

# Art attack over sign

## Culture project shows rude messages

BY **LUCY THORNTON**

**AN art installation has sparked a flood of complaints after flashing up rude messages.**

The City Speaks, a project on Hull's tidal barrier, converts what people say on a microphone on the dockside into scrolling text.

But locals said software is failing to filter out offensive words from mickey-takers.

Messages on the panel, part of Hull's City of Culture year, have included "send nudes" and "big hairy man hammock". Vicky

Owens, 34, said: "It said 'ejaculation', then all sorts. It was bizarre.

"You have to admit it's funny. But if I have my kids with me, it becomes a different issue."

Ben McKnight, communications director for Hull 2017, said: "There is a filter in place to block offensive words."

Andrew Knight, who curated the city's Look Up project, said at the launch of The City Speaks in February: "As time goes on, the software will get better. But we trust the people of Hull to use this as intended."

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**CURSED** Panel on tidal barrier

