welter of vivid publicity which paints a less attractive picture of the circus."