

Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday 11 April 2017 at 10.00 am

**To be held at the Town Hall, Pinstone
Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH**

The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend

Membership

Councillors Alan Law (Chair), Anne Murphy and Vickie Priestley

PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

The Licensing Committee carries out a statutory licensing role, including licensing for taxis and public entertainment.

As a lot of the work of this Committee deals with individual cases, some meetings may not be open to members of the public.

Recording is allowed at Licensing Committee meetings under the direction of the Chair of the meeting. Please see the website or contact Democratic Services for details of the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at council meetings.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at www.sheffield.gov.uk. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday.

You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked * on the agenda.

If you require any further information please contact Harry Clarke on 0114 273 6183 or email harry.clarke@sheffield.gov.uk.

FACILITIES

There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE AGENDA
11 APRIL 2017**

Order of Business

- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting
- 5. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) - Sexual Entertainment Venues - Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS**
Report of the Chief Licensing Officer.

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ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS

If you are present at a meeting of the Council, of its executive or any committee of the executive, or of any committee, sub-committee, joint committee, or joint sub-committee of the authority, and you have a **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** relating to any business that will be considered at the meeting, you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

You **must**:

- leave the room (in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct)
- make a verbal declaration of the existence and nature of any DPI at any meeting at which you are present at which an item of business which affects or relates to the subject matter of that interest is under consideration, at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent.
- declare it to the meeting and notify the Council's Monitoring Officer within 28 days, if the DPI is not already registered.

If you have any of the following pecuniary interests, they are your **disclosable pecuniary interests** under the new national rules. You have a pecuniary interest if you, or your spouse or civil partner, have a pecuniary interest.

- Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain, which you, or your spouse or civil partner undertakes.
- Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from your council or authority) made or provided within the relevant period* in respect of any expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

*The relevant period is the 12 months ending on the day when you tell the Monitoring Officer about your disclosable pecuniary interests.

- Any contract which is made between you, or your spouse or your civil partner (or a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest) and your council or authority –
 - under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
 - which has not been fully discharged.

- Any beneficial interest in land which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, have and which is within the area of your council or authority.
- Any licence (alone or jointly with others) which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, holds to occupy land in the area of your council or authority for a month or longer.
- Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) –
 - the landlord is your council or authority; and
 - the tenant is a body in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest.
- Any beneficial interest which you, or your spouse or your civil partner has in securities of a body where -
 - (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of your council or authority; and
 - (b) either -
 - the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or
 - if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, or your spouse or your civil partner, has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

If you attend a meeting at which any item of business is to be considered and you are aware that you have a **personal interest** in the matter which does not amount to a DPI, you must make verbal declaration of the existence and nature of that interest at or before the consideration of the item of business or as soon as the interest becomes apparent. You should leave the room if your continued presence is incompatible with the 7 Principles of Public Life (selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership).

You have a personal interest where –

- a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing (including interests in land and easements over land) of you or a member of your family or a person or an organisation with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the Authority's administrative area, or
- it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests that are defined as DPIs but are in respect of a member of your family (other than a partner) or a person with whom you have a close association.

Guidance on declarations of interest, incorporating regulations published by the Government in relation to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, has been circulated to you previously.

You should identify any potential interest you may have relating to business to be considered at the meeting. This will help you and anyone that you ask for advice to fully consider all the circumstances before deciding what action you should take.

In certain circumstances the Council may grant a **dispensation** to permit a Member to take part in the business of the Authority even if the member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest relating to that business.

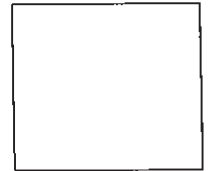
To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's Audit and Standards Committee in relation to a request for dispensation.

Further advice can be obtained from Gillian Duckworth, Director of Legal and Governance on 0114 2734018 or email gillian.duckworth@sheffield.gov.uk.

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SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Licensing Sub Committee Report



Report of: Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer, Head of Licensing

Date: Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

Subject: **Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield**

Author of Report: Steve Lonnia

Summary: To consider an application for the renewal of a sexual entertainment licence in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 (as amended)

Recommendations: That Members note the content of the report, any further information supplied and make a renewal decision based on the evidence.

Background Papers: Attached to this report.

Category of Report: OPEN

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LICENSING OFFICER,
HEAD OF LICENSING, TO THE LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Ref No 48/17

Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) - Sexual Entertainment Venues

Premises – Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider an application for the renewal of a sexual entertainment venue licence made under Schedule 3, Section 10, of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

2.0 THE APPLICATION

2.1 The applicant is Sonfield Developments Limited.

2.2 The application was received on 22nd February 2017 and is attached to this report, labelled Appendix 'A'.

3.0 REASONS FOR REFERRAL

3.1 Representations concerning the application have been received from the following:-

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| a) | Interested parties - Objectors (97) | Appendix 'B' |
| b) | Interested parties – Supporters (17) Neutral (1) | Appendix 'C' |

4.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

4.1 The hearing will be held in two parts in accordance with the hearing procedure. A departure from the procedure will only be considered at the discretion of the Chair and with full agreement of all interested parties present at the hearing.

4.2 Objections will be heard in part one of the hearing.

4.3 The applicant will be invited to present the application in part two of the hearing.

4.4 Copies of the invites sent to the applicant and interested parties are attached to this report labelled Appendix 'D'.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this application. However, additional costs may be incurred should the matter go to appeal. In such an eventuality it may not be possible to recover all these costs. The impact of these additional costs (if any) will be kept under review and may be subject of a further report during the year.

6.0 THE LEGAL POSITION

6.1 Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 amends Paragraph 2A of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and introduces a new

category of sex establishments called "sexual entertainment venues" which allows licensing authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues.

6.2 Sheffield City Council has adopted the Sexual Entertainment Venue Provisions under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by Section 27 of the Policing & Crime Act 2009 so as to have effect as from the 1st May, 2011, in relation to the whole of the Sheffield City Council area for the purposes of regulating premises deemed to be sexual entertainment venues.

6.3 Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 amends Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and reclassifies lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues and gives local authorities in England and Wales the power to regulate such venues.

6.4 For the purposes of these new provisions "sexual entertainment venue" is defined as:

"any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer".

6.5 The meaning of "relevant entertainment" is defined as;

"any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such a nature that, ignoring financial gain, it must reasonably be assumed to be provided solely or principally for the purpose of sexually stimulating any member of an audience (whether by verbal or other means)".

6.6 The Licensing Authority will have regard to the Home Office Guidance when exercising its functions in order to promote best practice and consistency across England and Wales.

7.0 EQUALITY CONSIDERATION – PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty was created by the Equality Act 2010, and replaces the race, disability and gender equality duties. It is supported by the specific duties contained in The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011.

7.2 The equality duty was developed in order to harmonise the equality duties and to extend it across the protected characteristics. It consists of a general equality duty, supported by specific duties which are imposed by secondary legislation. In summary, those subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

7.3 These are sometimes referred to as the three aims or arms of the general equality duty. The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.

- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

7.4 The Act states that meeting different needs involves taking steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities. It describes fostering good relations as tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups. It states that compliance with the duty may involve treating some people more favorably than others.

7.5 The equality duty covers the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Public authorities also need to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status. This means that the first aim of the duty applies to this characteristic but that the other aims (advancing equality and fostering good relations) do not apply.

7.6 Therefore members should when making any decisions consider the above duty.

7.7 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and approved by the Council's Equality Team and attached at Appendix 'E' are the notes from that assessment. Members should be aware that equality impact assessments are under constant review.

8.0 POLICY – SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Members should be aware of Section 7 of the current policy with regards to the Location of Licensed Premises. The Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy published in April 2011 is in the process of being reviewed. It is anticipated that the new policy will be finalised by the Summer of 2017.

8.2 Members will need to consider whether in the application attached the proposed premises is in their opinion in close proximity to:-

- a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;
- b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;
- c) a church or other place of religious worship;
- d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;
- e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or
- f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

8.3 Members will also need to consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate:-

- a) cumulative adverse impact of existing sex establishment related activities in the vicinity of the proposed premises;
- b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;
- c) whether the premises has met the relevant planning requirements; and/or
- d) the design of the premises frontage (signage/images etc)
- e) any relevant representations regarding the application.

9.0 HEARINGS REGULATIONS

- 9.1 The hearing procedure is set out in Schedule 3 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1982 at Section 10. A copy of the hearing procedure is attached at Appendix 'F'.

10.0 APPEALS

- 10.1 In the event that an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a sexual entertainment venue licence is refused, the applicant may appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of receiving notification of the decision.
- 10.2 If the application is refused on paragraph (c) or (d) of the discretionary grounds specified in Appendix 'G', there is no right of appeal.
- 10.3 There is no statutory right of appeal for objectors where an application is granted.

11.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 That Members carefully consider the application and / or any representations made and take such steps as the Committee consider necessary for the promotion of the Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy and with regard to relevant legislation and the Home Office Guidance.

12.0 OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

- 12.1 To grant the sexual entertainment venue licence application in the terms requested.
- 12.2 To grant the sexual entertainment venue licence application, with additional or amended conditions.
- 12.3 To defer the application.
- 12.4 To refuse the whole or part of the application.

Stephen Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing
Business Strategy and Regulation
Place Portfolio
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Sheffield S9 3HD

11th April 2017

Appendix A

The Application

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE APPLICATIONS

Application for the Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Licensing Service
Place Portfolio
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD
S9 3HD

Telephone Number: 0114 273 4264
Fax Number: 0114 273 5410

Or visit our website: www.sheffield.gov.uk
Or email us at: general.licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Opening Times

Monday to Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm

Sheffield *where everyone matters*



Application for Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence

Notes to Applicant:

All questions must be answered unless otherwise stated.

If relevant questions are not answered, the application will be deemed incomplete and returned to the Applicant.

I / WE HEREBY APPLY to the Sheffield City Council for the renewal of a licence to use a premises as a Sexual Entertainment Venue.

A. THE APPLICANT

Q1	Is the Applicant:			
	a.	An individual?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer question 2
	b.	A company or other corporate body?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Answer question 3 & 4
	c.	A partnership or other unincorporated body?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Answer question 5

Q2	Answer only where the applicant is an individual.	
	Full Name of the Applicant	
	Applicants permanent private address	
	Occupation (during preceding six months).	
	Telephone No.	

You need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 5

Q3	Answer only if the Applicant is a company or other corporate body.	
	Full Name of the Applicant	SONFIELD DEVLEOPMENTS LIMITED
	Applicant's trading address	60 BROWN STREET, SHEFFIELD, S1 2BS
	Applicant's registered address (if different)?	C/O 161 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1T 7NN

	What is the registered number of the Applicant?	04315210
	Has the Applicant previously been known by any other name, and if so, what?	NO

A3

	What are the full names of the Directors and Company Secretary?	KATHY JoANN VERCHER JOHN ROBERT SPECHT SPEARMINT RHINO SECRETARIAL SERVICES LIMITED
	Are any persons responsible for the management of the Applicant other than the Directors and Company Secretary? If so, state their names	Yes [] No [x]
	For all persons with a shareholding greater than 10% in the Applicant state the names, and registered address where it is a body corporate of all persons and their percentage shareholding at the date of application.	SPEARMINT RHINO VENTURES (UK) LIMITED C/O 161 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1T 7NN
	For any body corporate with a shareholding holding greater than 10% in the Applicant, state the names of its Directors and Company Secretary.	KATHY JoANN VERCHER JOHN ROBERT SPECHT
All individuals named above need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 5		

Q4	Answer only if the Applicant is a partnership or other unincorporated body:	
	Full Name of the Applicant	
	Applicants trading address	
	What are the names, of the Applicants Partners?	
	Are there persons responsible for the management of the Applicant other than the Partners? If so, state their names.	
	Has the Applicant previously been known by any other name, and if so, what?	
All individuals named above need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 6		

Q5	Will the business for which a licence is sought be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person other than those already mentioned in answer to Q2 to Q4 above. This includes third parties such as funders and suppliers where the arrangements are not on normal arms length commercial terms or any persons who may share in the profits.	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is yes, state their name(s). If a body corporate body, state their place of registration and registered number, and the name(s), of all Directors, the Company Secretary and those with a greater than 10% shareholding.	

Q6	Has any body corporate or unincorporated named in Q3 to Q5 above:		
	• Ever been convicted of a criminal offence, issued with a caution, or bound over to be of good behavior?	Yes []	No [x]
	• Ever had a grant or renewal application for a sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue licence refused or such licence revoked?	Yes []	No [x]
	• Ever been the subject of insolvency proceedings?	Yes []	No [x]
	• If Yes please provide full details including dates (this can be done on a separate piece of paper).		

Note: Question 6 does not apply to individuals as they are required to answer similar questions in Annex A.

Q7	Does the Applicant have a trading name different from that given in answer 2, 3 or 4 above? If so, state the trading name.	SPEARMINT RHINO
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Q8	Does the Applicant operate any other sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield whether licensed or not?	Yes []	No [X]
	If so, state the name, address and type(s) of sex establishment (e.g. sex shop, sex cinema, sexual entertainment venue).		

Notes to Applicant:

Each of the individuals named in Questions 2, 3, 4 and 5 must complete a copy of the form attached at Annex A to this application.

These form part of the application and must be submitted with this application. If not, the application will not be regarded as complete and will not be processed.

It will be rejected if not made complete within seven working days of receipt.

B. THE PREMISES, VEHICLE, VESSEL OR STALL

A6

Q9	Is this application in respect of:	Premises	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Go to Question 11
		Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Vessel	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Stall	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q10	Answer only where the application is for a vehicle, vessel or stall		
	Give a description and state all locations where the vehicle / vessel / stall is proposed to be located during use as a sexual entertainment venue. If moving please describe the route to be taken and any places where it will be stationary.		
Now go to question 12			

Q11	Postal address of premises: SPEARMINT RHINO 60 BROWN STREET		
	Post Town: SHEFFIELD	Postcode: S1 2BS	
	Telephone Number:	Email Address: receptionuk@spearmintrhino.com	

For Q12 to Q17 reference to premises should be taken to include vehicle, vessel or stall as appropriate.

Q12	Is the whole of the premises to be used as a sexual entertainment venue?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	If not, state the use of the remainder of the premises		
	State the names of those who are responsible for the management of the remainder of the premises		

Q13	State the nature of the Applicant's interest in the premises.	a.	Owner	<input type="checkbox"/>
		b.	Lessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		c.	Sub-lessee	<input type="checkbox"/>
	If the Applicant is a lessee or sub-lessee, state:			
	(i) the name and address of the landlord	Keith Wilson Katsuri Petia Paphos, Cyprus		

	(ii) the name and address of the superior landlord (if any)	
	(iii) the amount of the annual rental	£165,000
	(iv) the length of the unexpired term	9 years
	(v) the length of notice required to terminate the tenancy	Not less than 6 months

Q14	State the current use of the premises	SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE
	Is there planning permission for the premises (or any site where a vehicle, vessel or stall is to be placed) which covers use as a sexual entertainment venue?	Yes [X] No []
	If so, state the date of the planning permission	07/01/2002
	If not, state whether and why the use as a sexual entertainment venue is lawful, e.g. because there is a certificate of lawful use, give full details.	

Q15	Are the premises licensed under any other Act, e.g. the Licensing Act 2003?	Yes [X] No []
	Provide full details:	
	(i) Legislation	Licensing Act 2003
	(ii) Premises Licence Holder	SONFIELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
	(iii) Designated Premises Supervisor	PETER MERCER
	(iv) Licence number	SY 0971 PR
	Does the Applicant intend to obtain or vary a licence under any other Act?	Yes [] No [X]
	Provide full details:	
	(i) Legislation	
	(ii) Type of application	
	(iii) Licence number	

Q16	Is customer access to the premises:	Directly from the street or a public thoroughfare? [X]
		From other premises? [] Please provide details:

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Is each customer access from the street to be supervised at all times the premises are open to the public?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/> If the answer is No give full details of proposed door controls and supervision:
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Q17 Are the premises, so constructed or adapted and laid out as to permit access to, from and within the premises (including WC facilities) for members of the public who are disabled?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/> If the answer is No give full details of proposals for affording such access:
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Q18 Are the premises being used as a sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue at the date of this application?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>
If the answer is Yes, state the name and address of the body or person now operating the business.	Name: SONFIELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED Address: C/O 161 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1T 7NN

C. MANAGEMENT OF THE BUSINESS

Q19 State the identity of the person who will be primarily responsible for the day to day management of the business at the premises.	Name: PETER MERCER – GENERAL MANAGER
Will that person be based at the premises and will the management of the business there will be his/her sole and exclusive occupation.	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>
Which person(s) will be responsible for the day to day management of the business in the absence of the person named above.	Name: MICHAEL DAVID GOODWIN (MANAGER)

	Name: ANDREW FOSTER (REGIONAL MANAGER)
Confirm that the relief manager(s) or one of them will be based at the premises full time in the absence of the Manager.	Yes [X] No []
You should ensure that any person listed in this question is also included in Q2 to Q5 above as appropriate.	

Q20 State all times at which the premises will be used as a Sexual Entertainment Venue			
Day	Start	Finish	Please give further details here:
Mon	00:00	24:00	
Tue	00:00	24:00	
Wed	00:00	24:00	State any seasonal variations:
Thur	00:00	24:00	
Fri	00:00	24:00	Non-standard timings. Where you intend to use the premises at different times from those listed in the column on the left:
Sat	00:00	24:00	
Sun	00:00	24:00	

Q21 State proposals in respect of: (A plan of the exterior must be submitted)			
Exterior Signage	Nature:	1. SIGN ABOVE THE FRONT DOOR. 2. WINDOW SIGN, LOGO AND WEB ADDRESS 3. SIGN AT SIDE OF BUILDING.	
	Size:	1. 4FT BY 9FT 2. 6FT BY 9FT 3. 2FT BY 7FT	

		Images:	PHOTOS PROVIDED
		Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Advertising	Nature:	EVENTS BOARD NEXT TO FRONT DOOR	
	Size:	A1/A2	
	Images:	PHOTO	
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Window Displays	Nature:	SEE ABOVE	
	Size:		
	Images:		
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Q21	State any proposals for solicitation or advertisement of business in public areas (in doing so you should take account of the Council's Policy and the Standard Terms and Conditions that will apply to the licence if granted) :		
Fliers	Images:	FLYERS/VIP PASSES DISTRIBUTED WHERE LAWFUL AND ON DISPLAY IN HOTELS BY AGREEMENT	
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Business Cards	Images:	SEE PHOTO	
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	Images:		
	Copy Supplied:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

Q22	What means are to be taken to prevent the interior of the premises being visible to passers-by?	ENTRANCE FOYER IS VISABLE FROM THE OUTSIDE. NO AREAS WHERE RELEVANT ENTERTAINMENT IS VISABLE FROM THE
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		OUTSIDE DUE TO THE LOCATION OF THE ROOMS AND WINDOWS BEING BLACKED OUT/BOARDED.

Q23	<p>State what age restrictions are to be applied in respect of admissions, and how are these to be enforced.</p> <p>In answering, state what forms of identity will be accepted.</p>	<p>NO- ONE UNDER 18 PERMITTED</p> <p>PASSPORT/ DRIVING LICENCE</p>
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Q24	<p>State the arrangements for CCTV and for retention of recordings.</p> <p>In answering, state whether all public areas are to be covered by CCTV at all times the business is open and whether the feed from all cameras will be recorded.</p>	<p>ALL AREAS OF THE PREMISIES, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ARE COVERED BY CCTV, THERE HAVE BEEN NO CHANGES TO THE SYSTEM AND ALL CAMERAS RECORD WHILST THE PREMISIES IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS. RECORDINGS ARE GENERALLY KEPT FOR 70 DAYS, COPIES OF RECORDINGS CAN BE PROVIDED TO POLICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY SUBJECT TO DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998.</p>
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Q25	<p>State whether the proposal is for full nudity (nudity is defined as per the Council's Policy).</p>	<p>Yes [X] No []</p>
	<p>Give full details of the nature of the entertainment.</p> <p>Lap Dancing</p>	<p>IN BOOTHS</p>
	<p>Pole Dancing</p>	<p>ON STAGE</p>
	<p>Stage Strip-tease</p>	<p>ON STAGE</p>
	<p>Other</p>	<p>ANYTHING OF A LIKE KIND</p>
	<p>State whether arrangements are proposed for private booths or areas. If so, provide full details (highlighted on accompanying plans),</p>	<p>SEE PLANS, AREAS COVERED BY DOOR SUPERVISORS.</p>

	including proposals for supervision of such areas.	
--	----------------------------------------------------	--

Q26	This question need not be answered in the case of renewals.	
A	State proposals for preventing nuisance to residents and businesses in the vicinity:	
	RENEWAL	
B	State proposals for promoting public safety:	
	RENEWAL	
C	State proposals for preventing crime or disorder:	
	RENEWAL	
D	State proposals for protecting children from harm:	
	RENEWAL	
E	Set out the system for training all staff in the Code of Practice for performance, and enforcing compliance. <i>(Note: the Code of Practice must be attached to this form.)</i>	RENEWAL
F	Set out the system for notifying customers of the Rules for Customers, and for monitoring and enforcing compliance. <i>(Note: the Rules for Customers must be attached to this form.)</i>	RENEWAL
G	Set out the system for monitoring compliance with the venue's Policy for Welfare of Performers. <i>(Note: the Policy for Welfare of Performers must be attached to this form.)</i>	RENEWAL

Q27 Set out any further information which you wish the authority to take into account.

Include here any proposed conditions (you may attach a schedule of such conditions) or any reason relied upon to provide an exception to the authority's Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy or Standard Conditions (any such application will be referred to Licensing Sub-Committee for determination).

THE PREMISES HAS OPERATED FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND THERE IS NO CHANGE TO THE CURRENT OPERATION OR TO THE PLANS. DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED PREVIOUSLY.

Appendix B

Representations – Objectors

Objection 1

09/March/2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue license by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this license and I call for the council to refuse it.

Although I have clearly used the template letter provided by ZERO Option (which I fully support) I do want to make it clear that the arguments made are those I would make myself. I have had a long experience of offering pastoral care to university students a majority of whom have been women. I regard it as a retrograde step for the city of Sheffield to approve of and thence offer licenses to such establishments. The city's desire to build a city founded on fairness as social justice, (cf Fair City campaign; Sheffield Fairness Commission) demands that there is equality between the genders and that women and men are not subject to the current objectification of their bodies as currently persists within Sheffield and sadly elsewhere. These clubs are not 'a bit of fun' they are harmful to the individuals that attend them, to those who work within them, and to the image of the city to our many visitors.

I believe that the Council should **refuse** the license application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fear about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are

people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

^[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

^[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^[4] (p. 90)

Objection 2

March 9th 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue license by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this license and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

' . . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'^[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] (p. 90)

Objection 3

Dear Sir or Madam

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I work as a lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University and often attend events in The Hubs, our Student Union building. I know that a number of our students feel uncomfortable about the presence of Spearmint Rhino so close to the student union.

They (and I) also feel unhappy about the way in which Spearmint Rhino attempts to promote itself as part of the normal, mainstream night-life of Sheffield. Spearmint Rhino has two weekly 'Student Nights': free entry with an NUS card, discounted drinks and 'dances'. In this way Spearmint Rhino seeks to affiliate and integrate itself with Sheffield Hallam University, even though the university's policies on Gender Equality and the NUS's stand on the harmful effects of university 'lad culture' run completely counter to the ethos of such an establishment.

I, and it seems a growing number of students, feel that the normalisation and mainstream promotion of such venues is very harmful to women. These venues promote a dehumanised view of women, sending out the message that women's bodies are for male consumption. **In the context of a society in which there is widespread violence against women, and in the light of the NUS research findings regarding 'lad culture' in universities***, I think this is something Sheffield Council should be taking very seriously.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

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There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

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Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

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[4] (p. 90)

Objection 4

12th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

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There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

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^[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^[4] (p. 90)

Objection 5

13 March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] (p. 90)

Objection 6

13 March 2017

Dear Sir Or Madam

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I am of the opinion that there are a number of reasons why the Spearmint Rhino Club should not be given a license renewal.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

In my opinion, in the 21st century, there is no place for sexual entertainment venues. Women should not be viewed at something to be bought and sold.

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a

licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

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‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

Please send me an acknowledgement of receipt of this email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

REFERENCES:-

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] (p. 90)

Objection 7

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

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In its current policy, the Council states:

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;
There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;
There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship,

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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[4] (p. 90)

Objection 8

13 March, 2017

Dear Licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

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There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

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Objection 9

13-3-17

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

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'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The

Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

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If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

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Objection 10

14.03.17

Dear Licensing Service

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This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Objection 11

14/03/2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality.

This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas –

subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men.

Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

When the Club was first licensed, UTC - a college for 14 to 19 year-olds - had not been built.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events.

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of

women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in Criminal Justice Matters, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 12

Sent: 14 March 2017 22:17

To: licensingservice

Subject: renewal of license of Spearmint Rhino

I have recently given up my studio at Yorkshire Artspace. One of the contributing factors was the presence of Spearmint Rhino opposite the Studios, Leaving the studio in the evening means running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club harassing women who are passing the club. These include the bouncers from the club. The area is not residential so often the only people around the club and the studios are men going to and from the club. This makes the area feel unsafe for women coming and going in the area to and from the studios. The area is testosterone filled and unpleasant for women to move around in. There were often broken bottles on the street left by men leaving the club. These were never cleaned up by the club. The area is meant to be an arts quarter and the presence of Spearmint Rhino degrades the arts and makes it unsafe for women like myself.

Objection 13

15/03/2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue license by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this license and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the license application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

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Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

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Additional grounds for refusal

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Objection 14

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

15th March 2017

Dear Licensing

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

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If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 15

Date – Monday 13th March 2017

Miss Louise Haigh MP,
Member of Parliament for Sheffield Heeley,
63/65 Chesterfield Road,
Heeley,
Sheffield,
S8 0RL.



Reference –

Closure of Spearmint Rhino Brown Street, Sheffield

Dear Miss Haigh,

I am writing as I would like to voice my opinion about the upcoming renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

I would like to see this disgusting business removed from our city, for me this kind of thing really makes our city stand out for all the wrong reasons.

I truly believe that in 2017 this kind of business would have been finished with years ago, it is a disgraceful way to be earning money. It says it is a gentlemen's club but any real gentleman wouldn't go to some place like this I wouldn't.

This kind of business, really needs closing down I want Sheffield to be a welcoming city for women not the kind where we have a place where men go and watch strippers because that is what they are strippers not dancers.

As a man I feel horrible that women might just think that all men are ones that watch strippers and go to brothels, because me I found this whole business dirty

I want women to have great lives where they are treated with respect and can have great careers and lives like you Miss Haigh, you should be a shining example of what a women should want to be in life.

For me this is no kind of life really, please help these young women escape this life because I don't think all of them want to be doing this.

This kind of business is not what we want in this city, I know you can't stop everything Miss Haigh that happens in our city but please try to put pressure on the council to stop this business being in our city.

Yours sincerely –

Objection 16

Sheffield Hallam University

16th March 2017

Chief Licensing Officer
Licensing Services
Sheffield City Council
Block C,
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

Re: Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS - Application under Part II and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 - Sexual Entertainment Venue License

We, Sheffield Hallam University, wish to object to the above application for the reasons outlined below.

Section 7 of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy states that The Council may refuse the grant or renewal of the license if it would be inappropriate, having regard to the character of the relevant locality, and that the Council acknowledges that licensed premises (sexual entertainment venues) "*can result in a potential fear of crime, anti social behaviour, noise pollution and other disturbance to residents*".

The route past Spearmint Rhino is a very high traffic area for students with an abundance of student accommodation nearby and a new development for student accommodation situated immediately adjacent; the route for students to Sheffield Hallam takes them directly past the venue during normal working hours and around the clock, due to Sheffield Hallam University's Learning Centre opening hours 24/7 and teaching hours up to 9pm. There is also concern that our students are entitled to and need to feel safe and secure during their studies at Sheffield Hallam and that a venue such as Spearmint Rhino will undermine the perception of safety that the City and the University has spent considerable resources to ensure. The current existence of the venue portrays the area in an anti-social light not conducive with its setting in the Cultural Industries Quarter, with fear and perception of crime being induced in some people who use the area including walking past the venue.

The Policy states that the council will not license premises that it feels are in close proximity to: -

- a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;
- b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;
- c) a church or other place of religious worship;
- d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

- e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or
- f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The presence of a striptease club in the heart of the Cultural Industries Quarter is inappropriate, with the focus of the area being arts, media and education mixed with industrial heritage. Sheffield train station and the main transport interchange is just a moment's walk from the venue providing a main gate way to and from the city centre and we feel that having Spearmint Rhino in such a location gives a negative impression of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University.

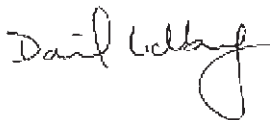
The strip club is also directly adjacent to the Quarters' only designated Public Space which is probably not used to its full potential, likely to be down to the fact that it is next to a strip club. It is also directly opposite Sheffield Hallam University's Students Union which is a Social and Cultural Hub as well as providing advice and services including counselling, equality, disability, legal and personal issues.

According to Sheffield City Councils' Urban Design Statement, the venue is surrounded by significant buildings of character, is within a Character Area and is adjacent to a Landmark (SHU Students Union).

Sheffield City Council states that its vision for the Cultural Industries Quarter is 'to develop its growing reputation as a thriving cultural enclave and will help to establish Sheffield as a regionally and nationally significant centre for knowledge and creativity' and that 'mixing of uses within the Quarter could offer a diverse range of activity. These uses would complement each other and not inhibit the development of the Quarter as a vibrant cultural destination'. We feel that Spearmint Rhino does not complement any of these attributes and in fact works in total opposition to above statements and is in no way cultural, artistic or educational.

The venue is not in close proximity to a church or places of worship, however a large number of students studying at Sheffield Hallam University are religious and regularly visit our Prayer Rooms and Multi-faith Chaplaincy located off Pond Street. They must walk past Spearmint Rhino to get there. It is likely that a venue such as this may cause offence to such students.

Sheffield Hallam University also has various Cultural and social hubs nearby including Cafes on Arundel Street and an art gallery in the Cantor Building. Other gallery spaces are often used by Sheffield Hallam including several venues on Brown Street and Paternoster Row.



Daniel Ladbury
Director of Estates

Objection 17

Dear Licensing,

I am emailing about the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS. This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it. I live in Sheffield, and travel to Nottingham each day by train; I therefore frequently walk past the current venue.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students' Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

Objection 18

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’^[1]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 19

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equality issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Objection 20

Dear Licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Faithfully,

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 21

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

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There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

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f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 22

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

17th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the

impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

Furthermore, as an individual and also as a part of the survivor community, I object to this as it directly exploits women and leaves rape and sexual abuse survivors like myself feeling further victimised. This establishment clearly paints women in a certain light, a light that encourages the abuse and rape of women. As clearly stated above, many women avoid areas with these kinds of establishments due to a lack of safety around the men that frequent these establishments, there's a clear link between the consumption of pornography and strippers and sexualising women's bodies and the abuse and rape of women. To make all women, especially those that have already survived rape and abuse, it is imperative to not fill our town with these kinds of establishments. The safety and comfort of women and our right to not feel like pieces of meat is just as, if not more important than a man's right to sexualise and profit off of our bodies.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in Criminal Justice Matters, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 23

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’^[1]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 24

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*: page 86

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' ____

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' ____.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' ____

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’ ___

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

___ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

___ Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

___ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

___ p. 90



Sheffield City Council
Licensing Section
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

Date: 17th March 2017

To whomever it may concern,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on two grounds:

Ground c):

"the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality."

The grounds go on to state that "Nil may be an appropriate number for the purposes of (c)"

Ground d):

"the grant or renewal of a licence would be inappropriate, having regard -

(i) to the character of the relevant locality; or

(ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises; vehicle; vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made."

Sheffield City Council also has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

Furthermore Schedule 3 1982 Act provides specific grounds to refuse/renew license:

e) "cultural hub of city"

f) "central gateway to the city...or tourist attraction"

Our general terms of objection are as follows:

- the part of the city that the club is situated is unsuitable due to it being in the "cultural heart" of the city. The Sexual Entertainment Venue is situated in the cultural heart of Sheffield, and within the area of the railway station, the main gateway and welcome point to the city, encompassing the pedestrianised walk way up to town centre.
- the club is situated directly next to the Hallam Students Union, a hub of young impressionable people, sometimes vulnerable and often away from home for the first time.
- the club is situated in close proximity to the Workstation, a conference facility that hosts events such as the Children's Media Conference, Sheffield Documentary Festival.
- the club is situated in close proximity to The Showroom, an independent cinema that promotes 'Young Cinema', a programme that encourages children and young adults to engage in film, and 'Kickstart', a programme for children with autism and their families.
- the club is situated in close proximity to a number of organisations which support vulnerable children and adults

The Workstation - 15 Paternoster Row - Sheffield - S1 2BX
0114 220 1426 - info@cmso.co.uk - www.cmso.co.uk

Company Limited by Guarantee No. 5105212 - Registered in England and Wales

- when walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city.

- the Council's own promotion of the city is "Sheffield - where everyone matters" - this includes the female citizens of the city who should not be subjected to their city promoting and normalising the sexualisation and objectification of them

- this image or a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and Sheffield's own widely publicised belief of Sheffield being a city "where everyone matters."

- granting a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city,

- the council has a duty under the Equality Act to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I also ask what actions or discussions the council has taken in order to consider what number of sexual entertainment venues is appropriate for Sheffield, as stated in the policy and legislation? Has the Council for example, as per their own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

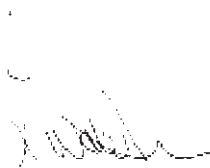
R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality.

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Zoe Walton
Finance Manager
Community Media Solutions

Objection 26

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

17/03/2017

Dear Licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'^[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'^[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'^[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.
I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4]

Objection 27

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

Friday 17th March

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the Sheffield City Council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to modify their behaviour because of Spearmint Rhino being there: for example, having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

‘ . . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club. [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows the organisations involved.

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom Cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the Children’s Media Conference; Off the Shelf, ShAFF, and so on.

Furthermore, there is a large young student presence in the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women.

Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the Council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the Council says it stands for, everything that the Council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the Council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the licence.'^[4]

The case of **Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)** was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 28

20 March 2017

Dear Licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' | |

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' | |

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

‘... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.’[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the

impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[1]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 29

Sheffield City Council
Licensing Section
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD
2017

19 March

Dear Licensing Service

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'^[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of

men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 30

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

19.03.2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

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There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 31

Dear Licensing

I am writing to you in reference to the application for a sexual entertainment licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

I am writing in objection to the application for this licence, and I call on the council to refuse it under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy.

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

I personally work at Sheffield Hallam University and was appalled upon starting at the University to see an SEV in such close proximity to a University, and in particular to the Students Union building where women are encouraged to walk in this area late at night. I have on occasion needed to walk past Spearmint Rhino during its opening hours and have felt very uncomfortable and nervous for my personal safety around this venue.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'.

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs. The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Objection 32

Dear Licensing

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Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

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'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

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This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

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There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

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Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

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f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the “Cultural Quarter” - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

19th March 2017

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

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There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

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There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

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This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it

stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

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Objection 34

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I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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Insert name and address

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As a school teacher, I sometimes bring parties of under 16s to the Showroom Cinema. I am unhappy for my students to have to walk near to Spearmint Rhino.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

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If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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Objection 37

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

16th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations

ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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Objection 38

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This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

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Additional grounds for refusal

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Objection 39

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Objection 40

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

17th March 2017

Dear Licensing

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A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

As well as the statutory reasons listed above I object to the proposal as a business owner in the city. I run a high end consulting business from the workstation. We attract and work with clients in all sectors from all around the world. We chose the workstation as a vibrant, entrepreneurial office space which showcases the best of Sheffield creativity. The area around us is full of inspiring businesses and amenities that help us entertain our clients in a pleasing urban

environment. We work hard to promote Sheffield as a destination to our clients and to position ourselves alongside competitors based in London, Lisbon, Copenhagen and other world cities. The presence of the SEV opposite the workstation has a highly adverse impact on our ability to present Sheffield in this way. We have received numerous comments from male and female clients about how its presence in the area detracts from the amenity value provided by the Site Gallery, SHU, The Showroom, Tamper etc etc.

I also object to the proposals as a father. My daughter is a citizen of this city. It is important to me that she can move around the city safely and as an equal to any other citizen. I like bringing her into my office to be part of the company I run. I like walking up the hill to Tamper to have a coffee with her. She likes running around in the park area outside the SHU building. I don't like the fact that she has to do so outside a building which exploits and objectifies her gender. Sheffield is better than that. Or it should be.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

It is also in close proximity to bus stop number 37026712 (SS2 Paternoster Row/Sheffield Station) served by numerous inbound bus services dropping off passengers continuing journeys from Sheffield Station, a central gateway to the city. The same is also used to pick up passengers on bus route 95 towards Walkley.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)* was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 42

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

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There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 43

Sheffield City Council
Licensing Section
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

**DEAD
EARNEST**

Date: 17th March 2017

To whomsoever it may concern,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on two grounds:

Ground c):

"the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality."

The grounds go on to state that "Nil may be an appropriate number for the purposes of [c]"

Ground d):

"the grant or renewal of a licence would be inappropriate, having regard -

(i) to the character of the relevant locality; or

(ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises; vehicle; vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made."

Sheffield City Council also has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

Furthermore Schedule 3 1982 Act provides specific grounds to refuse/renew license:

e) "cultural hub of city"

f) "central gateway to the city...or tourist attraction"

Our general terms of objection are as follows:

- the part of the city that the club is situated is unsuitable due to it being in the "cultural heart" of the city. The Sexual Entertainment Venue is situated in the cultural heart of Sheffield, and within the area of the railway station, the main gateway and welcome point to the city, encompassing the pedestrianised walk way up to town centre.

The Workstation . 15 Paternoster Row . Sheffield . S1 2BX
Tel. 0114 2210225 . Mob. 07855 866292
info@deadearnest.co.uk . www.deadearnest.co.uk . Reg Charity no. 1055134 . Company no. 3184125

- the club is situated directly next to the Hallam Students Union, a hub of young impressionable people, sometimes vulnerable and often away from home for the first time.
- the club is situated in close proximity to the Workstation, a conference facility that hosts events such as the Children's Media Conference, Sheffield Documentary Festival.
- the club is situated in close proximity to The Showroom, an independent cinema that promotes 'Young Cinema', a programme that encourages children and young adults to engage in film, and 'Kickstart', a programme for children with autism and their families.
- the club is situated in close proximity to a number of organisations which support vulnerable children and adults.
- when walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city.
- the Council's own promotion of the city is "Sheffield - where everyone matters" - this includes the female citizens of the city who should not be subjected to their city promoting and normalising the sexualisation and objectification of them
- this image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and Sheffield's own widely publicised belief of Sheffield being a city "where everyone matters."
- granting a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city,
- the council has a duty under the Equality Act to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I also ask what actions or discussions the council has taken in order to consider what number of sexual entertainment venues is appropriate for Sheffield, as stated in the policy and legislation? Has the Council for example, as per their own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R. (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality.

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)* was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

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If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Zoe Walton

Director

Dead Earnest

The Workstation . 15 Paternoster Row . Sheffield . S1 2BX
Tel. 0114 2210225 . Mob. 07855 866292
info@deadearnest.co.uk . www.deadearnest.co.uk . Reg Charity no. 1055134 . Company no. 3184125



Paul Blomfield MP

Member of Parliament for Sheffield Central

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www.paulblomfield.co.uk twitter: @paulblomfieldmp

Steve Lonnia
Head of Licensing and Chief Licensing Officer
Licensing Service
Sheffield City Council
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

17th March 2017

**Re. renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown St, Sheffield
S1 2BS**

I am writing to object strongly to the above application for reasons which correspond with the grounds for refusal as set out in Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Licensing Policy.

Primarily I would urge the Council to refuse the application based on an assessment of the relevant locality, as set out in Paragraph 12 of Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act. I will set out my objections to the chosen locality according to Sheffield City Council's own assessment of what constitutes an inappropriate location for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV).

Firstly, under the 'Discretionary Grounds for Refusal', your policy states that "*the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put*". The Council will be aware that the premises of Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (SRASAC) and Sheena Amos Youth Trust are in the vicinity of this SEV. Given the nature of the work carried out by both organisations and the vulnerability of their clients, the continued presence of an SEV in the local area will continue to have an impact on their clients' safety and wellbeing. Given that the opening hours for this club are 0:00 – 0:00 and will be operating around the clock, it could impact on the safety of staff working at the charities.

I would also argue that the vicinity is an entirely inappropriate location on the grounds that it is directly adjacent to Sheffield Hallam University Students' Union, and is in close proximity to a significant concentration of student accommodation. Students would therefore be frequenting the location at all hours of the day and night. Student accommodation is used by young people, living independently away from home for the first time in their lives, for whom we have a particular duty

of care. Female students are particularly vulnerable to some of the risks or perceived risks that SEVs can engender. As the Council's Sex Establishment Policy points out, in the presence of an SEV people inevitably experience "fear of crime, anti-social behaviour, noise pollution and other disturbance".

In addition, there are other strong reasons to object to the location on the following grounds, as set out in the Council's own SEV policy – "the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

"a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;"

Sheena Amos Youth Trust offers educational and recreational activities for children from 11 years of age, whilst SRASAC welcomes victims from as young as 13 years old. The University Technology College and Sheffield College on Granville Road are nearby. Many pupils frequent the area on their lunch break and use the road as a thoroughfare on their journey to and from school. Also, the Leadmill often events for young people from the age of 14.

"c) a church or other place of religious worship;"

Christ Church Central meets weekly at the Workstation, 15 Paternoster Row, which is in the immediate vicinity.

"d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;"

Freeman College, a day and residential education and care centre for young people with special educational needs and disabilities, is in the immediate vicinity.

"e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.);"

The location of this SEV is in the Cultural Industries Quarter Conservation Area. The area is a "cultural hub", housing the popular Showroom Cinema, which plays an important role in many city cultural festivals including Doc Fest, a number of art galleries, as well as popular bars and restaurants on neighbouring streets.

"f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction."

The location is evidently in very close proximity to the train station and forms a gateway to the Cultural Industries Quarter Conservation Area (CIQ). As the Council points out, in the CIQ there are 16 listed buildings and several unlisted significant buildings such as the Showroom Cinema. Sheffield Hallam Students' Union is also a city landmark, attracting visitors from across and beyond the city. As outlined above, the significant concentration of art galleries such as the Site Gallery and Yorkshire Art space Persistence Works attracts many tourists to this area. The Leadmill is also an important cultural entertainment venue and tourist attraction in the city.

I would urge the Licensing Committee to consider the strong grounds for refusing this application as outlined above. I would also hope that the Committee considers carefully the objections from local organisations and citizens, many of whom have raised strong concerns about the granting of this licence in previous years. In so doing, I hope that they will bear in mind the purpose behind the measures introduced by the Government in 2010 concerning Sexual Entertainment Venue licences,

which give local people a greater say over where lap dancing clubs open and operate in their neighbourhood.

I look forward to receiving notification of the receipt of this letter of objection and of the date and nature of the hearing that I hope will take place in due course.

With best wishes



Paul Blomfield MP

Copied to: Cllr. David Barker, Cllr. Alan Law

Objection 45

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.^[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

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'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[1]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

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[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

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[4] p. 90

Objection 46

20 March 2017

Dear Sheffield City Council Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' | | |

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' | | |

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

*‘... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.’*¹³

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the “Cultural Quarter” - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[1]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

· Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87 · p. 90

Objection 47

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

13th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom! cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] (p. 90)

Objection 48

The Manager
Sheffield City Council
Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

15th March 2017

Dear Sir /Madam,

Application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

I am writing to object to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to

Freeman College which provides education for students (16 - 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor"

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

e) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to.

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearminn Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc. There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

Yours sincerely,

Objection 49

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

Friday 17th March

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the Sheffield City Council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to modify their behaviour because of Spearmint Rhino being there: for example, having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club. [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom Cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Due Fest; the Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf, SHAFF, and so on.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the

community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the Council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the Council says it stands for, everything that the Council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the Council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council [2014]

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the licence.' [4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Objection 50

Duplicate of Objection 16

Objection 51

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

20 March 2017

Dear Licensing Committee

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

- a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

- b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

- c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

- d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

- e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

- f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'

[4] The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

Please act to make Sheffield City Council a beacon of hope for women exploited by sexual exploitation by taking a stand against venues such as this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Faithfully

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 52

Dear Licensing Service Department

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 53

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
Sheffield
S9 3HD

20th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage"(2).

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

"... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club."(3)

Location:

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

c) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

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S9 3HD

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[4] p. 90

Objection 55

I in 3 women have suffered abuse and strip clubs just treat women as meat. It's disgusting. Please do not allow this!!!!

Objection 56

OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR A RENEWAL OF SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE From The Women's Equality Party, Sheffield Branch

INTRODUCTION

1. On 22nd February 2017 Sonfield Developments Ltd, trading as Spearmint Rhino, submitted an application for a renewal of its Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence to Sheffield City Council. This relates to their premises at 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2B.

LAW / REGULATIONS

2. The licensing of sexual entertainment venues is governed by Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 c. 30 ("LG(MP)A"). S. 12 of Schedule 3 provides as follows:
 - (2) Subject to paragraph 27 below, the appropriate authority may refuse—
 - (a) an application for the grant or renewal of a licence on one or more of the grounds specified in sub-paragraph (3) below;
 - (b) an application for the transfer of a licence on either or both of the grounds specified in paragraphs (a) and (b) of that sub-paragraph.
 - (3) The grounds mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) above are—
 - (a) that the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;
 - (b) that if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself;
 - (c) that the number of sex establishments, or of sex establishments of a particular kind, in the relevant locality at the time the application is determined is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;
 - (d) that the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard—
 - (i) to the character of the relevant locality; or
 - (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.
 - (4) Nil may be an appropriate number for the purposes of sub-paragraph (3) (c) above.
3. Sheffield City Council has also provided criteria for objections to applications for sexual entertainment venues including the following:

‘Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

- a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

- b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;
- c) a church or other place of religious worship;
- d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;
- e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or
- f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction’.

SUBMISSIONS

Inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality

4. 60 Brown Street, which is currently occupied by Spearmint Rhino, is significantly original in its design to be referred to in Pevsner’s guide, where it is also described as being within the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is situated some 100 yards from the junction with Howard Street and close to Sheffield train station. According to Pevsner the design of the building provides a ‘good foil to the Site Gallery’ opposite. It is imposing and stretches back to Arundel Lane. The building is next to a paved communal square that attracts families with small children mainly on weekends when the weather is good.
5. 60 Brown Street faces not just the Site Gallery but also the ‘Showroom and Workstation’ and Yorkshire Arts Space. These are three long established arts venues which host numerous events for people from all backgrounds including teenagers, each in substantial premises that dominate the area.
6. In 2014 the Site Gallery received substantial Arts Council funding to redevelop and expand its gallery space. It is internationally renowned and the gallery website refers to its work with young people:

‘Site Gallery provides new opportunities for young people in the region to engage with contemporary art through regular groups, one-off events, outreach activity and the creation of accessible interpretation resources. In 2016, with continued funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we launch a pioneering programme of artist-led outreach activity across Sheffield – On The Road. This new programme runs alongside the Society of Explorers our active group of 14 – 19 year olds. The group works closely with Platform artists to create their own artwork, to produce writing, film and photography about the residencies and to run public events’.

7. The continued presence of these three established arts organisation lends the area a significant character wholly out of step we submit with an immediately proximate and imposing Sexual Entertainment venue.
8. It may be argued by Sonfield Developments Ltd that Spearmint Rhino’s office type building, with its blackened windows, blends in with the local area and occupies a discrete position. We submit however that given the international reputation of the Spearmint Rhino brand, the design of the building only serves in that particular vicinity to normalise and entrench stereotypical and harmful attitudes to women. This is at a time when the Council and city generally are seeking to do the opposite and develop this particular area with very different principles in mind.
9. Sheffield City Region (SCR) in its recent prospectus has referred specifically to Brown Street as falling within the ‘Knowledge Corridor’.

‘Following the long-awaited renovation of the former head post office as Sheffield Hallam University’s Sheffield Institute of Arts (SIA), Sheffield City Council is planning to upgrade

the route from the Edwardian-era square along Pond Street to Paternoster Row and Brown Street, the focus of the Cultural Industries Quarter as well as improving connections to the city centre and station.

The project aims to help unlock major development opportunities at Sheaf Square, Site Gallery, the site of the former Nelson Mandela building, the former sorting office on Flat Street and the Digital Campus.

These developments will create the setting for more than 4,000 new jobs over the next five years. The project will also aim to address road safety issues, increase pedestrian areas and reduce the number of buses using the area, and encourage safer walking and cycling and create space for events and seating.

10. The Council has participated in the promotion of the SCR as it seeks to encourage investment in the city, create jobs and attract new industries. The SCR views job creation in the arts and in the creative industries as an integral part of its plans. However the credibility of those ambitions, and the prospects for development and expansion, are we submit undermined if these current and future arts projects are asked to continue sitting ‘cheek by jowl’ with a Sexual Entertainment Venue.
11. It should be noted that there are a number of other smaller enterprises associated with creative arts in the relevant vicinity.
12. In submitting this objection we accept that the licensing committee have to weigh up a number of competing interests including the job security of Sheffield employees of Spearmint Rhino and the expense of relocation. In that regard it must be remembered that the parent company, a worldwide organisation, has considerable resources at its disposal. A refusal to renew the licence would not have a significant impact on the company’s ability to continue its operations elsewhere.

Inappropriate having regard to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put

13. While the main buildings for Sheffield Hallam University are situated on the other side of Howard Rd, 60 Brown Street is by no means on the edge of the University campus. It is surrounded by accommodation sites/halls of residence for Sheffield Hallam students as well as faculty buildings. The immediate vicinity is described as the ‘Science Park’. The rear of the building immediately faces student accommodation and is very close to Sheffield Hallam’s ‘Cantor Building’ which houses elements of the Faculty of Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences, as well as other campus facilities. It has a total floor space of 9500m², houses over 240 staff and provides teaching space for more than 1600 students.
14. As a consequence Spearmint Rhino’s current site arguably occupies a unique position: a lap-dancing club within or immediately adjacent to a prestigious University Campus.
15. This may not have been the position when its residency at 60 Brown Street commenced in 2002. Several accommodation sites have been built or developed since then and more are planned.
16. Sheffield Chamber of Commerce has been promoting a number of projects on its website to develop new accommodation sites in the Cultural Industries Quarter. It should be noted that some developers appear content to describe the vicinity as part of Sheffield Hallam University campus when promoting its attractions.

17. In *R (on the application of Thompson) v Oxford City Council* [2014] EWCA Civ 94 the Administrative Court upheld the decision of Oxford City Council to refuse to renew a licence. In his judgement Mr Justice Haddon-Cave said as follows:

‘Mr Gouriet QC submitted on behalf of the Claimant that the 2012 Sub-Committee erred in taking into account an *"increasing concentration of student accommodation in the area"* because (i) incomplete developments were not relevant to assessing the present character of the area, and (ii) there was insufficient evidence to justify such a finding and any developments were 0.5 to 0.8 miles away. I reject both submissions on the law and the facts.

As to the law, licensing decision-makers are entitled to take into account both the present and future *"character"* of an area. There is no reason to limit the reference to *"character"* in paragraph 12(3)(d) only to the present character of the area. Indeed, it would make no sense to do so in the context of prospective licenses which were to be granted for 12 months in the future. Prospective licenses required a prospective view. The fact that an area is developing and in a continued state of change is a relevant consideration to why renewal might be inappropriate’.

18. Significantly Spearmint Rhino is located immediately adjacent to Sheffield Students Hub/Union, an iconic city building which was formerly the National Centre for Popular Music and acquired by Sheffield Hallam in 2003 no doubt because of its proximity to both the central campus and to the students accommodation. This is a large building with a bar open Monday-Thursday until 11pm and on Fridays till midnight.
19. The building is under constant use by the many students who attend the University. Sheffield Hallam is one of largest universities in the UK, with approximately 30,000 students including post-graduates.
20. The Hub is also a drop off point for University sports trips (male and female) where students return late at night and have to make their way back to their accommodation.
21. Young people, particularly female students, should be allowed to pass through this area, on their way to lectures, the student union and to their accommodation, without concern for their safety at all times of the day. It should be noted that that there are now University learning centres open 24 hours a day.
22. The presence of other schools and colleges in the area should be taken into account when assessing whether this particular area is an appropriate location for Spearmint Rhino to continue operating.
23. There are also a number of other organisations in the area dealing with vulnerable people whose presence should be taken into account when considering this application to renew.
24. This includes a women’s charity, operating in Arundel Lane, immediately adjacent to the rear of 60 Brown Street whose website indicates the provision of:

‘holistic and gender-specific support to vulnerable women across the city of Sheffield. The centre has a women-only facility in the heart of Sheffield that offers a safe and welcoming place for women to engage in meaningful support and community services, all under one roof’.
25. There are organisations in nearby Scotia House located in Leadmill Street, and only a short distance away from Spearmint Rhino, who also deal with vulnerable people some of whom are the victims of serious sexual assault.

26. It is no coincidence in our submission that there is a concentration of these kinds of organisations in this vicinity. They need to be centrally located and close to the central transport hubs (rail, bus and tram) so that those in poorer communities (predominantly women), who are disproportionately affected by violence and abuse, can access their services.
27. We have taken a decision in this submission not to name all the potential relevant projects. One of the invidious aspects of SEV licence applications is that organisations dealing with vulnerable people may not wish to advertise too widely their precise location. They may also not have time to register a complaint within the tight time constraints of the objection process and may wish to prioritise their clients' needs. Failure to lodge an objection should not therefore be taken in our submission as consent or approval for the application. It is the role of the licensing authority in our submission to take an overarching view of the community as a whole when determining whether Spearmint Rhino should be allowed to continue its work in this vicinity.

Public Sector Equality Duty

28. The Licensing Authority must have regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty. This consists of a general equality duty, set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard to the need to:
- a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
 - b. Advance equality of opportunity between the sexes and
 - c. Foster good relations between the sexes.
29. In the context of town planning we refer the licensing committee to *Sex Licensing – Phiip Colvin QC* where the author cites (on page 86) the research paper '*Planning and Diversity: Research into Policy and Procedure*' (ODPM -2004).

'Women and children and men use towns and cities in different ways, and thus face different problems. A good quality environment for women should be attractive, easy to use, convenient and safe and meet their specific needs. Women are particularly concerned about issues of personal safety and security, the provision of facilities and the detailed design of buildings and spaces particularly in residential areas, public buildings, shopping areas and city and town centres. Many women feel vulnerable in getting around as users of public transport and as pedestrians, and their movement is often constrained by fear of attack. This is particularly true for older women and women with children traveling alone. Environments that work well during the day can feel hostile at night.'

30. He continues by saying that these concerns are directly reflected in the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note, which states:

'In relation to 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations lap-dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened and uncomfortable'.

31. Customers late at night, on their way to lap-dancing clubs and when leaving, can be inebriated and disinhibited. This can be worrying for passers-by. There are many people, not just women, including members of the LGBT community, who have a right to move freely in the city, day and night, and who should not be required to 'avoid the area' in an increasingly residential and student vicinity.

32. Concerns over safety, even if not shared by club proprietors or their supporters, must be weighed in the balance when considering this application, particularly where the street can be quiet but for the users of the club.
33. We appreciate that the Public Sector Equality Duty also applies when considering the rights of the women who work in SEVs. There are divided opinions on this issue. While some recognise the relationship between SEVs and the harmful effect of normalising the objectification of women, there is also a natural concern about the welfare of women who work in the lap dancing industry, and the need to ensure that they remain free from harm and financial exploitation particularly in a time of recession.
34. While it is true that that some employees have written about their experiences in the lap dancing industry in a positive light, there are countervailing stories and women have spoken about the problems they experience when working in these kinds of establishments.
35. The Council has recently conducted a consultation on Sex Licensing in the city and the new draft policy appears to be alive to these issues:

‘It is therefore imperative that all premises licensed by Sheffield City Council are done so to a standard that ensures maximum safety for everyone, and that facilities are provided which all members of society can access in a fair, safe and acceptable manner. The Licensing Authority will ensure through stringent regulation, the imposition of tight and robust conditions, a strong policy and strict limits on the numbers and locations of sex establishments in Sheffield, that we can strike a fair balance between supporting and encouraging the equality and diversity of all men and women visiting and working within sex establishments, whilst also ensuring working practices and the environment within which sex establishments operate, are safe, secure, and well monitored to stay in line with the Council’s stated vision in The Corporate Plan.

In formulating this policy, the Council has fully considered its Public Sector Equality Duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010; in particular the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation etc. in relation to males and females engaged in performing at licensed venues and/or males and females living, working or travelling within the vicinity of such venues.

The Public Sector Equality Duty must be exercised with vigour, substance, and rigour and also with an open mind. We fully recognise that it’s not simply a question of ticking boxes, but something which must be formally assessed to allow for fair and equal practices on all levels throughout the Council and the City as a whole.

The Licensing Authority has also undertaken a detailed Equality Impact Assessment that was carefully considered at the start of the policy drafting process, and was kept under review throughout; it will be finalised on publication’.

36. This new ‘robust’ policy is to be welcomed, however in order to truly observe its duties we submit that a comprehensive scheme of monitoring and inspection would have to be introduced to ensure the welfare of workers at SEVs generally. A comprehensive scheme would ensure regular welfare checks on dancers and compliance with regulations.
37. The question remains though as to whether the Council has the resources to fulfill its ambitions with ‘vigour, substance and rigour’. A programme to protect and safeguard women in the lap dancing industry requires substantial financial commitment and we are concerned that in a time of austerity

and stringent government cuts those resources are not available.

CONCLUSION

38. In our submission the time has finally come for the council to consider whether Spearmint Rhino's current location in the Cultural Industries Quarter, its very close proximity to Sheffield Hallam campus and halls of residence, and its immediate proximity to prestigious arts venues is sustainable in a city making great strides to transform itself and promote equality.
39. In the event that Sonfield Developments Ltd seek to argue that a refusal of its application to renew the SEV licence would have an adverse financial impact on the company and its employees, the licensing committee should require the company to produce precise financial details in support of its argument, including records of actual earnings by the lap-dancers so that a proper impact assessment can be made.

Women's Equality Party, Sheffield Branch

20th March 2017

Objection 57

Dear Licensing

I would like to object to the renewal of the SEV license for Spearmint Rhino on the following grounds:

- I reject the premise that Sheffield is a city that welcomes businesses that normalize the objectification women and the message that this portrays to our citizens, in particularly the young men and women of this city.
- I would far prefer that the council spend it's scare resources on say, the provision of social care for the elderly, than on licensing and monitoring of establishments of this kind.

I look forward to hearing from you

Regards

Objection 58

Dear licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)* was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks,

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 59

I believe the committee should refuse the application from SpearmintbRhino under the discretionary grounds for refusal under the Sheffield City Council venues policy .

The existence of a SEV normalises the objectification and sexualisation of women thereby contravening the public sector duty required of Sheffield City Council

Objection 60

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

20 th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this license and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the license application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change

their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'^[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'^[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'^[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs. The Expansion of Site Gallery which plans an education studio to support over 600 young people a year. As well as the workshops that are held at Yorkshire Artspace.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge gateway”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organizations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion of which Sheffield City Council are

investors. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation. On recent radio Sheffield interview with students they said we may be only students but we live here it is our community and we do not like Spearmint Rhino being part of it.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 61

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21/3/17

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

Location

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

Having young teenagers, it is of grave concern to me that an establishment, as Spearmint Rhino, in the first place was allowed to be placed in the centre of town and so close to educational establishments. Please don't make the same mistake twice.

With many hopes for a very positive outcome.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 62

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it. I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1] Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age; There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age; There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship; Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises; There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87 [2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in Criminal Justice Matters, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87 [4] p. 90

Objection 63

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21/3/17

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'^[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge gateway”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

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There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 64

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

20.03.2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women, including myself, feel uncomfortable and nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. I won't park my car near the venue after 8pm even though I visit Showroom Cinema on a regular basis. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As someone running events throughout Sheffield for LGBTQ identified women, we try to avoid the city centre as a location for our events because of the amount of abuse I personally have experienced walking through town on nights out. We recently took the decision not to host a party at Showroom Cinema for LGBT History month, because we were worried about vulnerable audience members walking through town, past locations like Spearmint Rhino that cause potential upset and stress to women and LGBT people. This is not an acceptable position to be in. Sheffield City Council needs to do more to discourage venues that promote the objectification, i.e. de-humanising of women. That way, all women, and those who identify as gender non - conforming, may have less chance of being singled out for abuse.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites in the Royal Town Planning Institute's 'Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note':

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters, which states that: *'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'* [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

'Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:

a) A school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College, which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) A park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much-underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) A church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) A Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area that support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, I've been told that the Council is aware of the organisations I refer to.

e) The Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) A central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery, which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the

Council's Equality Policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes such as the Equality Hubs. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal. The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review.

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If the panel feels that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing be held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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Objection 65

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the

SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge gateway”.

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Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

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Additional grounds for refusal

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Objection 66

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on [Sheaf Square](#)) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

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e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

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[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 67

Dear licensing department,

I write to you to state my intention to object to the proposed re-licensing of sexual entertainment venue Spearmint Rhino with extended opening hours between 00:00 to 00:00.

I wish to do so on the following grounds.

(1) Location- Spearmint Rhino is adjacent to the Hallam Students Union Hub, opposite the renowned Showroom Cinema, in close proximity to several vulnerable women's organisations, including educational establishments who specialise in caring for and educating minors with special needs which according to the terms for objection are clear grounds for refusal of a licence.

(2) Public Sector Equality Duty

The council has a clear obligation to fulfil its duty as a local authority organisation, and to renew the licence with extended opening hours would demonstrably be in breach of this duty.

(3) That as a founding member of the UK Women's Equality Party, and Sheffield branch member, I put to you that re-licensing such an establishment shows the city of Sheffield motto "where everyone matters" to be something of a misnomer, as the wellbeing of children, vulnerable citizens and the young should be considered a priority.

Equality begins and ends where the safety, wellbeing and treatment of women and girls is given equal status to men.

WE endorse the Nordic model in our policies- Criminalising the purchase of sex and providing women who sell sex with support services including help to those who wish to exit the sex trade. This approach penalises the demand for commercial sex, as well as pimping, while decriminalising individuals who sell sex and providing them with support services. Referred to as the Sex Buyer Law or the Nordic Model, this approach recognises sexual exploitation as a form of violence mainly directed at women and children. See detailed example here: http://catwa.org.au/files/images/Nordic_Model_Pamphlet.pdf

Look at how the Women's Equality Party perceive gender relations compared to Spearmint Rhino
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/live/bbcparliament>

<https://twitter.com/rhinosheffield?lang=en-gb>

4 How can we justify our Purple Flag status when longstanding civil servants, and council workers have been made redundant in this great city, and yet consider re-licensing a premises where the exploitation and sale of women for the gratification of a mainly male clientele is seen as a viable source of revenue?

5 The Showroom Cinema and Workstation are both within close proximity to the premises, as is the Sheffield train station and proposed HS2 railway station.

What sort of an impression to visitors to the city does this give to our visitors?

6 Violence against sex workers is sadly still a tragic part of society, as this article illustrates how liberal licensing laws in the neighbouring city of Leeds clearly fail women with devastating consequences.
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/jul/04/man-guilty-murder-sex-worker-leeds-daria-pionko-lewis-pierre>

This recent article below illustrates the correlation between escort work and attitudes of ownership and control as clearly displayed in this Guardian newspaper article depicting the murder of escort Georgina Symonds by property developer Peter Morgan.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2016/nov/28/millionaire-peter-morgan-murdered-woman-georgina-symonds-he-paid-to-be-his-escort-court-hears>

7 Post EU Referendum, money obtained from such establishments should surely be spent on the enhancement of our public services, rejuvenation of our homeless services and charities, investment in women's organisations and mental health services, liaison and development with local businesses, not in providing employment for an organisation that you would need to erase from your CV or application form for employment opportunities, and that both limits the future prospects of workers whilst simultaneously contributing to the proliferation of the sex industry "market" across the UK.

8 Re-Licensing such a premises would clearly alarm and alienate both the staff, and clients of the neighbouring organisations offering services to vulnerable people, and may cause them to relocate as a result of paying potentially exorbitant rent on a city centre location, whilst also potentially risking loss of business of the clientele of these longstanding and well respected organisations.

Is this a risk that you are willing to take for such a marginalised and disreputable licenced organisation?

9 Sheffield City Council has a designated Equality and Women's Hub, created to address the very inequalities and systemic abuses of women and girls that this type of organisation perpetuates, we already have a thriving night-time economy whereby both sexes can participate on an equal level in society despite the trade of such an establishment which lowers the tone and demoralises the work of many organisations striving for the opposite goals in the city of Sheffield.

10 A contribution to the licensing of premises on site of a far less controversial premises that could open day and night, without the stigma of objections being logged and a hearing process every year as this one would be a boon to a city struggling under the weight of crippling austerity measures.

11 Health and safety at work

<https://twitter.com/rhinosheffield?lang=en-gb>

In light of the above grounds, I would ask you to reconsider granting this licence.

Yours faithfully,

Objection 68

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

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f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in

terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in Criminal Justice Matters, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90



Zero Option Sheffield

Licensing
Block C, Staniforth Road
Staniforth
Surrey
S9 3HD

Service
Depot
Road
Street

21st March 2017

BY EMAIL to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Licensing

We refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and we call for the council to refuse it.

We believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

1 The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender

Equality

- 1.1 Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability, race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. We believe that a Sexual Entertainment Venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections. A detailed paper referencing research is attached to this objection by way of demonstrating how lap dancing clubs are incompatible with gender equality and do not foster good relations between the sexes.
- 1.2 When walking around this area which, the Council actively encourages due to the proximity of other businesses and services, research and personal anecdotes indicate that women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there. Examples of changes in behaviour include having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV or taking a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV, even when it is closed due to the feelings of discomfort that the venue generates and all that it symbolises. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and the impact that the SEV has on women in this respect means that they are being discriminated.
- 1.3 As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

1.4 Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

1.5 This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club. [3]

2 Location



2.1 In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

2.2 a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

2.2.1 There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC, which educates children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

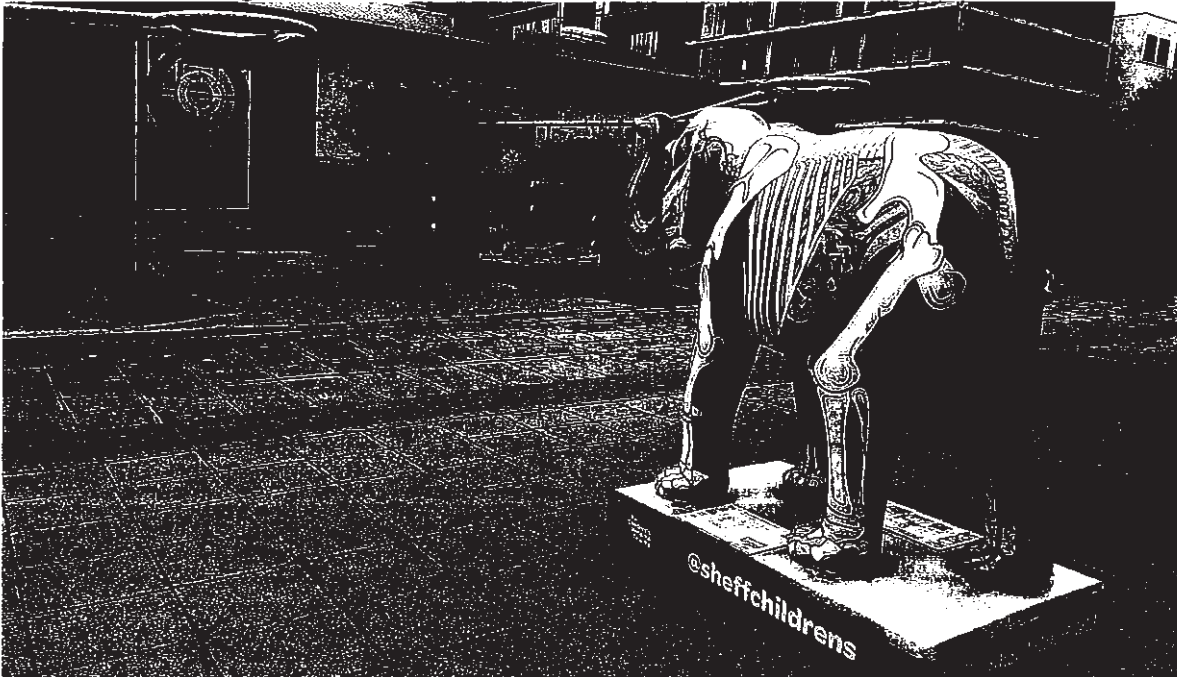
2.2.2 The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

2.3 b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

2.3.1 There is the recreational space (Cultural Industries Quarter Square) directly adjacent to the club. In the 2016 Determination Notice, it was concluded that:

"Members used their knowledge of the open space next to the premises to determine that it is not a recreational area used by children."

However, two Zero Option members have noticed that children and families do use the space and it was to our great astonishment last year to see one of the herd of elephants located in this space with the specific intention of attracting children. A photograph taken on 14th August 2016 is below:

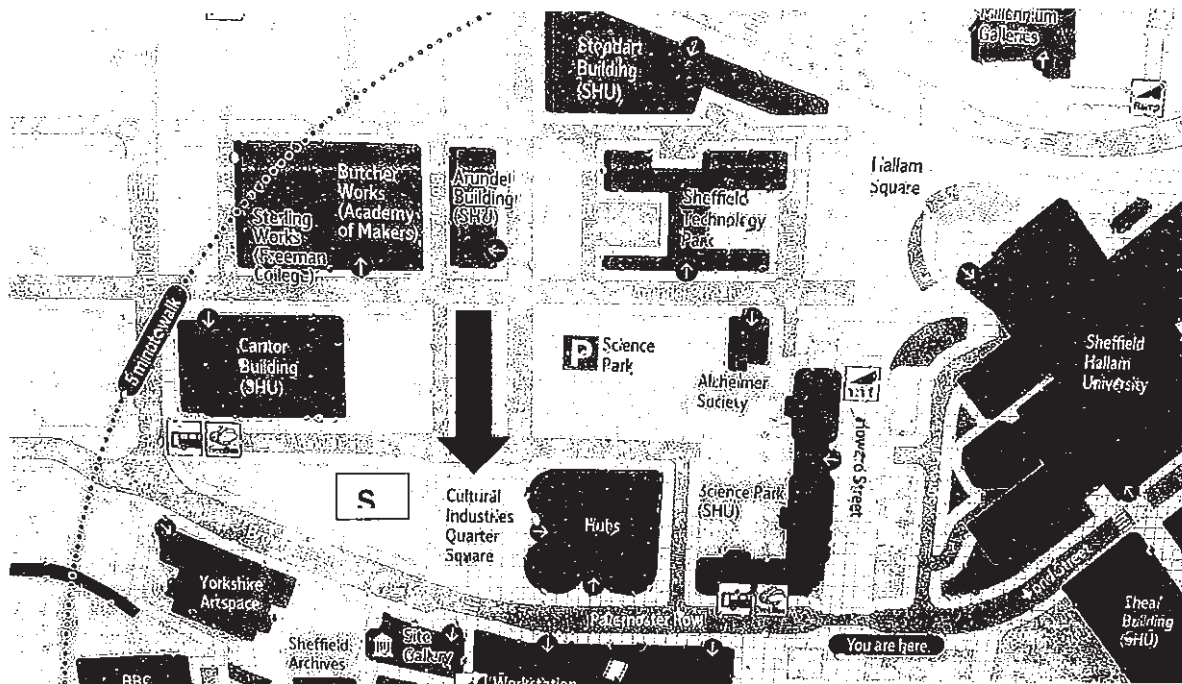


2.3.2 The fact that this space, named Cultural Industries Quarter Square, is juxtaposed to an SEV is extremely bizarre. In the determination notice in 2016 when the Spearmint Rhino SEV licence was renewed, it is stated that:

"The Policy document details Tudor Square and the Peace Gardens as the Cultural hub, those being the central and most active places in Sheffield for visitors, but no definition is given beyond this. The premises has no impact on these areas."

However, the ShowroomWorkstation describes itself as "a unique cultural hub."

2.3.3 The photo on page 4 of the map located on Sheaf Square shows the area occupied by Spearmint Rhino greyed out (we have marked "SR" in red font) and features the name "Cultural Industries Quarter Square" (see red arrow) as what has been known as "Festival Square."



2.3.4 This square is referred to in this Council document, dated November 2015 <http://www.sheffieldnewsroom.co.uk/council-set-to-boost-cultural-industries-quarter/> where it is stated that it is “underused” and outlines plans for its development:

“The first report is a proposal to lease an area of underused open land at Charles Street (next to the Hallam Students Union building) to Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) as an events space. It would give a greater opportunity for outdoor events to be held in that area – such as during DocFest, Tramlines and other similar events.”

2.4 c) a church or other place of religious worship;

2.4.1 Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

2.5 d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

2.5.1 There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults (including Together Women and Element Society) in the immediate vicinity. There are further charitable organisations in the area supporting vulnerable young people and adults which occupy a building within a very short distance from venue, with Brown Street and Grinders Hill as a direct access route from Arundel Gate and Charles Street where many buses stop and service users will alight from. Furthermore, there is the car park behind the HUBS which many service users of all the charities and organisations in the area are likely to use if driving into the city centre.

2.6 e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

2.6.1 The news item referred to above (see <http://www.sheffieldnewsroom.co.uk/council-set-to-boost-cultural-industries-quarter/>) also highlights the changing nature of the Cultural Industries Quarter thus:

“There are more than 300 companies in the CIQ and most of them are connected to creative or cultural industries, such as film-making, music production, software design, broadcasting, new media, architecture, art and traditional crafts.

The area also includes the city centre campus of Sheffield Hallam University and a growing residential community that includes a large number of students.

*Despite its success as a trail-blazing example, there is now a feeling that the CIQ has lost ground to similar clusters of creative businesses in other cities and that it needs to refresh and update – **both its cultural and commercial offer and public space for a growing resident and business population.***” (emphasis added)

2.6.2 Regarding the last paragraph above, has the Council considered that the presence of a strip club with an internationally recognised logo and name is perhaps inappropriate in an area which is increasingly characterised as a specialist one housing a cluster of independent creative organisations?

2.6.3 On the 10th March at the Site Gallery closing event, due to a major refurbishment project (see 2.6.6), John Mothersole, the Council's CEO stated that the gallery:

“sits right in the heart of the cultural growth of the city.”

2.6.4 On the 13th February 2017, the Sheffield City Region website published a piece entitled: *£5.6m plan for Sheffield Knowledge Gateway scheme could restore Fitzalan Square to its former glory* (<https://sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/2017/02/5-6m-plan-sheffield-knowledge-gateway-scheme-restore-fitzalan-square-former-glory/>)

The piece opens with the following paragraph:

“Following the long-awaited renovation of the former head post office as Sheffield Hallam University's Sheffield Institute of Arts (SIA), Sheffield City Council is planning to upgrade the route from the Edwardian-era square along Pond Street to Paternoster Row and Brown Street, the focus of the Cultural Industries Quarter as well as improving connections to the city centre and station.”

2.6.5 And further on describes Paternoster Row (and Brown Street) thus:

“Paternoster Row is the main street of the Cultural Industries Quarter, home to the Showroom, Workstation, Site Gallery, Yorkshire Artspace and Sheffield Hallam's Student Union building, but it is also dominated by fast-moving buses and taxis with little pedestrian space.”

2.6.6 In addition to this, Spearmint Rhino is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events as well as many of the annual Off the Shelf events (in 2016, the Showroom and Workstation hosted 24 Off the Shelf events). It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. In their press release, which can be found here: <http://www.sitegallery.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Site-Gallery-Expansion-Press-Release-February-2017-FINAL.pdf> it is clear that this expansion will greatly enhance the CIQ and the newly designated Knowledge Gateway:

Tom Fleming, Site Gallery Chair said: ‘this is a truly exciting time for Site Gallery, for Sheffield and its creative communities. A new landmark building and space for contemporary art that will offer new connections, new ideas and business.’

This scheme will connect to the multi-million pound investment in Sheffield City Council's Knowledge Gateway Project – an urban regeneration project within the Cultural Industries Quarter that includes millions of pounds of investment in public realm and capital projects in the area.

Councillor Mary Lea, cabinet member for culture, sport and leisure at Sheffield City Council, said: ‘It's great to see Site Gallery going from strength to strength, and I hope that people will take the opportunity to have their say about the scheme while these exciting plans are on show. I look forward to seeing the new-look Site Gallery when it reopens to the public, and I am sure that the revamped gallery will create even more opportunities for people to get involved with arts and culture here in Sheffield.’

LATEST NEWS

SITE GALLERY IS EXPANDING

Site Gallery will triple the scale of its public offer through an expansion programme commencing in spring 2017. On 10 March we closed to the public, after celebrating with a special closing event.

[Find out more](#)



(Source: <http://www.sitegallery.org/>)

The Council is asked to note that the Court of Appeal upheld a decision by a Council's Licensing sub-committee to refuse to renew a licence for a Sexual Entertainment Venue in the case of *Thompson, R (On the Application Of) v Oxford City Council (2014)*. It was held that:

"In making that assessment, the sub-committee was permitted to have regard to an imminent development of which it was aware [developments of student housing], even if there could be no certainty that it would be completed and operational within the period of the licence."

- 2.6.7 Spearmint Rhino is centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc.
- 2.6.8 The route directly past and to the side of the venue next to the HUBS is a very high traffic area for students with an increasing number of student accommodation buildings in the area, including the relatively new student accommodation at the rear of the venue. Students will also be very close to, if not walking directly past the venue 24/7 as Sheffield Hallam University's leaning centre is open 24 hours per day; therefore this is an intersection of the night time economy and the student learning experience.
- 2.6.9 The Club is also directly next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union. Sheffield Hallam University held an open day on 15th March. Coaches were parked on Brown Street and the Science Park carpark was full. Many students and families first impression of Sheffield is of Spearmint Rhino as part of the University campus.



2.6.10 The Sheffield Culture Guide refers to Paternoster Row and Brown Street thus:

Head out on a gallery crawl

A zig-zagging trail of ever-changing contemporary exhibitions awaits exploration in Sheffield's CIQ. Start at the always absorbing and intuitively curated Site Gallery on Brown Street. As well as putting on a fabulous programme of exhibitions and events, Site offers space to pause for thought in its common room.

Further along the street is Yorkshire Artspace's excellently named – and wonderfully designed – Persistence Works. It's worth repeating that Sheffield has the most artists' studios outside of London, and loads of them are here. Visit in November when the residents annually open their studios to the public. In the same building is Made North: a gallery and shop showcasing contemporary design, with a particular emphasis on the work of upcoming designers from Up North (many of whom are based in the studios above).

(Source: <http://www.ourfaveplaces.co.uk/guides/area/cultural-industries-quarter>)

3 Additional grounds for refusal

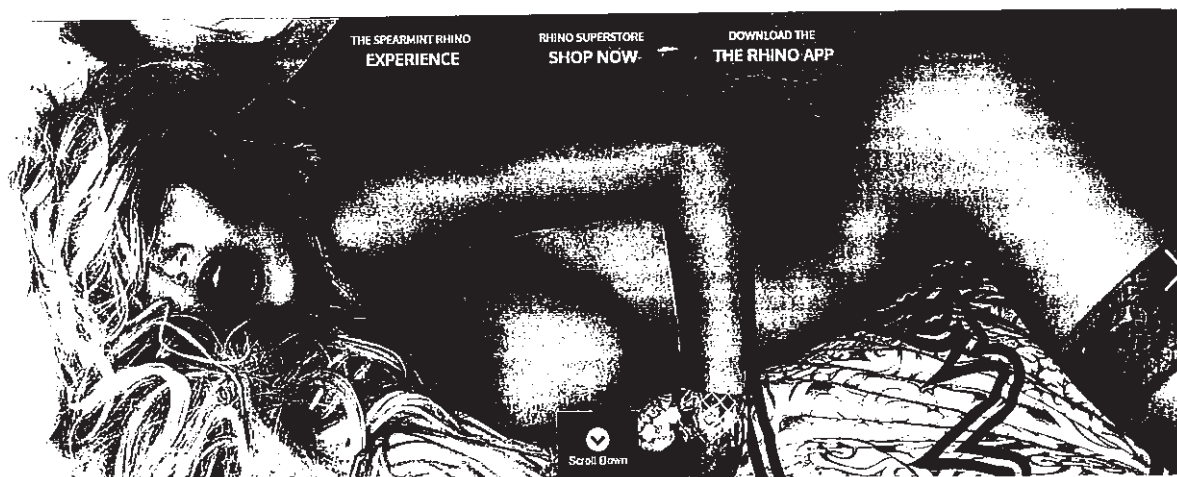
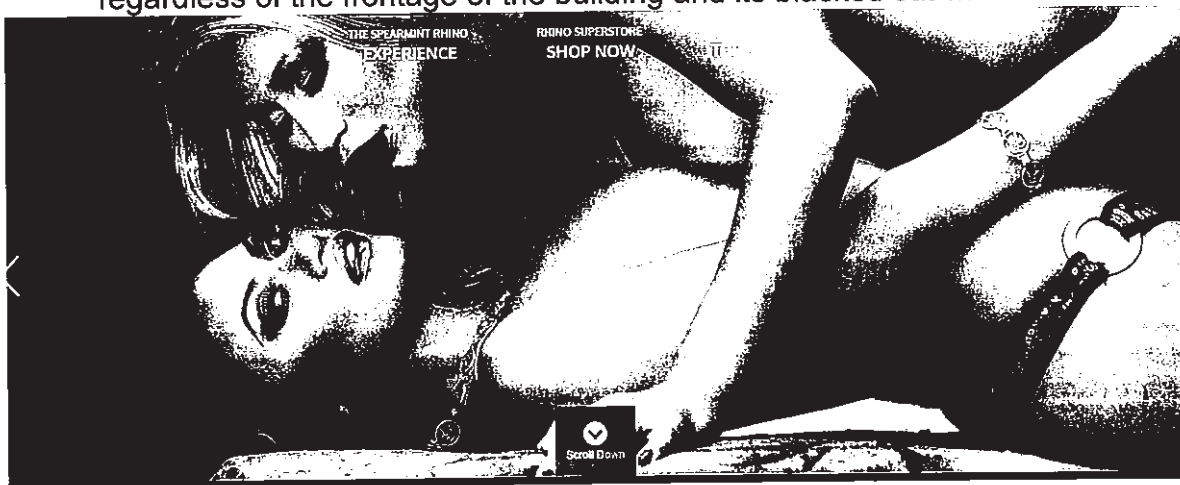
- 3.1 This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised, by its own admission:



Spearmint Rhino Gentlemen's Club
From the business owner
The World Famous Spearmint Rhino
Gentlemen's Clubs

(Source: https://www.yelp.co.uk/biz_photos/spearmint-rhino-gentlemens-club-rialto?select=os59PbFTHB4Wi-1p6_x0sA)

3.2 It is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women, regardless of the frontage of the building and its blacked out windows.



(Source: <https://spearmintrhino.com/>)

3.3 These images are not only pornographic but the Club's promotion of its venue is also laden with the double entendre of orgasm:



Spearmint Rhino
@RhinoSheffield

Spearmint Rhino this week, are you coming?



8:03 pm · 26 Feb 17



- 3.4 Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. How does this venue for example fit with the piece which was on the front cover of the Telegraph the day after International Women's Day?



- 3.5 We also ask whether the Council, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?
- 3.6 A Sexual Entertainment Venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the Council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.
- 3.7 We will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the Council by giving a refusal.
- 3.8 The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:
R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”^[4]

- 3.9 The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.
- 3.10 If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, we would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Zero Option

ZerooptionSheffield@gmail.com

References

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

(end)

Why strip clubs are incompatible with gender equality

Introduction

This is a paper prepared by Zero Option Sheffield which draws together all evidence-based research findings which highlight how:

- SEVs are a form of violence against women - all women. They serve to objectify women and condone the buying of women and their licensed operation within a community effectively endorses this. Evidence-based research has exposed the links between alcohol and violence against women and that violence is mediated by the degree to which the perpetrator sexually objectifies women.
- In forming any SEV Policy related decisions, including the granting of licences, a local authority is legally obliged to pay regard to its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). SEVs do not foster good relations between the sexes and perpetuate unequal power relations between the sexes and as such perpetuate gender inequality. Thus SEVs are incompatible with the PSED.
- If any local authority intends to reduce violence and discrimination against women, then it MUST set a nil cap to the number of SEVs it will permit in the city.

1 HARM AND THE MEANING OF 'MORAL' OBJECTIONS

1.1 Who does not consider SEVs to be harmful?

- 2.1 SEV owners
- 2.2 Some current performers in SEVs
- 2.3 Some sex worker rights activists
- 2.4 Some clients of SEVs - We argue 'some' with reference to recent research¹ highlighting male gendered expectations to attend strip clubs but which were not enjoyed by all attendees. We also have heard from men who felt pressurized to go to strip clubs and felt uncomfortable in the environment and did not welcome the attention of performers. In addition to this it was reported in December 2016² that 'According to figures released by professional stage (sic, should read 'stag') do specialists *The Stag Company*, there has been a 47% drop in lap dancing requests.
- 2.5 Some members of the public

1.3 What is meant by 'harm'?

The harmful impacts of SEVs are frequently dismissed as a 'moral' issue and therefore not relevant considerations. For example, it was reported in the *Sheffield Telegraph* when Wildcats SEV was refused planning permission that 'Some critics claimed a sex-orientated venue would put the safety of women at risk, but officers said their recommendation was based on the impact on the area, not on moral grounds'

1.4 What constitutes a 'moral' objection?

A pervasive problem is that the meaning of 'moral' is not defined in statute, guidance or in the current and proposed Policy. However this cannot justify a blanket dismissal of objections regarding harmful and other negative impacts of SEVs.

In the preface to his book, *Sex Licensing* (2010), the authoritative guide to sex licensing, Phillip Kolvin QC refers to the aim of Parliament in setting the now current legislation on SEV licensing³ as being based on:

'... a conviction that communities should have a choice as to how many, if any, sex establishments should be in their locality, and **that it should not be necessary for such communities to demonstrate harm** in order to win an exercise of discretion in their favour.' (emphasis added)

Kolvin refers to historical distancing of decision-making from choices based on:

'a moral view as to the juxtaposition of sex and other community uses'

but suggests that:

'In a modern context, therefore, for 'morality' read 'community values', a less loaded concept altogether' (p. x).⁴

Thus Kolvin makes clear that it is a fundamental guiding principle that communities should be able to exercise choice about the number (if any) of sex establishments in their locality based on their own values, i.e. the subjective values of the people in the community, in their full range and variety, rather than having these diverse considerations dismissed as invalid 'moralising.'

Local authorities Council have a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding

¹ Briggs, D. & Ellis, A. 2016 Deviant Behavior, pp. 1-12 *The Last Night of Freedom: Consumerism, Deviance and the Stag Party*

² Loaded 28th November 2016 *Lap Dancing Bookings Down As Stag Dos Focus On Less Seedy Alternatives*
<http://loaded.co.uk/lap-dancing-bookings-down-as-stag-dos-focus-on-less-seedy-alternatives/>

³ Policing and Crime Act 2009 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/26/contents>

⁴ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing

the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. About this Kolvin observes:

'The role of gender equality is not well understood, and it is far less well carried through, in licensing processes. However, gender equality may well influence decision making under LGMPA' (p. 86).

2 THE IMPACT OF SEVs ON ALL WOMEN

2.1 Gender inequality

A former lap dancer "Elena" told the *Guardian*:

'The men just see you as an object, not a person, and whether you are equally engaged in their desire is irrelevant.'⁵

Another former lap dancer named Lucy stated:

'... I truly believe that the reason men pay for lap dances is not because they are titillated visually by the sight of a naked woman, or even because the sexual contact is particularly stimulating. They do it because they get a power rush from the act of paying a woman to take her clothes off. She is vulnerable and he is powerful, and that's the real allure-that's the real reason the clubs are getting so popular. **Lap-dancing clubs are places in which you can all pretend that feminism never happened.**'⁶ (emphasis added).

Another former dancers states:

'the idea that the sex industry is sex-positive and liberal [is] an absolute joke . . . [lapdancing clubs are] just **a manifestation of gender inequality.**'⁷ (emphasis added).

A journalist who investigated lapdancing clubs concluded:

'It's about an industry which relies entirely on women, yet grants its female employees (sic) few if any rights: in that sense an industry that's stuck in the mindset of a pre-Equal Pay Act era.'

2.2 Sexual harassment

There is no reporting structure for sexual harassment and 'sexual harassment is not an offence in its own right'⁸, such is the normalisation and minimisation of this form of violence against women.

Recent research conducted by Dr Maggie Wykes at the University of Sheffield⁹ found that the emotional after-effects of an [sexual harassment] incident are: uncomfortable 80%; frightened 40%; angry 60%; embarrassed 50%; disgusted 45%. The biggest behavioural responses to the experience were: avoid going out at night; avoid going out alone; try to change appearance. When asked if they had told anyone, 70% had told a friend. When asked if they had reported the harassment to the police, responses were: 70+% thought it was not serious enough; 16% were too embarrassed; 22% didn't think anyone could help. Nottinghamshire Police has now classified such harassment as a misogynistic hate crime.¹⁰

⁵ The Guardian 19th March 2008 *I was seen as an object, not a person*
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/mar/19/gender.uk>

⁶ Cited in Banyard, K. (2016: p. 140) *Pimp State: Sex, Money and the Future of Equality*. Faber and Faber, London

⁷ Hayashi Danna (author of the book *Stripped: The Bare Reality of Lapdancing* (2011)) cited Banyard, K. 2016 *Pimp State: Sex, Money and the Future of Equality*. P. 140

⁸ Communication from SYP 11th January 2017

⁹ Publication pending

¹⁰ BBC News *Nottinghamshire Police records misogyny as a hate crime*. 13th July 2016 Available from:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-36775398>

Sexual harassment is a commonplace experience in women's everyday lives (see for example the Everyday Sexism Project¹¹) and women do not expect to be taken seriously if they do report it (indeed, 85% of rapes are never reported¹² and a sizeable proportion of women say this is because they fear being treated disrespectfully and/or being disbelieved).

The same disbelief and dismissive attitude is often expressed when women object to the presence and existence of SEVs.

There are two undermining flaws in seeking case-based evidence of harm to individual women in this context, as in others. Firstly, violence against women prevalence data bear very little relation to reported crime statistics (and prevalence surveys do not question victims about connections with SEVs). Secondly, the issue is primarily mediated culturally with most of the harmful impacts not located physically near SEVs. For example, more recent research has centered on reports from ex-performers and has started to examine attendance at SEVs when investigating perpetrators of violence against women as outlined below.

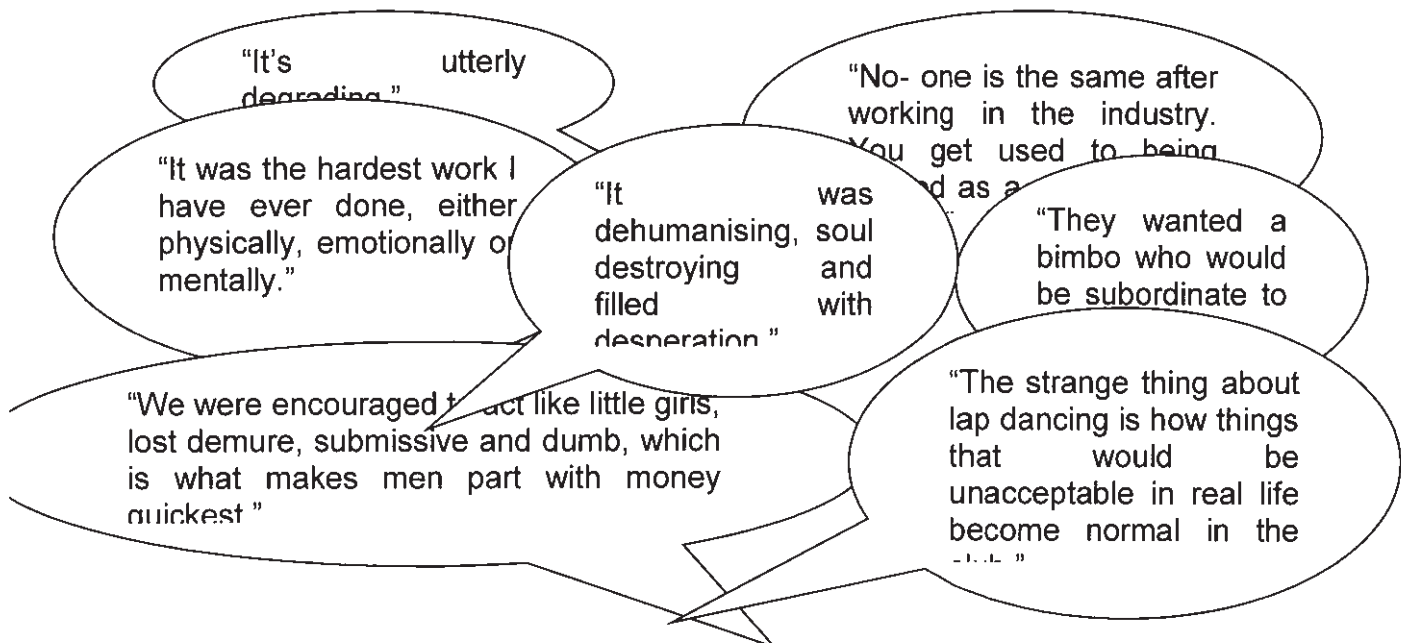
2.3 The impacts on performers

There is a small number of women who earn some money by working as performers in the SEV industry.

There are other views in addition to those already cited, that are in the public domain, primarily those gathered by former dancer Jennifer Hayashi Danns in research for her 2011 book¹³ and those gathered in a consultation run by Object¹⁴. A further example is:

'It was not a "gentleman's" club and I failed to understand what was so gentlemanly about an intoxicated man using derogatory language towards me, pestering me for sex and getting off on my naked body.'¹⁵

In their own words: former SEV performers reflecting on their experience:-



¹¹ <http://everydaysexism.com/>

¹² See Rape Crisis England and Wales who cite the Crime Survey England and Wales statistics from 2013 <http://rapecrisis.org.uk/statistics.php>

¹³ *Stripped: The Bare Reality of Lap Dancing* by Jennifer Hayashi Danns with Sandrine Leveque

¹⁴ Stripping the Illusion: the Lap Dancing Industry Exposed. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwg57pLJZUI>

¹⁵ *Stripped: The Bare Reality of Lap Dancing* by Jennifer Hayashi Danns with Sandrine Leveque (p.13)

"Men would come in and ask the manager did she have any black girls and I would be wheeled out like a prize cow. At the time it seemed normal, but with hindsight..."

"Men need to stop thinking that it's OK to pay for sexual entertainment. Paying for it doesn't just hurt the women providing that service. It hurts all women. It hurts all of us."

"Many parts of my time in dancing are difficult to talk about. Often if someone asked me about my experience as a dancer I have responded with a socially acceptable answer, and simply asserted that I enjoyed dancing, that I made a lot of money, but in the end dancing was not for me. This explanation in no way conveyed the extremity of emotion and mental distress I experienced as a dancer, and in no way conveys the sexual degradation and humiliation I experienced and observed during my short dancing career."

Performers at the clubs are self-employed women, while others who work in SEVs (e.g. door staff) tend to have employment contracts with associated job security and privileges. Research shows that women who work in SEVs are subject to high levels of abusive behaviour by customers; research in the U.S. (Holsopple 1998)¹⁶ found that 100% of the women working in lap dancing who were surveyed reported that they had experienced physical violence from customers. All the women had been sexually abused and verbally harassed in the club. Sanders and Hardy in 2011¹⁷ highlighted how almost half the SEV workers interviewed in their UK study reported frequent verbal harassment and unwanted touching from customers (in other words,

¹⁶ Holsopple, K (1998) *Strip Clubs According to Strippers: Exposing Workplace Sexual Violence*, available online at <http://www.uri.edu/artsci/wms/hughes/stripc1.htm>

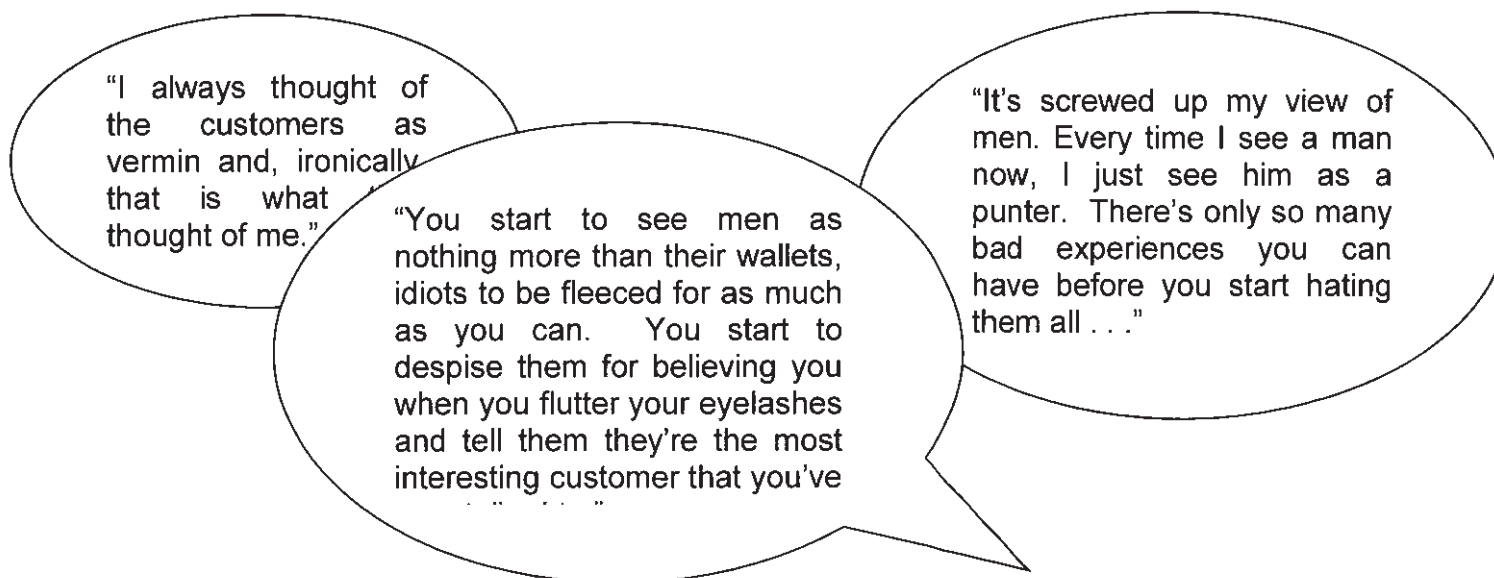
¹⁷ Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds Available from: http://www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/assets/files/research/Regulatory_Dance/FINALSUMMARYJAN2012.pdf

sexual assault). However the reality is that this behaviour is frequently (a) tolerated/accepted and (b) not reported to the authorities. There are significant factors driving this toleration and non-reporting, including the financial incentive for performers to accept touching and other sexual contact, regardless of rules or their own feelings about it, in order to compete with other performers for custom in a context where they have to pay the SEV for the privilege of being able to perform, and such competition is driven by SEV managers arranging that there are more performers than customers. The Licensing Objective the 'Prevention of crime and disorder' is just that, and must not be interpreted as the 'Prevention of specific types of crime and disorder which are reported to the police and acted on by the police'. Of concern, in December 2016 it was reported that men are secretly filming performers and posting the videos online, both without their consent¹⁸.

2.4 The impacts on relations between the sexes

The above views of sex workers about the punters axiomatically undermine gender equality and do not foster good relations between men and women. As former lap dancer Jennifer Hayashi Danns tells Kat Banyard 'the idea that the sex industry is sex-positive and liberal [is] an absolute joke' and that lap dancing clubs like the one she used to work in are 'just a manifestation of gender inequality.'¹⁹ Danns also highlights the link between men's dehumanisation of women performers in SEVs which runs counter to any notion of gender equality that any Council, or indeed any official body, claims to promote: 'a sex worker describes punters who came straight from lap dancing clubs as unwilling to acknowledge that women were human or individual . . . There was a very aggressive 'pack mentality' and they would ... make very degrading comments about the way that women looked.'²⁰

The following quotes highlight how SEVs are antithetical to the fostering of good relations between the sexes:



¹⁸ Independent 23rd December 2016 *Lap dancers reveal men sneak hidden cameras into strip clubs and post videos online*
Available from: <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/love-sex/lap-dancers-strip-clubs-hidden-cameras-videos-post-online-privacy-strippers-a7492036.html>

¹⁹ Cited in Banyard, K. (2016: p. 140) *Pimp State: Sex, Money and the Future of Equality*. Faber and Faber, London

²⁰ Guardian 10th November 2011 *The truth about life as a lap-dancer*. Available from: <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2011/nov/10/truth-lap-dancer-clubs>

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy²¹ reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men, a finding echoed in the testimonies of former performers and which is of relevance to the Council's duty under equality legislation to have due regard to the need to foster good relations between men and women.

Former lap dancer "Elena" told the Guardian that 'Lap-dancing reinforced all [her] negative beliefs about herself and about men. "The men just see you as an object, not a person, and whether you are equally engaged in their desire is irrelevant. **Increasingly, you learn to despise the men because of the way they perceive you.** Lap-dancing is about creating a situation whereby the men feel they are doing you a favour - that's the way the game is set up, so all the power is with the customer." She believes that for men who visit lap-dancing clubs, enjoyment derives primarily from handing over the money, not from the dance itself.'²² (emphasis added)
As these posters on a Digital Spy forum thread about strip clubs observe²³

Report Link to

41 11

149. **Iadivina69**
8 Feb 2012 09:26

309. **Andrew**
8 Feb 2012 11:55

I have observed the affect they have on my friends who see them as harmless. Their attitude to women has deteriorated over the years, now viewing women as objects to be bought and sold. One friend claimed it is harmless fun, a great way for a girl to pay her way through college. When I said he wouldn't mind then if his sister worked in one he soon changed his tune, says it all really.

My daughter is a dancer and its not harmless fun. In order to bear dealing with this degrading and soul destroying work the girls drink too much and endure the worst aspects of male nature. She has become cynical, jaded and doesnt have relationships any more. She thinks that men are all untrustworthy and only after what they can get away with. Its not really a job to be proud of.

Report Link to

35 20

Report Link to

73 43

There are also numerous threads on Mumsnet discussing the impact on their relationships when women discover that their partners have been to an SEV.²⁴

Several former performers have also spoken about the intense competitive nature between performers where they outnumber customers. This also does not foster good relations with other members of the female sex.

2.5 The impacts on women's freedom of movement

In addition to the normalisation of the sexualisation of women, there is discrimination against women. As Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

²¹ Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

²² The Guardian 19th March 2008 *I was seen as an object, not a person*
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/mar/19/gender.uk>

²³ <http://forums.digitalspy.co.uk/showthread.php?t=1464449>

²⁴ See for example: <http://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/relationships/a1775126-Strip-club;>
<http://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/relationships/1245716-DH-went-to-strip-club-last-night-3-dances-Am-I-stupid-naive-to-feel-so-sad-about-it> ; <http://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/relationships/a1775126-Strip-club;>
<http://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/relationships/a1626235-Husband-had-a-lap-dance> ;
<http://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/am-i-being-unreasonable/a2123339-Am-i-being-unreasonable-to-not-be-ok-with-my-husband-going-to-a-strip-club> and <http://www.mumsnet.com/Talk/relationships/a1726433-Am-I-over-reacting-Strip-club> (NB: this is a sample- there are a lot more discussions on this topic)

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'²⁵

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'²⁶ (ibid).

which is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'²⁷

This fear of crime [ie sexual violence] is frequently expressed by a significant number of objectors to SEVs.

3 EVIDENCE THAT SEVS REDUCE EQUALITY AND PROVIDE A CONDUCTIVE CONTEXT FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

3.1 Background

HM Government reports that there were an estimated 1.35 million female victims of domestic abuse in 2014 and nearly 450,000 victims of sexual violence²⁸. It states

'Violence against women and girls is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. We will continue to challenge the deep-rooted social norms, attitudes and behaviours that discriminate against and limit women and girls across all communities'²⁹

The same report states under the heading *Night Time Economy*:

'While crime in the night time economy has been falling steadily during the past years, we know that 36% of victims of serious sexual assault reported that the offender was under the influence of alcohol [Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences: 2013/14]. We will continue to encourage local areas to prevent violence against women and girls in the night time economy...'³⁰

²⁵ Op cit. p.87

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

²⁸ HM Government, *Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 – 2020* Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF

²⁹ HM Government, *Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 – 2020* (p. 16) Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522166/VAWG_Strategy_FINAL_PUBLICATION_MASTER_vRB.PDF

³⁰ Ibid

A 2014 study of male undergraduates demonstrates how heavy drinking and sexual violence is mediated by the extent to which men engage in sexually objectifying women

'alcohol use intensifies the objectification of women in a manner that increases sexual violence risk'³¹

On 5th March 2014 *The Independent* published findings of the Violence Against Women report by the *European Agency of Fundamental Rights* (FRA) highlighting how half of women in Britain admit they have been physically or sexually assaulted, higher than the 1 in 3 women from across Europe who will be a victim of violence in their lifetime.³²

2008 research shows how domestic violence perpetrators who access the sex industry (pornography and strip clubs) use more controlling behaviours than those who do not.³³ Coercively controlling behavior is the biggest risk factor for fatal domestic abuse and is now enshrined in legislation: Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 - Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship.³⁴ Furthermore, there is a wealth of practice - based evidence from the women's domestic abuse and sexual violence sector of women disclosing how their abusers access pornography, prostitution and strip clubs.

On average, two women per week are murdered by a former or current partner in the UK.³⁵ Karen Ingala Smith who created the Femicide Census recording murders of women by men writes:

'One of the most important things about the Femicide Census is that we look beyond intimate partner violence, to fatal violence from other male family members, from sons, from strangers, and including men who pay for sex. Doing this helps us see the bigger picture; identifying the commonalities across the different contexts of men's violence against women can help us see its root causes. This is essential if we're really serious about reducing men's violence against women and girls. Continuing to improve policing and justice responses is vital, but these alone won't bring about the reduction in men's violence against women that we want, if we don't change the attitudes and inequality that foster it.'³⁶

Furthermore, in the Femicide database of the 936 women killed by men between 2009 and 2015, Ingala Smith states:

'it is known that at least 21 of the women killed had links to prostitution or pornography, and we think this will be an undercount. In my opinion, prostitution is financially compensated rape and prostitution and pornography are eroticised inequality. You can't

³¹ Gervais, S. J., DiLillo, D., & McChargue, D. (2014) *Psychology of Violence Understanding the Link Between Men's Alcohol Use and Sexual Violence Perpetration: The Mediating Role of Sexual Objectification*.

³² <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/the-violence-epidemic-half-of-women-in-britain-admit-they-have-been-physically-or-sexually-assaulted-9169143.html>

³³ Simmons, C. A., Lehmann, P. & Collier-Tenison, C (2008) *Violence Against Women 14 Linking Male Use of the Sex Industry to Controlling Behaviors in Violent Relationships: An Exploratory Analysis*

³⁴ http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/a_to_c/controlling_or_coercive_behaviour/#a01

³⁵ Women's Aid <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/how-common-is-domestic-abuse/>

³⁶ Guardian 7th December 2016 *Why does a woman stay with a violent man? Sometimes, to save her life* <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/07/femicide-census-violence-against-women>

have one sex overwhelmingly sold as a commodity and the other the purchaser, without sex inequality and without reinforcing that inequality.³⁷

3.2 Joining up the dots: research and evidence

In addition to the incompatibility of SEVs and the PSED, a number of specialist agencies whose agenda is to promote gender equality and end violence against women identify SEVs as harmful and wish to see a nil cap.

In a multinational study of male violence against women published in 2013 by the United Nations³⁸, the most common motivation of men who have admitted to rape is the **belief that they are entitled to sex** even without the female partner's consent. This study interviewed 10,000 men and 1 in 4 had raped their wife, their partner or another woman. That is not an insignificant minority of men. Entitlement, which is the stock in trade of lap dancing clubs, is the main motivation given by men who rape. The most commonly identified attitudinal risk factor for men's sexual and domestic violence and coercion against women globally stems from gender inequality - a belief in the dominance of men, and their needs or wishes and bodies, over women.³⁹


In a study for the *Journal of Sex Research* (Frank 2003)⁴⁰, more than half the men interviewed said they were motivated to visit lap dancing clubs to get away from what they saw as the rules for behaviour that constrained them - that is, **treating women equally** - for example when interacting with female colleagues at work. That is not an insignificant minority of men. One participant said of visiting a lap dancing club:

"You can go in there and shop for a **piece of meat**, quote unquote, so to speak. I mean, you want to see a **girl** run around naked, have her come over, pay her to do a dance or two or three and walk away and not even ask her name. Total distancing."

Similarly, a post on Sheffield Forum about Spearmint Rhino stated⁴¹:

27/09/2014, 12:18

helhol
Registered User



Joined: Jul 2011
Location: Brighton s20
Total Posts: 1,195

Quote:

Originally Posted by edsballs ↘
This type of place is the last bastion for male sexism

Having said that there is some fine ladies dancing there

Fine females, like being in a butchers with prime rump on display

I personally would never go in, it attracts a certain kind of male

my niece works at the one in Leicester (as a waitress/bar tender) honestly, and she could tell a few stories what goes on in there, luckily she has her head on her shoulders so stays clean and above the law x

quote

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ UN Women 10th September 2013 *Half of men report using violence and a quarter perpetrate rape according to UN survey of 10,000 men in Asia- survey* <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2013/9/half-of-men-report-using-violence-and-a-quarter-perpetrate-rape-according-to-un-survey>

³⁹ Ricardo, C., Eads, M. & Barker, G. (2011). *Engaging Boys and Men in the Prevention of Sexual Violence*. Sexual Violence Research Initiative and Promundo. Pretoria, South Africa and Fulu, E., Warner, X., Miedema, S., Jewkes, R., Roselli, T. & Lang, J. (2013). *Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent it. Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific*. Bangkok: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Women and United Nations Volunteers.

⁴⁰ Frank, K. (2003) *Journal of Sex Research*, 40, 61-75 *Just Trying to Relax: Masculinity, Masculinizing Practices, and Strip Club Regulars*

⁴¹ <http://www.sheffieldforum.co.uk/showthread.php?t=1283563&highlight=spearmint+rhino&page=2>

This is manifestly incompatible local authorities' gender equality duties.

A psychological research study published in 2014 which used male students as its study population concluded that the frequently documented association between heavy drinking and sexual violence is mediated by the extent to which men engage in sexually objectifying women. In other words, **'alcohol use intensifies the objectification of women in a manner that increases sexual violence risk'**⁴². SEVs provide alcohol and encourage sexual objectification.

Sexual objectification is not equivalent to sexiness or sexuality or sexual enjoyment – sexual objectification is a barrier to the development and enjoyment of authentic mutually satisfying sexual relationships where women and men are equally valued and in charge of their own sexuality.

- ... The sexual objectification of women, as encouraged by and practised in SEVs, acts to reinforce gender inequality⁴³.
- ... Sexual objectification dehumanises women⁴⁴.
- ... Male domestic violence offenders using the sex industry use more forms of aggressive violence and more controlling behaviours than those who do not use the sex industry⁴⁵.
- ... After being exposed to images that sexually objectify women, men are significantly more accepting of sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, rape myths and sex role stereotypes – all of which act to reinforce gender inequality⁴⁶. Importantly, this increased acceptance of harmful attitudes is not confined to particular women but generalises to women as a group.

Pornified and sexualized culture also impacts on girls' self-esteem, confidence and their value. As the GirlGuiding Girls' Attitudes Survey 2016 states:

'Girls are saying they can't do the things they'd like because they don't feel safe or because of double standards on what behaviours are acceptable or what roles are open to them compared with boys... From as young as seven, girls feel the impact of daily sexist images of women and girls in the media, online and all around them. Girls tell us that sexist objectification of women in the media makes them feel disempowered and that gender stereotypes make them feel that their gender will hold them back in life. They tell us they have to confront intense and unobtainable appearance pressures to be perfect and many say they feel they're not good enough... Overwhelmingly, girls want to live in a world without gender stereotypes, where women and girls aren't judged on how they look, where they are safe and where people are not discriminated against.' (p2)

It reported that 61% of girls aged 11-21 have experienced people criticising their bodies (p7), 70% of girls aged 11-21 say sexism is so widespread it affects most areas of their lives (p9), 21%

⁴² Gervais, S. J., DiLillo, D., & McChargue, D. (2014, January 13) *Psychology of Violence Understanding the Link Between Men's Alcohol Use and Sexual Violence Perpetration: The Mediating Role of Sexual Objectification*.

⁴³ See for example the Home Office Sexualisation Review (Papadopoulos, 2010); Heflick & Goldenberg (2009); Heilman & Stopeck (1985); Nicolson (1996); Rudman & Borgida (1995).

⁴⁴ Loughnan et al. (2010) *Eur. J. Soc. Psychol.* 40, 709–717

⁴⁵ Simmons et al. (2008) *Violence Against Women* 14: 406

⁴⁶ See the review of the American Psychological Association (2007) and see also for example Allen, D'Alession & Brezgel (1995); Lanis and Covell (1995); Zillman & Weaver (1989).

of girls aged 17-21 experience street harassment and 44% change their behaviour to avoid this. (p14).⁴⁷

3.3 Modern policy approaches to preventing violence against women and girls

Evidence-based research has now resulted in recommendations that the most effective way to reduce the prevalence of men's violence against women is to refocus on **community-level prevention**: that is, to change the cultural conditions which are facilitating men's belief that they are entitled to harass, abuse and violate women. These cultural conditions underpin the behaviour of individual men.⁴⁸

3.4. A culture of harm

SEVs promote harmful attitudes to women and run counter to promoting equality between women and men; we reiterate that these are not moral objections. SEVs reproduce and promote the prevailing financial and social inequality between women and men in our society, and they reproduce and promote the prevailing cultural assumption that women's bodies are objects to which men are entitled to have access. Citing examples of women accessing these clubs as customers, as has been done, as though this implies gender equality objectives are being achieved illustrates a clear lack of understanding of equality issues.

There is evidence that women working in SEVs - and women encountering men who have been using SEVs - come to direct harm. Our argument is that in addition to the negative impacts on gender equality and individual women's fear of and experiences of male violence, SEVs are part of a wider culture of harm, which is addressed in Paragraph 1, Article 12 of the Istanbul Convention a Bill for which passed through its third reading at the House of Commons on 24th February 2017, voted in by 138 MPs.⁴⁹:

'Parties shall take the necessary measures to promote changes in the social and cultural patterns of behaviour of women and men with a view to eradicating prejudices, customs, traditions and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority of women or on stereotyped roles for women and men'⁵⁰

which Hester and Lilley (2016 p.7) expand thus:

'The purpose of Article 12 is to reach the hearts and minds of individuals to ensure changes in mind-sets, attitudes and beliefs towards women, their role and status in society, their sexuality, as well as women's agency. The ultimate aim is to change the behaviour of men and women, boys and girls, that is currently all too often influenced by prejudice, gender stereotypes or gender-biased customs and traditions, and that helps to perpetrate or condone violence against women (Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2).'⁵¹

⁴⁷ <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/globalassets/docs-and-resources/research-and-campaigns/girls-attitudes-survey-2016.pdf>

⁴⁸ Hester M., & Lilley, S.J. (2014) *Preventing violence against women: Article 12 of the Istanbul Convention*. Council of Europe, Strasbourg; Jewkes, R., Flood, M., & Lang, J. (2015). From work with men and boys to changes of social norms and reduction of inequities in gender relations: a conceptual shift in prevention of violence against women and girls. *The Lancet*, 385, (Issue 9977), 1580 – 1589; Fulu, E., Warner, X., Miedema, S., Jewkes, R., Roselli, T. & Lang, J. (2013). *Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent it. Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-Country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific*. Bangkok: United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Women and United Nations Volunteers.

⁴⁹ <https://makingherstory.org.uk/2017/02/26/change-herstory-istanbul-convention/>

⁵⁰ <https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168008482e>

⁵¹ Preventing violence against women: Article 12 of the Istanbul Convention (2016) <https://edoc.coe.int/en/violence-against-women/7140-preventing-violence-against-women-article-12-of-the-istanbul-convention.html>

The British Council 2016 response to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)⁵² also recognizes how

'Cultural platforms influence, shape and challenge the world through their stories, and stakeholders draw a clear link between stereotyped and sexist representations in dominant culture and the unfair treatment of women in society.' (p.4)⁵³

This new focus on violence against women is beginning to be reflected in policy and legislation. In 2015, as part of the revision to Scottish licensing law, an amendment to legislation was passed and enacted (the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2015) which in S76⁵⁴ formally recognises the relevance of SEVs to violence against women:

- '(3) In preparing a SEV policy statement, a local authority must—
- (a) consider the impact of the licensing of sexual entertainment venues in their area, having regard, in particular, to how it will affect the objectives of—
 - (i) preventing public nuisance, crime and disorder,
 - (ii) securing public safety,
 - (iii) protecting children and young people from harm,
 - (iv) **reducing violence against women**, and
 - (b) consult such persons or bodies as they consider appropriate.' (emphasis added)

4 LEGAL MATTERS

4.1 Background

Guidance issued by the Home Office states that the purpose of the SEV legislation is **"to give local people a greater say over the number and location of lap dancing clubs in their area"**. The importance of allowing public bodies to make honest, reasonable and sound decisions has been reflected in the licensing costs cases of *City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council v Booth* [2000] LLR 151 and *Perinpanathan v City of Westminster Magistrates* [2008] CO/2547/2008. While the possibility of a judicial challenge may be a cause for concern, these cases emphasise that if the authority acts in an honest, reasonable and proper manner then the decision is considered prima facie by a reviewing court to be the one to which they should hold unless there are other good reasons for this not to be the case, such as some impropriety.

In 2014 Ranjit Bhowse QC, Philip Kolvin QC and Josef Cannon reviewed two recent judgements (*R (Bean Leisure Trading A Limited) v Leeds City Council* and *R (Ruby May (1) Ltd) v Leeds City Council*) for the Local Government Lawyer website in which they concluded:

'In two recent decisions the courts have affirmed the wide powers enjoyed by licensing authorities to refuse renewals of licences for lap dancing clubs'

They also note that:

⁵² <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

⁵³ British Council research on gender equality and empowering women and girls in the UK: Meeting the challenge of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): <https://www.britishcouncil.org/society/womens-and-girls-empowerment/gender-equality-uk>

⁵⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/10/section/76/enacted>

'licensing authorities are entitled to 'have a fresh look' at an application for renewal of an SEV licence, and may refuse to renew even when there is no material change in circumstance.'⁵⁵

Guidance by human rights law expert Dr James Harrison, Director of the Centre for Human Rights in Practice at the University of Warwick, confirms that refusal to renew is not a breach of human rights law.⁵⁶

In the case of London Borough of Wandsworth ex parte Darker Enterprises Limited, R V [1999] WEHC Admin 34 para 46, Mr Justice Turner stated

'It is, in my judgment, an inescapable fact that the Act of 1982 expressly contemplates the possibility that the circumstances in which a licence had been granted or renewed might change; hence the provisions of paragraph 12 of the 3rd Schedule, which apply not just in respect of the grant but, more importantly, also on the renewal of a licence. Thus the proposition that an existing licence holder can expect that he will be granted a licence in perpetuity for any given set of premises is plainly wrong'.

5 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is important to note that there is no evidence at all that the activity currently licensed in SEVs (i.e. not prostitution but nude sexual performance) would 'go underground' if councils did not renew or award licenses to SEVs or that 'occasional' (unlicensed) performances would increase in number as though there were an inevitable fixed market for striptease. Local authorities are asked to note strip clubs (along with the purchase of sex and hardcore pornography) were banned in Iceland in 2010 and the country ranked 1st place in the Global Gender Gap Report in 2012⁵⁷ and has consistently remained so until 2016.⁵⁸ It is believed that the country will be the first to close its gender pay gap completely.⁵⁹ Whereas the UK is slipping down the international league table on gender equality. In 2006, Britain was 9th in the World Economic Forum's gender equality league table. We currently rank 48th in the world for women's representation in parliament, and at the current rate of progress it will take 62 years to close the gender pay gap.⁶⁰

The aforementioned Sanders and Hardy 2011⁶¹ study found that the industry was fuelled by the supply of performers, not by a demand for performances. Further research supports the success of policy approaches that reduce demand for the trade in sex by acting on supply: levels of demand for the trade vary between countries, over time and according to the cultural and legal

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http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17968%3A%3Aap-dance-no-more&catid=49%3Acomment-a-analysis-articles&Itemid=1

⁵⁶ <https://coventrywomensvoices.wordpress.com/2011/09/23/sex-entertainment-venues-and-the-human-rights-act/>

⁵⁷ Al Jazeera 2nd April 2013 *Creating gender equity: Lessons from Iceland*

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2013/04/20134274739879996.html>

⁵⁸ Guardian 24th October 2016 *Why Iceland is the best place in the world to be a woman*

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/24/iceland-best-place-to-be-women-equal-gender-maternity>

⁵⁹ Quartz 19th January 2016 *Iceland could be the first country to close its gender gap completely*

<https://qz.com/597278/iceland-could-be-the-first-country-to-close-its-gender-gap-completely/>

⁶⁰ The Fawcett Society 2017 *Sounds Familiar?* <http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Sounds-Familiar-January-2017.pdf>

⁶¹ Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*.

Leeds: University of Leeds Available from:

http://www.sociology.leeds.ac.uk/assets/files/research/Regulatory_Dance/FINALSUMMARYJAN2012.pdf

context. Here in the UK the number of men who pay for sex doubled during the 1990s along with the growth in numbers of SEVs, with the rate increasing from one in 20 men to nearly one in 10 men. If demand can grow, it can also shrink. And that is exactly what countries like Sweden and Norway have shown through their adoption of the Sex Buyer Law, which criminalises the buyer only.

An investigation into the consequences of that law by the Swedish government found that street prostitution in Sweden halved during the period 1999-2008 and there is no evidence these women were simply displaced to indoor prostitution or prostitution advertised online. The number of men paying for sex in Sweden also declined. A Swedish survey in 1996 found 13.6% of men reported buying sex, while a similar survey in 2008 found this figure had dropped to 7.9%.

Research conducted by the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University with 137 men who paid women for sex found 'the accounts of men who had paid for sex overseas confirm that legality contributes to normalisation, which in turn increases the likelihood of paying for sex.'⁶² In the context of SEVs a local authority policy that permits the licensing of SEVs contributes to normalisation in the same way which directly contradicts the Council's statement in the Policy that it wishes to work to combat the normalisation of the objectification of women.

6 OTHER ISSUES

Local authorities should also adhere to Section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003⁶³ makes it an offence to sell or attempt to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk, or to allow alcohol to be sold to such a person on relevant premises. In light of the recent case of Gil David who it is reported claimed that Spearmint Rhino had "exploited" his drunkenness and stated 'I wasn't in control of my faculties and didn't realise what I was spending.' He added 'I was coerced into spending a third of my salary in five hours.'⁶⁴

Summary

We believe that the presence of SEVs undermines gender equality and creates unsafe spaces for women.

Whilst there has been a steady mainstreaming and normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women, we are also experiencing a cultural shift with many in society rejecting these values as illustrated by recent successes in the *No More Page Three*⁶⁵, *Lose the Lad Mags*⁶⁶ and *Banknote*⁶⁷ campaigns.

In a 2016 report published by the Fawcett Society, it states:

'There is a strong bedrock of support for equality between men and women – in 2016 it's time to speed up the pace of change and ensure we aren't waiting another 150 years to achieve it.'(p. 2)⁶⁸

This, combined with growing evidence that many men are eschewing the traditional stag night strip club outing and the growing number of license refusals⁶⁹ and nil caps being adopted by local

⁶² From the website of End Demand: <http://enddemand.uk/about/frequently-asked-questions/>

⁶³ http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/l_to_o/licensing_of_alcohol/#introduction

⁶⁴ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-30013478>

⁶⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No_More_Page_3

⁶⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2015/nov/17/fhm-zoo-magazines-suspend-publication>

⁶⁷ <https://www.channel4.com/news/jane-austen-banknote-money-bank-of-england-carney>

⁶⁸ <http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Sex-equality-state-of-the-nation-230116.pdf>

⁶⁹ <https://sevlicensing.wordpress.com/about/> see also Eden Lounge Exeter <http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/exeter-strip-club-eden-lounge-loses-licence/story-27522405-detail/story.html>

authorities, indicates that strip clubs are increasingly being recognised and understood to be sexist and antithetical to gender equality and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

As such, we urge the Council to respond to the growing body of research evidence about the harmful impact of SEVs and to be part of this change thereby demonstrating its avowed commitment to 'reduce the normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women, avoid exploitation of women and to promote healthy sexual practices.' (para 9, p.1)⁷⁰

Zero Option is a Sheffield based campaign group whose aims are:

- 2. To lobby Sheffield City Council to adopt the zero option (nil cap) in its Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) Policy for the number of permitted SEVs within the city boundaries.
- 2. To lobby nationally for the recognition of SEVs as a form of violence against women.
- 2. To support individuals, groups and organisations with similar aims locally, nationally and globally.
- 2. To raise awareness of the appalling employment and working conditions of lap and pole dancers and strippers working in SEVs.
- 2. To raise awareness of gender inequality within the wider community caused and propagated by the objectification and commodification of women in SEVs.

We are also increasing our national presence and work closely with Not Buying It and other feminist organisations and equality groups.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Bristol Fawcett Society who shared their response to Bristol City Council's draft SEV Policy from which we have drawn on a great deal of work and research undertaken by them.

⁷⁰ https://sheffield.citizenspace.com/place-business-strategy/sex-establishment-policy/supporting_documents/Sex%20Establishment%20Policy%20%20Draft%201.0.pdf

OBJECTIFICATION RESEARCH – AN EXAMPLE

The chart below, from an objectification study published in 2012, shows how both men and women in our society are trained by culture (i.e. representations of women in society and in the media) to dehumanise women when they are presented wearing very little, revealing, clothing. In this study, the brains of both men and women (the ‘targets’) have processed images of women in underwear in the same way as they would process images of objects. However the images of men (whether or not in underwear) are processed using the special part of the brain reserved for humans. This study is one of a growing number of scientifically robust peer-reviewed research studies concerning the objectification of women. Together, they link the objectification of women with dehumanisation and inequality.⁷¹

Are women human? – not when they are sex objects.

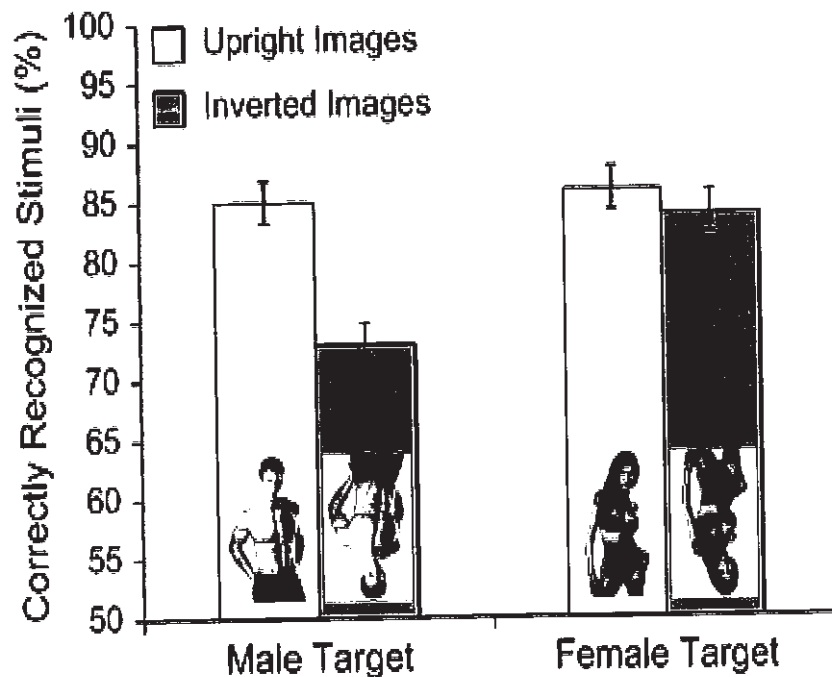


Figure 1. Percentage of correctly recognized stimuli as a function of target gender and target orientation. Error bars indicate ± 1 SEM.

“... our findings showed no differences related to participant gender, which suggests that cultural beliefs that women are sex objects are shared by both men and women”

Bernard et al.

⁷¹ Bernard et al. (2012) University of Nebraska - Lincoln *Integrating Sexual Objectification With Object Versus Person Recognition: The Sexualized-BodyInversion Hypothesis* <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1568&context=psychfacpub>

Objection 70

Dear Licensing

Please accept our objection to the renewal of Spearmint Rhino license.

Bridget Kelly

Chief Executive
SHIFT
322 The Workstation
15 Paternoster Row
Sheffield
S1 2BX

0114-272 6304



Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and request that the council refuse to grant such a license

SHIFT is based in the Workstation in the heart of the Cultural Industries Quarter. This is in itself ground for refusal as the location is a central Hub that Sheffield City Council has invested in as part of the economic and social development of the city.

SHIFT work with 16-18 year old young people, being situated in proximity to a lap dancing club does not demonstrate to those young people positive role models of adult male behaviour or equality between the sexes. Implicit in purchasing a lap dance is the commodification of women. From that position of purchase it is a short step to generalising that behaviour to all women. This underpins the idea that all women are accessible to men as a right. That assumption leads to the erroneous idea that if you own a women then that woman is yours to do with as you like. This is the exact thinking that underpins slavery.

It is within the council, our elected representatives, power to deny this license under the Discretionary Grounds for refusal based on:

- Public Sector Duty and Gender Equality
- Location

- Vicinity near educational institutions

I trust you will exercise this power wisely and with consideration of the 'harm' that such establishment do to not only women and girls but everyone. Men are less than they might be by participating and or sanctioning what is an outmoded and anachronistic activity i.e. purchasing women.

Yours sincerely

Bridget Kelly
SHIFT Chief Executive

Objection 71

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
20th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence with a call for the Council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy and I support the Zero Option submission in this respect.

There are a number of grounds to object, as outlined by the Zero Option submission, all of which I support. For the purpose of this objection, I have decided to focus on the following aspect of the discretionary grounds for refusing a license:

- d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard:
 - i) to the character of the relevant locality;

OBJECTION:

There are examples from across the Council that exemplify the value placed on the locality in which Spearmint Rhino is positioned. It is distinguished as a cultural hub by way of it being recognised and identified as the Cultural Industries Quarter. There is a variety of tourist attractions including the Showroom Cinema and Site Gallery, an increasing number of people are choosing to live in the area – both students and long term residents – and the education sector has a dominant presence with Sheffield Hallam University and the University Technology College in close proximity.

The value that the Council places on this area is evidenced by the recent consultation on the Knowledge Gateway, and the City Centre Masterplan, both of which have Spearmint Rhino sited in the middle of key areas that are intended for investment and regeneration in order to attract more people there.

See the [Welcome to Sheffield consultation \(closed 28.2.17\) on the Knowledge Gateway –](http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/business/developments/the-knowledge-gateway)
<http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/business/developments/the-knowledge-gateway>

"This project seeks to transform the corridor running along the Lower Sheaf – Porter Valley, including the station to a similar high standard as the highly acclaimed Gold and Steel Routes in City Centre.

It will improve links between several key destinations and several potential development sites. For example links within and to the Cultural Industries Quarter, Digital Campus and Sheffield Hallam University and to the Railway Station. It will improve accessibility and safety as well as the environment in order to encourage new investment and jobs. Key locations such as Fitzalan Square and streets will be transformed as part of the initiative.

The project recognises that the station is Governments preferred location for an HS2 station which may be 10-15 years away. The station is a key gateway and this project seeks to improve the existing taxi queuing, movement of traffic and pedestrian access. This should all make this area, the corridor and indeed the City Centre much more attractive to inward investment."

Includes the following picture which includes the Spearmint Rhino venue –



Coverage by the local media on the consultation for the Knowledge Gateway:

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/public-views-to-shape-sheffield-s-knowledge-gateway-scheme-1-8421645>

Cllr Leigh Bramall said about the scheme:

"I'm very pleased this part of the scheme is progressing. We have already completed improvements at the University of Sheffield and this part of the project will benefit the areas

around Sheffield Hallam University and the Cultural Industries Quarter."

See the City Centre Masterplan 2013:

Pg 41 - Working with Site Gallery, the Student Union, The Workstation/Showroom, the Paternoster Row/Brown St/Hub Square area will be calmed, narrowed and upgraded to create a series of pedestrian priority streets and spaces which can accommodate events and form the focus of the CIQ.

Pg 45 - The extension of high quality, pedestrian priority public spaces from Howard St along Paternoster Row and Brown St, incorporating measures to reduce bus and taxi speeds and taking in the existing Hubs Square. It will become the 'Main Street' for the CIQ with much greater space for events, street cafes, temporary artwork and distinctive night time lighting.

Both these examples – the Knowledge Gateway and the City Centre Masterplan – are evidence of the Council's commitment to raising the profile of the area in which Spearmint Rhino is located. The presence of a Sexual Entertainment Venue, which contradicts the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty to foster good relations between the sexes, is entirely inappropriate and counter to the ambitions and vision of the rest of the Council to attract investment to this area and encourage tourists and residents to frequent and travel through it as a key destination in the city centre.

Yours sincerely

Objection 72

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21.3.2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'^[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the

public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87 [2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12. [3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87 [4] p. 90

Objection 73

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21 March 2017

Dear Licensing,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas - subject to the choices of the local communities.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections. When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

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Location

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 - 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs. The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square

(<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/@53.3778743,-1.4645641,3a,75y,323.44h,80.28t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s8gASUnXBV225wqzIFcI6pw!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!6m1!1e1>)

directly adjacent to the club.

The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to.

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes.

Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality.

The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

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Objection 74

Hi,

I am aware that the licence Spearhead Rhino club is being considered for renewal. I wanted to raise an objection to this club being present in this part of the city centre. I recently had a group of friends visit from London who I met at the station. From here we explored the cultural industries quarter. While they were impressed with this part of the city centre and the gateway to city, they were shocked that this type of club was present in the quarter. Of particular concern was the proximity to the other cultural venues and the incompatibility with the feel of area. It has been described to me as embarrassing for the city. For this reason I feel that its licence should be withdrawn.

Objection 75

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

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'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

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It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

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Additional grounds for refusal

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The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[+] p. 90

Objection 76

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the “Cultural Quarter” - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Objection 77

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to oppose the plans for the renewal of the license for Spearmint Rhino lapdancing club for the following reasons:

- It's proximity to student accommodation. The university area is seen to be open but safe space for students and there are many dangers that are associated with this type of venue that will potentially make this area unsafe for young people.
- It's proximity to the Leadmill night club. Young people and students leave this club very late at night under the influence of alcohol and the dangers associated with this type of venue being close by will make them, particular the young females, very vulnerable to danger on their way home.
- It's proximity to Rapecrisis Sheffield and various other charities for vulnerable people. This could discourage victims and people needing support from the area and if they cannot safely access support this could lead to them suffering further harm.
- This venue could be the cause of dangerous situations for people walking home from the railway station late at night.
- Again - it's proximity to the railway station, this type of night club which provides controversial entertainment does not give the best impression for visitors coming into the city. Especially as the area is being developed as the Knowledge Gateway for Sheffield - this type of venue is not appropriate.

I look forward to your response on this matter.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Objection 78

Dear Licensing

I am writing with regards to the application for license renewal for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

The Council has a legal duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty to to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance **equality** of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities.

There is an increasing body of research and evidence that links sexual objectification of women to acts of violence including a paper from the US - Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women, written in May 2016, and a paper entitled Link between sexual objectification and aggression from the University of Ken written in January 2017. This research clearly demonstrates the problem of Sexual Entertainment Venues, such as Spearmint Rhinos, for Councils that are committed to carrying out their legal duties in terms of equalities.

Sheffield City Council is known for going beyond the minimum requirements of its legal duties when it comes to promoting equality for women, with its support for the Women of Steel campaign, a gender-balanced Cabinet, strong female leadership, and a Women's Hub that is supported and facilitated by the Council to tackle sexual violence and sexual exploitation/sexploitation, amongst other issues. The city also has Purple Flag status for providing an "*entertaining, safe and enjoyable night out*," which will undoubtedly be of relevance and interest to female residents and tourists alike. The presence of a lapdancing club that sexual objectifies women is clearly counter to all of this.

Further to the issue of gender equality and sexism in light of the Public Sector Equality Duty, there are a number of grounds to object, and I support the submission by Zero Option which outlines these.

For the purpose of this objection, I have decided to focus on the following aspect of the discretionary grounds for refusing a license:

d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard:

i) to the character of the relevant locality;

In a press release from Sheffield News Room on 13th February regarding the award of the Purple Flag Status for another year, Councillor Mary Lea, Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport and Leisure at Sheffield City Council, said:

"It's great to see Sheffield receiving this award, and our night-time entertainment offer being recognised on a national level.

"With our varied selection of bars and restaurants, as well as a thriving theatre district and huge array of cultural attractions, we in Sheffield really are leading the way when it comes to providing an eclectic mix of places to eat, drink, relax and have fun.

"I hope that Sheffield city centre will continue to go from strength to strength, with the imminent opening of the new Light leisure and entertainment complex and the creation of the New Retail Quarter."

The City Centre as a whole is undergoing significant regeneration that includes the area in which Spearmint Rhino is present, also known as the Knowledge Gateway on which the Council recently undertook a consultation with the following description:

“This project seeks to transform the corridor running along the Lower Sheaf – Porter Valley, including the station to a similar high standard as the highly acclaimed Gold and Steel Routes in City Centre.

It will improve links between several key destinations and several potential development sites. For example links within and to the Cultural Industries Quarter, Digital Campus and Sheffield Hallam University and to the Railway Station. It will improve accessibility and safety as well as the environment in order to encourage new investment and jobs. Key locations such as Fitzalan Square and streets will be transformed as part of the initiative.

The project recognises that the station is Governments preferred location for an HS2 station which may be 10-15 years away. The station is a key gateway and this project seeks to improve the existing taxi queuing, movement of traffic and pedestrian access. This should all make this area, the corridor and indeed the City Centre much more attractive to inward investment.”

These examples are relevant in terms of the discretionary grounds for refusal based on the character of the relevant locality, and backed up by recent case law from the case of Thompson, R (On the Application Of) v Oxford City Council (2014) wherein it was held by the Court of Appeal that:

“In making that assessment, the sub-committee was permitted to have regard to an imminent development of which it was aware [developments of student housing], even if there could be no certainty that it would be completed and operational within the period of the licence.”

This is an area that has been going through a period of redevelopment and one that the Council intends for further development in the coming months and years. The City Centre Masterplan, Knowledge Gateway, plans for HS2 and aspirations for an international Tech Hub are all evidence of this and I was pleased to support the Council's preferred location for HS2 in the city centre, recognising that Sheffield will be at the centre of the Northern revival with the delivery of this kind of investment and infrastructure. Whilst we are still a number of years away until HS2 is built, I feel it is important and necessary to consider the location of an Sexual Entertainment Venue within the proximity of the intended station, and the message that a lapdancing club sends to potential investors, business people, and tourists that will inevitably increase with the building of the new station.

In addition, in my role as Shadow Minister for the Digital Economy, I was pleased to meet with the Vice Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University to discuss plans for a Tech Hub on Brown Street, and Sheffield's role as a world leader in innovation and technology. Clearly a lapdancing club is not congruent with this vision and I am concerned about the implications for Sheffield's national and international reputation in terms of the digital economy when we have visitors to the intended Tech Hub.

Therefore, I would urge you to refuse the renewal of this license application and I look forward to hearing from you with confirmation of receipt of this objection.

Yours sincerely

Louise Haigh MP

-
Louise Haigh MP
Member of Parliament for Sheffield Heeley

Objection 79

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

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c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

**e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or
f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.**

The area which the club is in is marketed by the Council as the "Cultural Quarter" - it is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and its equality duty. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

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[4] p. 90

Objection 80

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

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The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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"In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable" [1]

Kolvin continues with:

"If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club." [3]

The fear of violence and the impact on women's safety and freedom is frequently dismissed as a "moral argument" and therefore deemed as inadmissible and irrelevant. This was all too evident in the statement provided in the *Sheffield Telegraph* when Wildcats SEV was refused planning permission that 'Some critics claimed a sex-orientated venue would put the safety of women at risk, but officers said their recommendation was based on the impact on the area, not on moral grounds'. [4] Since when is the safety and freedom of women a "moral" issue?

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in the Zero Option Villa Mercedes hearing representation, a slide quoting former lap dancers is provided below to illustrate this point:



Zero Option Sheffield

Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not

- "I always thought of the customers as vermin and, ironically, that is what they thought of me" (*Ibid.* p.13)
- "It's screwed up my view of men . . . Every time I see a man now, I just see him as a punter. There's only so many bad experiences you can have before you start hating them all . . ." (*Ibid.* p.47)
- "You start to see men as nothing more than their wallets, idiots to be fleeced for as much as you can. You start to despise them for believing you when you flutter your eyelashes and tell them they're the most interesting customer that you've ever talked to." (*Stripping the Illusion: the Lap Dancing Industry Exposed*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KhwJWkqgP2c>)

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [5] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men, a finding echoed in the testimonies of former performers.

For example, a former lap dancer "Elena" told the Guardian that:

"Lap-dancing reinforced all [her] negative beliefs about herself and about men. "The men just see you as an object, not a person, and whether you are equally engaged in their desire is irrelevant. Increasingly, you learn to despise the men because of the way they perceive you. Lap-dancing is about creating a situation whereby the men feel they are doing you a favour - that's the way the game is set up, so all the power is with the customer." [6]

I am sure that I need not remind the the Council of its duty under the Equality Act's requirement to pay due regard to foster good relations between men and women.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for

children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “Knowledge Gateway”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, I am aware that the Council knows which organisations I am referring to.

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city. Housed in a converted 1930s car showroom, we’re situated right next to the railway station in Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter.” And further states that their “beautiful Art Deco environs are an ideal setting for the innovative businesses homed at the Workstation, and a perfect place for the determinedly independent and cutting edge cinema of the Showroom.” The Showroom also hosts family events as well as many off the Shelf and Doc Fest events, the latter is internationally renowned.

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students not only studying in the surrounding the area but also residing in it. The 24/7 Addsetts learning centre is in the vicinity with Brown Street and Cultural Industries Quarter Square as direct access routes from numerous student accommodation blocks. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building) and backs directly onto recently created student accommodation.

The Council states that it wishes “to support both the local community and businesses by ensuring that these types of premises [SEVs] are properly managed and that they integrate where possible into the local community” (SEV Policy p. 3). In what respect is Spearmint Rhino part of the local community? How does this internationally recognised chain of clubs integrate in any way with the Cultural Industries Quarter? How does Spearmint Rhino fit and integrate with this:

“Sheffield is a city of makers and doers, that delightedly boasts one of the largest creative communities in the country. Much of this community is concentrated in the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ), just between Sheffield Station and the city centre. An area that once hummed and clanked with cutlery works and toolmakers, it now sings with all manner of creative endeavour.”?

In the Council’s 2016 Determination Notice, it states:

“Members looked at the impact of Spearmint Rhino on the CIQ, specifically considering the visual and physical impact. The frontage is very discreet even when open and cannot be seen from the Showroom.”



I disagree with this conclusion, the above is not a discreet frontage; Its name (synonymous with strip clubs) is emblazoned across it in huge gold lettering spelling out the fact that it is a strip club ("Gentleman's Club") and displays the internationally recognised logo, not once but twice with its website details which if you type into the search engine takes you to a non-age restricted landing page with adult content.

Furthermore, how does the Council ensure that the premises is properly managed and enforce its obligations under the Section 141 of the Licensing Act 2003 which makes it an offence to sell or attempt to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk, or to allow alcohol to be sold to such a person on relevant premises? In light of the recent case of Gil David who it is reported claimed that Spearmint Rhino had "exploited" his drunkenness and stated:

'I wasn't in control of my faculties and didn't realise what I was spending' adding that 'I was coerced into spending a third of my salary in five hours.' [7]

Further grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield's local heritage.

The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women as well as the hyper-masculinity of men. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A Sexual Entertainment Venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the Council says it stands for, everything that the Council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the Council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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- [3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [4] Sheffield Telegraph 1st March 2013 No Wildcat action as lap dance venue in Sheffield is blocked
<http://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/no-wildcat-action-as-lap-dance-venue-in-sheffield-is-blocked-1->
- [5] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- [6] The Guardian 19th March 2008 *I was seen as an object, not a person*
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/mar/19/gender.uk>
- [7] *Man from NI taken advantage of in Spearmint Rhino strip club says Bournemouth councillor*
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-30013478>
- [8] p. 90

Objection 81

Dear Licensing Team,

Please accept this email as an objection to the current license renewal application of Spearmint Rhino. There are many reasons to this objection, including gender equality, female objectification and damaging image in arrival to the city. You are welcome to email me for further details. I look forward to there being a hearing.

Hi,

Thanks for reply. Excuse the bullet points (done for speed and clarity). Reasons I object:

- Sheffield is a modern city, aspiring to be a recognised city for culture, arts, heritage, etc. Such an establishment is the opposite to this.
- I have experienced first hand people commenting "Your welcome to Sheffield is a waterfall and a strip joint." This is a negative image for the city.
- It is 2017 and the Council should be striving for equality and reducing female objectification. The renewal of this licence would be the council corporately endorsing sexism, inequality and objectification.

Thanks for you communication.

Head of Licensing & Chief Licensing Officer
Block C
Staniforth Road
Sheffield S9 3HD
email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

20 March 2017

**Re: Application for Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence
by Spearmint Rhino**

vida
life without abuse

formerly
Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum

Knowle House
4 Norfolk Park Road
Sheffield S2 3QE
t: (0114) 275 0101
f: (0114) 278 1308
e: admin@vidasheffield.org.uk

Dear Licensing Department,

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and Vida Sheffield call for the council to refuse it.

We believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on two grounds:

Ground c):

"the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality."

The grounds go on to state that "Nil may be an appropriate number for the purposes of (c)"

Ground d):

"the grant or renewal of a licence would be inappropriate, having regard –

(i) to the character of the relevant locality; or

(ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or

(iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises; vehicle; vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made."

Sheffield City Council also has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. We believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women and girls, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

Furthermore Schedule 3 1982 Act provides specific grounds to refuse/renew license:

e) 'cultural hub of city'

f) 'central gateway to the city...or tourist attraction'

www.vidasheffield.org.uk

VIDA Sheffield | Registered Charity No: 1092661 | Company Registration No: 4405173

Our general terms of objection are as follows:

- the part of the city that the club is situated is unsuitable due to it being in the 'cultural heart' of the city. The Sexual Entertainment Venue is situated in the cultural heart of Sheffield, and within the area of the railway station, the main gateway and welcome point to the city, and the pedestrianised walkway to the town centre;
- the club is situated directly next to the SHU Students Union, a hub for young impressionable people, often away from home for the first time and vulnerable;
- when walking around this area, which you encourage as a Council due to the other businesses and services in the area, women and girls feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour to take account of it. For example, having to check to see if there are men coming out of the SEV, and taking a different route to the centre of town so that they do not risk walking past an SEV – women and girls should not have to adapt our lives in this way in our city;
- the Council's own promotion is of 'Sheffield – where everyone matters' – this should include the female citizens of the city, who should not be subjected to their city promoting and normalising their sexualisation and objectification
- the image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue, in a very busy social hub of the city, giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies and Sheffield's own widely publicised belief that Sheffield is 'a city where everyone matters.'
- granting a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest festival for International Women's Day, the One Billion Rising flash dance event to combat Violence Against Women & Girls, the Equalities Hubs bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the Council and the city.
- the City Council has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

We would ask what actions or discussions the council has undertaken, in order to consider what the appropriate number of sexual entertainment venues is for Sheffield, as stated in the policy and legislation? Has the Council, for example, in keeping with their own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

The law on SEV licensing states that Local Authorities have a duty to consider their legal obligations with regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) when considering license applications. Public Sector Equality Duty decisions should have due regard to fostering good relations between men and women, and this involves tackling inequality.

In their recent consultation, Sheffield City Council appeared to agree that Sexual Entertainment Venues involve the objectification of women. In allowing the licensing of even one SEV in the city, the Council is effectively endorsing and facilitating the objectification of women and undermining any efforts to promote healthy sexual practices, by the Council or your partners.

This normalisation of harassment and discrimination against women creates a hostile environment for women and girls in Sheffield, and contributes to the appalling levels of sexual and domestic violence and abuse, with the devastating impacts that we see daily in our Eva Therapy Service for women and girls affected by abuse and trauma.

We would respectfully but strongly urge the Licencing Committee to refuse this licence application by Spearmint Rhino, and in response to the recent consultation, to go on to set a nil cap for SEV's in the city.

The City Council is asked to note that in the last few years other councils have successfully defended a refusal to renew SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council [2014] – it was held that a council can 'take a fresh look' despite no changes to the character of locality.

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council [2014] was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could 'take a fresh look' at any application for renewal.

If the panel/committee feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, Vida would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

Vida will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge mounted in reaction to refusal of this licence application.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Maureen Storey
on behalf of the Vida Sheffield
Management Committee and staff team

Objection 83

Dear sir/madam - I am writing to object to the application for renewal of Spearmin Rhinos licence. My reasons as a frequent visitor to the city are that it creates an atmosphere in the local area that I find sexist and appears to condone seedy and unsavoury behaviour. It also seems incongruous with Sheffield's aspirations as a city of culture for the 21st Century and beyond.

Yours sincerely

Objection 84

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 5HD

21 March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds stemming from recent policy change in the area allowing a council to reject a license because:

- **the area is a Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.)**
- **and it is central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.**

Knowledge Gateway Hub (see appended materials)

Stemming from almost 7 years of work, Sheffield City Council has gained over £5million investment to radically alter the area that links Brown Street and Fitzalan Square as a so-called 'Knowledge Gateway'. Site Gallery is one key element of that programme which sees more than £100 million of capital developments underway. There is optimism and investment that the city can change for the better.

The majority of the investment has come from Sheffield City Region. It is to make the city look and feel better and to build the infrastructure that will contribute to a vibrant economy (with a focus on jobs that will provide higher salaries and prospects for the people of the city). The investment has already seen some positive results. However, it is stymied at a city branding level. When we come to launch the new Site Gallery, for instance, I am sure that at least 25% of the press (and we expect coverage from all of the nationals) will focus on the location of Spearmint Rhino. It degrades the city's reputation against all the economic and social indicators that it presents (vibrancy/economy/cultural-educational hub).

Education & Cultural Hub

Site Gallery, a stalwart of the local cultural scene, has raised £750,000 from public funds to invest in new public artwork, a children's play area, lighting and design for the area. The investment is to build a 'destination' around an art street including Site Gallery, the Workstation and Yorkshire Art Space. With Spearmint Rhino sitting in the middle of the piece, overlooking the proposed new 'Festival Square', the project is incredibly difficult to achieve. Spearmint Rhino undermines the messages

of 'safe place', 'aspirational growth' and 'new economies'. It throws the city backwards.

Sheffield City Council is itself investing cash and land for this ambitious and exciting project which Sir Nicholas Serota, now Chair of the Arts Council has described as a 'game-changer'. By extending this license, the city will potentially lose face and the faith of its people.

Dead real estate – barrier to success:

As the manager of a business in the area, I believe that my economic success has been massively impacted by the negative presence of such a low-grade branded business opposite the gallery. The Spearmint Rhino building (currently for sale) could be bought by a good, productive, outward facing, even creative company, but with the remaining lease in place it is impossible to move the area on. I know of a number of potential buyers for the building but who cannot make an offer because of the extant license.

Additional Points:

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs. The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential. There are three schools within a 5 minute walk of the club.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the

impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review: *R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)*. It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal: '*Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.*'^[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014)* was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

I believe that if Sheffield City Council, at this juncture of massive change that they have invested in, cannot refuse this license they will have made a mockery of their own staff, their citizens and the businesses and cultural agencies who are working so hard to bring investment to the city. This will be writ large in the press and across the UK as the buildings in the area begin to make their public launches. It will preclude further investment and show Sheffield as a place that does not take it's city seriously.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly

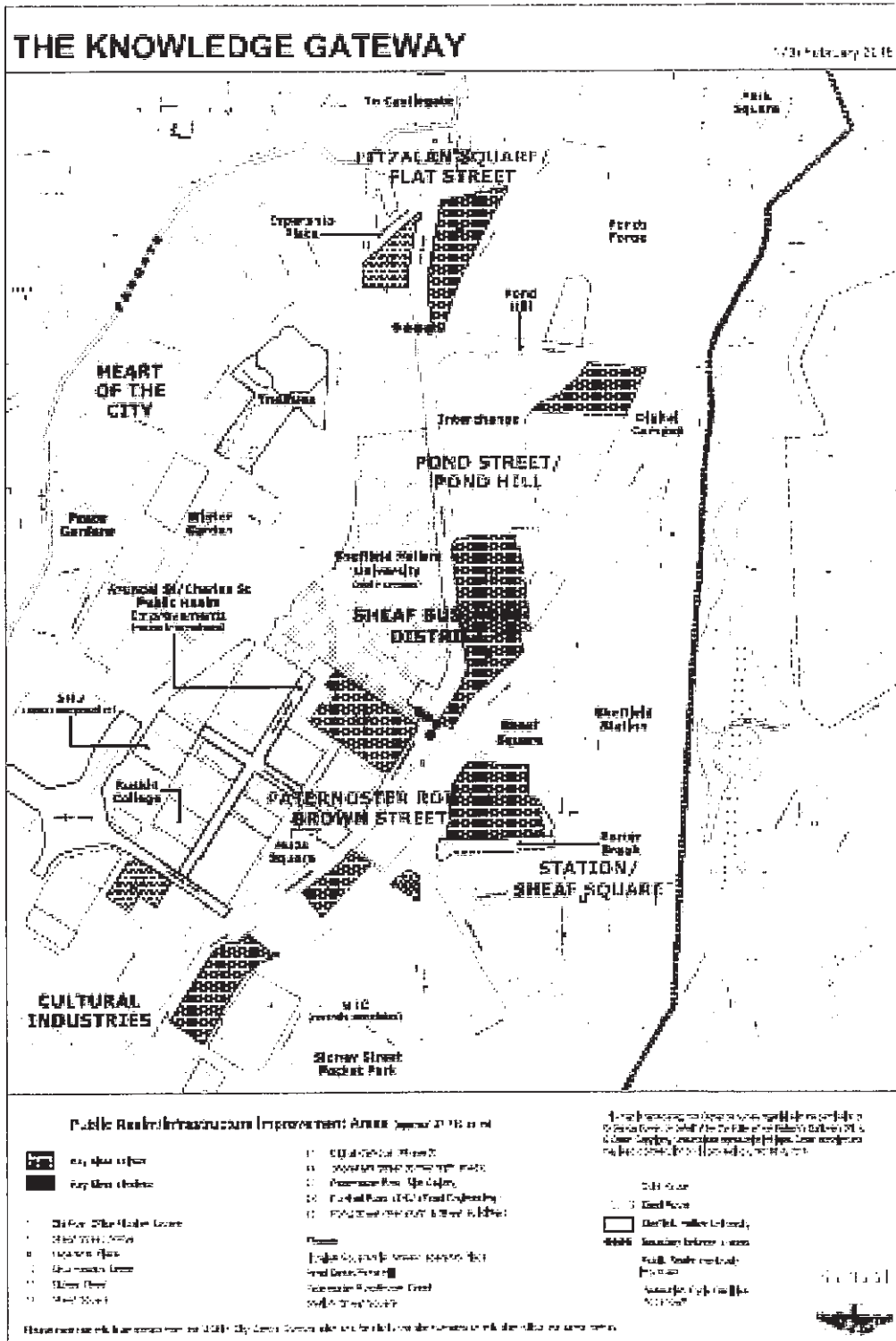
[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

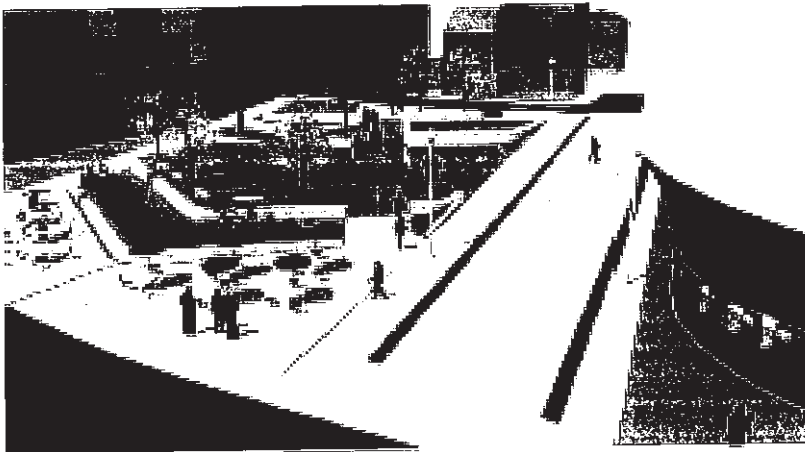
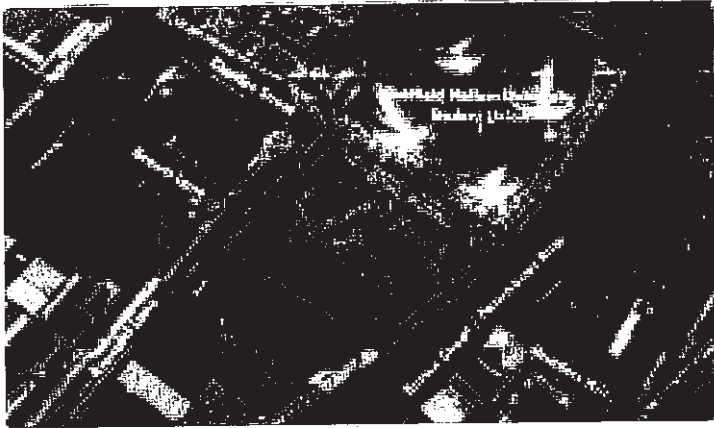
[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

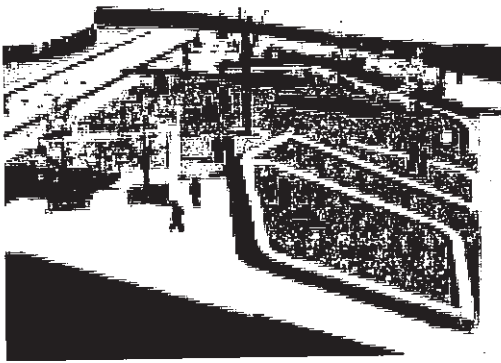
Appendix: Knowledge Gateway context



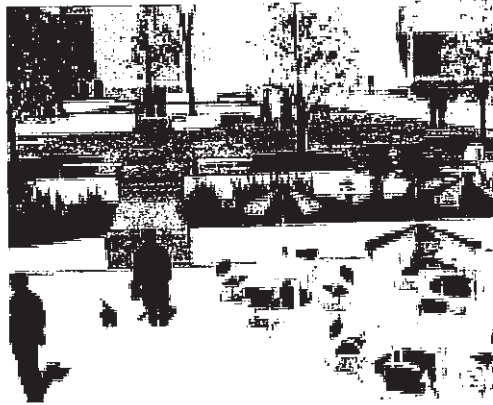
Ideas to change Pinball Park to Festival Square



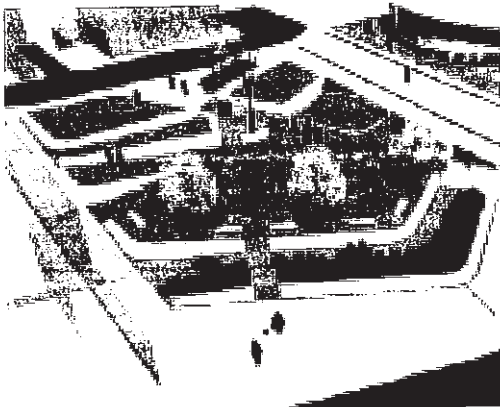
View 1



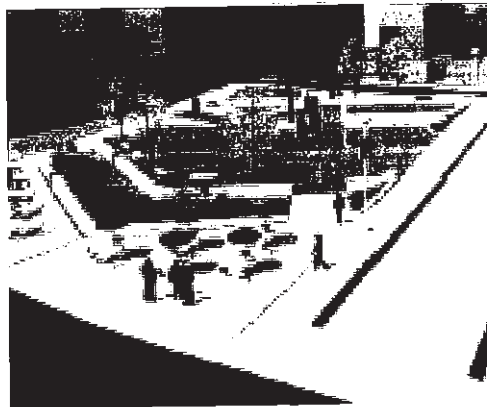
View 2



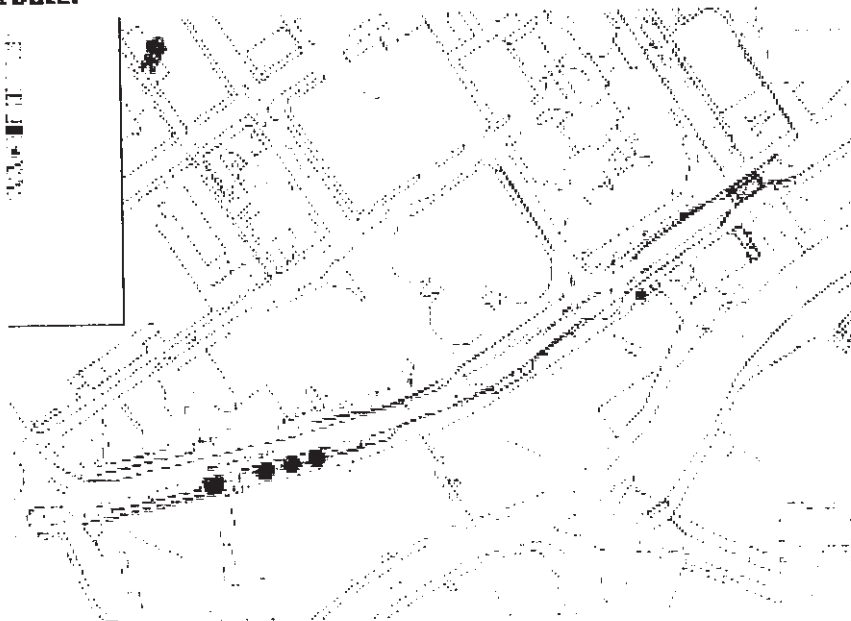
View 3



View 4



New Sustainable transport network – bike route and pedestrian prioritised route.



Objection 85

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable' [1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' [2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on [Sheaf Square](#)) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.' [4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 86

To Whom It May Concern

I'm mailing to express my opposition to the re-licensing of the above 'Sexual Entertainment Venue' I've read the policy around licensing these SEVs and as far as I can see this premises contravenes a number of points in the policy due to its positioning.

Apart from those issues I have a 15yr old Daughter who regularly goes to the Showroom Cinema with her teenage friends, I find it absolutely horrendous that they are aware of and see Spearmint Rhino, they feel embarrassed and just don't understand why it's allowed to be there.

They feel threatened by the presence of the building and worry about the people around that area, I worry if they come out of the cinema in the evening that I may be late and they may encounter men attending the Club, I never meet them for example in the car park or across the road from the Venue as I am pretty convinced that the men who visit the club have an unpleasant, distorted view of women, our sexuality and possibly teenage girls.

My daughter and her friends are fully aware of the type of venue that Spearmint Rhino is and the people attending, they also know how the women are treated there, they and I do not understand why the Club is on that site, in an otherwise accessible and vibrant Cultural area, it feels as if it normalises that behaviour of sexually objectifying women's bodies for men.

We all wonder how a Labour Council that we voted for and support can propagate this out of date, misogynistic view of women by agreeing to the Venue, I wonder if you could explain that to me, my daughter and her friends?

There was an awful rape of a Nurse recently in a Weston Park it's not related to the venue but it is a very real reminder that sexual violence is a reality for women and girls, this Venue does nothing to kick against that normalisation of women's bodies being available at any time for mens use.

As a woman who was repeatedly sexually abused and suffered domestic violence as a child and as a lifelong Labour supporter and life long Public Sector worker I'm asking you to respect me and my daughter and please stand up for us and not support the re licensing of Spearmint Rhino.

Please don't let big business and money always win through, things aren't great in the world at the moment for 'everyday' people, so please stand up for us now.

Thank You

Objection 87

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

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considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club. [3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms

of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

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'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Objection 88

OBJECTION TO SEV LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR SPEARMINT RHINO, BROWN STREET SHEFFIELD

Dear Mr Lonnia,
I wish to register my objection to the above SEV license renewal application.
There are many grounds on which I place my objection.

1. Incompatibility with the Council's obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The PSED requires the Council to consider the consequences of decisions, including licensing decisions, with regards to fostering good relations between the sexes. Sexual Entertainment Venues exist as there is a culture of misogyny and violence against women and girls in our society and their existence continues to perpetuate that same culture. This happens because the purpose of strip and lap and pole dancing clubs is for men to pay to have access to women's bodies without full, proper, meaningful consent. This means that women are viewed as sexual objects- access to their bodies bought.

There is a growing body of evidence in reputable journals demonstrating that the link between men's violence against women and girls and strip and lap and pole dancing clubs is this: that the degree to which these abusers view women as objects rather than full human beings is directly related the severity of their violent behaviour towards their female victims.

Thus the more they objectify women the worse their violence.

I wish to draw the attention of the Licensing Committee to a Freedom of Information 20161515 disclosure from South Yorkshire Police which shows that between 2013 and 2016 there has been an increase of 171% in the number of sexual assaults on females 13 and over and rapes of females 16 and over in the Central Ward of Sheffield (from 29 in 2013 to 80 in 2016) and an increase of 110% in other areas of Sheffield on average. Thus the Central ward is disproportionately affected by these offences and this is a progressive trend so the city centre is becoming less safe, particularly for women.

I am also concerned that a Freedom of Information request to South Yorkshire Police disclosed there were 33 incidents reported to the Police from 2012 to 2016 involving the words 'Spearmint Rhino' . The information provider declined to give further information about the content of these reports. This is in spite of previous Licensing Reports stating that the Police had reported no incidents involving Spearmint Rhino.

As well as the harm above there is harm caused to the strippers and dancers.

The psychological effects of having to split off mind and emotions from the act of stripping and lap and pole dancing, involving a display of semi or total nudity combined with a particular form of movements designed specifically to sexually titillate-the purpose of these venues- is inevitably harmful.

The split is necessary as the act of stripping and lap and pole dancing does not involve proper consent: indeed, money would not be required if there was consent as is understood within the context of a sexual relationship. It is not possible to maintain a healthy psychological balance whilst closing down and shutting off one's own emotions to enable oneself to go through with an act, be that stripping, lap or pole dancing or anything else.

Copious testimonies from women who have been strippers or lap and pole dancers testify to this. This has been ignored for too long. There seems to be almost a taboo in acknowledging this. The campaigning group Zero Option has supplied several relevant quotes and research references to the Licensing Committee in their various representations

and I can supply these too if requested. I would be happy to supply copies of the referenced material to the Licensing Committee on request.

Thus the harm caused to women strippers and SEV dancers cannot be considered to foster good relations between the sexes: the women who have worked in these venues often express their utter disdain for men who use them. They recognise that there is a power imbalance in the exchange of money for access to their bodies and they disrespect men who would treat women thus.

2. Incompatibility with the Gender Equality Act.

The power imbalance involved in being treated as an object with lower status and value than a full human being promulgates gender inequality. Sheffield Council states its wish to respect all citizens and indeed has set up a Women's Hub –a group formed to address gender inequality within the city as part of its work to tackle inequality: to grant an SEV license to Spearmint Rhino would be incompatible with this aim.

The Equality Impact assessment, a legal requirement, regarding the impact of this sexual entertainment venue has not been published. This must surely be a necessity.

With a clear understanding of how the power imbalance replicated in SEVs (money buys access to a woman's body, thus symbolically and effectively reducing her to the status of an object, that object being her body, and thus negating her essential humanity as a living breathing human being) is part of and perpetuates a certain view of women as lesser beings, which is at least part of what enables some men to break the psychological taboo against being violent (which exists to enable us to live together peaceably), at least with regard to their behaviour towards women and girls.

3. Location

Spearmint Rhino is in an inappropriate location for many reasons;

Sheffield Council's SEV Policy states that the Council will not license premises that it feels are in close proximity to;

a) A school, nursery or other premises used substantially by or for children under 16s- yet the University Technical College and Sheffield College Granville Road campus are both nearby and access to these involves passing by Spearmint Rhino, for example by children getting on and off buses on the inner ring road by SHU. Freeman College for 16-25 year olds who are all vulnerable is very near.

Spearmint Rhino is situated at the heart of the newly designated 'Knowledge Corridor' around which a lot of city redesign, rejuvenation and planning is coalescing. It is not appropriate to have an SEV in this location.

b) A park or other recreational area

The Cultural Industries Quarter Square, sometimes called Festival Square, is adjacent to Spearmint Rhino. The presence of this club deters many from accessing this potentially valuable outdoor space in the heart of the city and in the heart of the Cultural Industries quarter.

c) A church or other place of religious worship

Christ Church, which worships in the Workstation on Sundays would like to be able to allow the children who attend to play in Cultural Industries Quarter Square but feel it is inappropriate due to being next to a strip club.

- d) A hospital, mental incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises
Together Women, an organisation supporting 12 to 19 year old girls and young women is located at the rear of Spearmint Rhino. Many if not all of their clients will be vulnerable. Elements Society which works with vulnerable people is also nearby as is another organisation working with vulnerable people which it would be inappropriate to identify but of which the Council is aware.
- e) The cultural hub of the city
A number of international events are held at the Showroom and Workstation as well as at the nearby Sheffield Hallam University and Students Union Hubs which are adjacent to Spearmint Rhino, such as DocFest and the Children's Media Conference as well as Off The Shelf and SheFest.
Spearmint Rhino is opposite the Site Gallery. This is closed for redevelopment as it is expanding to include a young people's education space amongst other features. As John Mothersole, Chief Executive of Sheffield Council, himself said in his speech at the Site closing event, the Site gallery sits 'right at the heart of the cultural growth of the city', the Site and area around it which is being redeveloped will be the 'entrepreneurs' and artists' soul of the area', and the Site surrounding area's redevelopment represents 'a fundamental change and a new chapter for the 21st century'.
Thus it is incontrovertible that Spearmint Rhino now stands in a cultural hub of the city- as I would contest it always has done. One difference now is that a further phase of area improvement aimed at increasing access, business and tourism has started. Reviewing all evidence with a fresh eye should lead to the conclusion that license renewal would not be appropriate with regard to location; the nature of the surrounding area is changing.
- f) A central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction
Sheffield Hallam University and its Student Union Building is adjacent to Spearmint Rhino. Some students will be under 18. The club backs onto student accommodation. Spearmint Rhino runs numerous promotions to encourage student attendance.
Many women who use the facilities in the area-the Showroom cinema, workstation, Site gallery or Perseverance Works have to walk past Spearmint Rhino and are anxious and uncomfortable about doing so: and I am one such example. I sometimes walk a longer way to avoid passing the club, particularly when it is dark.
I am not reassured by the presence of security men on the door of the club: rather it alarms me that they are seen as a necessary requirement for the club to operate, as that tells me trouble is expected.
I do hope the Licensing Committee will take a fresh look at this license renewal application. It is lawful NOT to grant a license renewal even where an SEV has been in operation for several years if it can be demonstrated that there are appropriate grounds. A change in use of the area would constitute such grounds if that then renders the location unsuitable, as evidenced by a decision of the Oxford Licensing Committee, which was upheld at a subsequent Judicial Review.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this objection and inform me of any Licensing Hearing that is arranged to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely,

Objection 89

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing Officers

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality, an area of work important to our organisation. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's *Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note*:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

"Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

We are based at Scotia Works on Leadmill Road, in fairly close proximity to the venue, and hold events for children under 16 years of age, as do other organisations in the building and at Freeman College, also on our road, which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs. There are other educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge corridor".

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is

also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are also young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation. For the above reasons I would like you to record my objection and that of the Trustees and staff of my organisation to the renewal of the Sex Establishment License for Spearmint Rhino at 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS.

Yours

Rob Unwin

On behalf of the staff and Trustees of DECSY

Development Education Centre (South Yorkshire)

Centre for Learning, Development and Citizenship

Scotia Works

Leadmill Road

Sheffield S1 4SE

DECSY is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, no: 1153377

www.decsy.org.uk

Objection 90

Licensing Service

Block C, Staniforth Road Depot

Staniforth Road

Surrey Street

S9 3HD

21st March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

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I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

‘If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage’[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

‘. . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.’[3]

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In its current policy, the Council states:

“Whilst the Council has not imposed a numerical limit on the number of premises that may be licensed in any area, and whilst it will treat each application upon its own merits, the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

1. a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge corridor”.

1. b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (Festival Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

1. c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

1. d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

1. e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.);
and/or
2. f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a

number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes, for example the recent SheFest, the Equalities Hub within the community bringing Communities of Identity together to tackle equalities issues within the council and the city. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can "take a fresh look" despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

'Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.'^[4]

The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could "take a fresh look" at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in Criminal Justice Matters, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) Sex Licensing, The Institute of Licensing p.87^[4] (p. 90)

90 (cont'd)

I didn't mention in my original email but I am also Trustee/ director of Sheffield Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre on Leadmill Road. As an organisation we are against the proposal to renew the licence for the reasons mentioned and have lodged a separate objection. However from a personal perspective, I live and work in Sheffield. Our SRASAC board meetings are in the evening and I feel uncomfortable and unsafe walking by Spearmint Rhino especially after dark. I imagine vulnerable women attending Scotia Works, students at the Hub and most women alone getting from A to B around it may feel a similar way.

I'd be grateful if you could add this (or at least my role & interest) to my objection below, as I doubt I will be able to attend the consultation meeting which will be during working hours.

Many thanks

Dear Madam/Sir

Re: Licensing Committee

Sexual Entertainment
Venue

Spearmint Rhino License
Deadline March 21st
2017

I am writing this from my hospital bed. I recently experienced a heart attack and am confined to coronary care.

I am writing to object to the licensing application for Spearmint Rhino.

My primary grounds

few objections are based on the highly inappropriate location of a strip/lap dancing clubs in an area populated by some of the jewels in the crown of Sheffield's cultural heart.

I note John Matthews' recent public statements in relation to the re-branding of "Shift" which is within view

close proximity to
Spearman's Rivine.

I note the number of
support and educational
facilities in the area
including support for
adults who are at
risk, some of whom
are likely to have
experienced exploitation
or significant disadvantage.

I note the proximity
of a women's support
project at one
side of the square

occupied by 2 female
Akins and the
refusal of one of
my clients to consider
her daughter, who
has difficulties
to attend the venue. This
the point is that it is
no near to a SUV

and she did not
want her teenage
daughter to be
exposed to
an enterprise
which promotes the
dequalification of women

*This is unsurprisingly the case (see Specialist Kin's advertising ~~advertising~~).

I note my own feelings of discomfort in walking around the area in the daytime both to attend meetings and as part of a city centre facilities scoping exercise

This is not related to fears of assault or sexual harassment of me though these issues may be relevant to

Some women (and men)

It is about the extent to
which SR abuses: treated under-

I note common sources ^{use}

which took place ^{and}

with parents / ~~that~~ ^{as a}

of / and new students ^{at}

during a recent day

of welcome to Hallam
University in Sheffield.

^{These confirm that for me that}
the possibility of

this business to

a student facility

(the clubs), combined

with 2 prominent

known active

promoter of free

rights concerning
alcohol consumption
and sexual identification
is inappropriate, and
incompatible with
plans to develop a
learning corridor in that
area of the city.

I would expect this
letter to be taken as
seriously as any other
objection to receive
an invite to any
future hearing.

I write as an
individual objector.

Objection 92

Dear Mr Lonnia,

I am writing to express my concern about the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino at 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

I wholeheartedly support the campaign against this license and wish to add my objection and ask that the City Council refuse the application.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

Location

This is a well-used area with thriving businesses and services and it would be a great shame if women are discouraged from visiting or working there because of the presence of a Sexual Entertainment Venue. It is well evidenced that this type of venue makes women feel threatened or uncomfortable.

There are educational institutions in the vicinity, the newly designated 'knowledge gateway', a number of charities and organisations and a church based at the Workstation.

The City Council have put so much time, effort and support into making this area an exciting and accessible hub. It would be great shame if this application severely damages that progress. I would also add that it is not only women that find this type of entertainment venue unacceptable in such a well used area but also many men who find it objectionable both for themselves and their families.

I hope the City Council will refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Gill Furniss MP

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

20th March 2017

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

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When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

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Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage' ___.

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in *Criminal Justice Matters* which states that:

'... the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.' ___

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on _____) directly adjacent to the club. The Club's presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

Christ Church Central operates from the Workstation and runs a weekly service.

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, some of which cannot be named because of their confidential addresses. However, we are aware that the Council knows which organisations we are referring to

e) the Cultural Hub of the City (i.e. close to the Peace Gardens and Tudor Square etc.); and/or

f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which hosts family events. It is also opposite the Site Gallery which is undergoing a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is also centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations, as well as a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

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Additional grounds for refusal

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A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

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The case of Thompson v Oxford City Council (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

(A very concerned member of the public,)

__ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

__ Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

__ Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

__ p. 90

Objection 94

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing as a ward councillor to lodge an objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

In doing so, I wish to support residents and other businesses in City Ward who are adversely affected by this lap-dancing club.

Whilst Spearmint Rhino has been trading for a number of years, its location is becoming increasingly unsuitable for a lap-dancing club. The growing development of the Cultural Industries Quarter and the expansion of student accommodation and teaching locally are highly relevant to the appropriateness of the location. The premises are located on what is to be known as the Knowledge Gateway, recognising the enhancement of the area as a place of creative knowledge and progressive development.

A lap-dancing club is increasingly at odds with this vision. I am therefore disappointed that the application form submitted does not attempt to address any of the licensing objectives except by stating it is a renewal application.

The nature of a lap-dancing club means there is significant difference in the treatment of the sexes. In particular, I understand the establishment treats the regular staff (mostly if not all, men) as employees but requires the dancers (i.e. women) to be self-employed, with correspondingly lower degrees of employment protection. This is not a matter of choice on the part of the dancers. The local authority must demonstrate it has due regard to the various principles in the public sector equality duty when considering the application, so as to comply with its own legal obligations.

If the authority is minded to grant the licence, I would support a condition requiring all workers, including dancers, to be engaged directly only under the terms of a written contract of employment.

I trust the Committee will take these views into account.

Yours faithfully,

Douglas

Cllr Douglas Johnson,
City Ward, Sheffield
07500 766 189

Dear Licensing People;

Re; application for sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse the application.

Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City licensing; I refer to the application for a sexual entertainment venue licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield. S1 2BS.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

When walking around this area, which as a Council you encourage people to do due to the other businesses and services in the area, women feel nervous because of the SEV and have to change their behaviour because of it being there, for example

having to look around to see if there are people coming out of the SEV, take a different route walking to the centre of town so that they do not have to go past the SEV. Women should not have to feel like this in their city and this is discriminatory.

As Philip Kolvin (2010) cites the Royal Town Planning Institute's Gender and Spatial Planning Good Practice Note:

'In relation to the 24-hour economy policy, ensure that the views women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap-dancing and exotic dancing club make women feel threatened or uncomfortable'[1]

Kolvin continues with:

'If a woman, whether objectively justified or not, fears to use part of the town centre characterised by sex establishments, this may be argued to amount to discrimination, in that her access to the public infrastructure of the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage'[2].

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that:

' . . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club.'[3]

Location; In its current policy, the Council states:

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a) a school, nursery or other premises substantially used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC. It is in close proximity to

Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “knowledge gateway”.

b) a park or other recreational area used by or for children under 16 years of age;

There is the much underused recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club. The Club’s presence deters many from using that space to its full potential.

c) a church or other place of religious worship;

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There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council's equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review: *R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)*

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If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ali Denby ~ Sheffield

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Objection 96

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD

22/3/17

Dear Licensing

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This is an objection letter to the application for this licence and I call for the council to refuse it.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venues Licensing Policy on the following grounds:

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The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "knowledge gateway".

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I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

I am a Trustee of Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds. We visit Sheffield and some of the women we support have come from Sheffield.

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) supports women and girls who have been affected by sexual violence at any time in their lives, promoting their needs and working towards the elimination of sexual violence.

“Every woman in our society feels the fear of rape - no woman is allowed to ignore it.....The threat of violence is a total intrusion into women's personal space and transforms a routine and/or potential pleasurable activity (for example, a walk or journey).....into a potentially upsetting, disturbing and often threatening experience.”
Rape Crisis England & Wales

Having a lap dance club in the City Centre encourages men to treat women as objects for their use. It infringes on women's right to autonomy.

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There are young students surrounding the area. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union and directly backs onto student accommodation. Next year I will be looking for universities to study at and I would ideally like to stay in Sheffield, however I wouldnt feel comfortable with a strip club being in such close distance to where I would be studying and it would really put me off.

Additional grounds for refusal

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this SEV goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s equality policies. The Spearmint Rhino logo is internationally recognised and is synonymous with stripping and the sexual availability and objectification of women. Renewing a licence would be contradictory to other work that the Council does, funds and promotes. Has the Council for example, as per its own policy, carried out an Equality Impact Assessment?

A sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the city, or anywhere in the city, is simply completely contradictory to everything that the council says it stands for, everything that the council should stand for, and has a duty to work towards.

I will fully and actively support the Council in the face of any challenge to the council by giving a refusal.

The Council is asked to note that in the last few years Leeds City Council successfully defended a refusal to renew two SEV licenses at judicial review:

R (Bean Trading A Ltd) v Leeds City Council (2014)

It was held that a council can “take a fresh look” despite no changes to the character of locality. The Council is also asked to note the following from Philip Kolvin regarding licence renewal:

‘Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.’[4]

The case of *Thompson v Oxford City Council* (2014) was also supported at court of appeal, and the Council told they could “take a fresh look” at any application for renewal.

Personally, I am worried that young people growing up with this image of women right in front of them will distort their expectations and feelings towards them. Furthermore, I don't want that to have an impact on how others are treated and how I, and other women, would be seen in their eyes and I can strongly say I would feel exactly the same if the tables were turned.

If the panel feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, I would ask that a hearing is held so that the application can be discussed in more detail

I look forward to hearing from you.

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[2] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) ‘License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women’s sense of safety in inner city centres’ in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.

[3] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

[4] p. 90

Objection 98

To the Sheffield City Council Licencing team,

I am writing to you about the application to renew the "sexual entertainment" licence for Spearmint Rhino.

I strongly object to this application.

As a Sheffield NHS GP, I sadly see the devastating effects of sexual violence and rape. There is concrete evidence that lap dancing clubs etc increase sexual violence.

Please read the attached PDF document "Facts on lap dancing - Stripping the illusion".

A vote in favour of the Spearmint Rhino application will very likely lead to two things.

First, an increase in physical sexual violence, i.e. rape, against women in Sheffield. Second an increase in verbal sexual harassment against women. This too is of course now illegal.

See <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/discrimination/what-are-the-different-types-of-discrimination/sexual-harassment/>

"Sexual harassment is a form of unlawful discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. The law says it's sexual harassment if the behaviour is either meant to, or has the effect of:

- **violating your dignity, or**
- **creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment**

I am about to start work as a GP at the Sheffield Asylum Seeker Health Centre. This is only a 9 minute walk from Spearmint Rhino. Half of the women registered at the Asylum Seeker Health Centre are victims of trafficking. Many of these are victims of sexual trafficking.

Sheffield has established itself as a City of Refuge, and this is something we can be rightly proud of.

<https://sheffield.cityofsanctuary.org>

It is therefore incongruous and contradictory for Sheffield City Council to establish Sheffield as a city of Refuge, while another part of the City Council approve a sexual entertainment licence, that will likely increase sexual trafficking and sexual violence.

I respectfully urge you to vote against the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

Yours sincerely,

31st March 2017

To the Sheffield City Council Licencing team,

I am writing to you about the application to renew the sexual entertainment licence for Spearmint Rhino.

I strongly object to this application.

I am a Sheffield NHS GP, with 19 years experience as a GP, 24 as a doctor. During my career I have sadly frequently see the devastating effects of sexual violence and rape on a regular basis.

Only last week I was consulting with a woman, Anna (not her real name) who has symptoms of depression and post traumatic stress disorder. She disclosed to me a history of multiple drug rape, which occurred about 5 years ago in Sheffield. She has given me permission to use her anonymised patient information. She informed me that she knows the men who raped her (one was her ex husband). She also knows that these men used to attend sexual entertainment clubs in Sheffield.

There is concrete, non-contestable, legally sound evidence that "sexual entertainment clubs" increase sexual violence in cities in which they are located. Please search Google for a PDF document "Facts on lap dancing - Stripping the illusion".

There is also strong evidence that sexual entertainment clubs also lead to an increase in **verbal sexual harassment** against women. This too, is of course, now illegal.

Please see

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/law-and-courts/discrimination/what-are-the-different-types-of-discrimination/sexual-harassment/>

"Sexual harassment is a form of unlawful discrimination under the Equality Act 2010. The law says it's sexual harassment if the behaviour is either meant to, or has the effect of:

- violating your dignity, or
- creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment

Sheffield has two universities very large student populations. Half of these students are young women between the ages of 18 and 22. It is likely that the vast majority of these young women will be opposed to the renewal of the licence for Spearmint Rhino, once they are made aware of the evidence of an increase in both physical and verbal sexual abuse.

For these reasons I strongly urge Sheffield City council to turn down the renewal of the licence for Spearmint Rhino.

I am employed as a GP at both Darnall Primary Care Centre, and at the Sheffield Asylum Seeker Health Centre. The latter medical centre is only a 9 minute walk from Spearmint Rhino. Half of the women registered at the Asylum Seeker Health Centre are victims of trafficking. Many of these are victims of sexual trafficking.

Sheffield has established itself as a City of Refuge, and this is something we can be rightly proud of.

<https://sheffield.cityofsanctuary.org>

It is therefore incongruous and contradictory for Sheffield City Council to establish Sheffield as a city of Refuge, while another part of the City Council approve a sexual entertainment licence, that evidence suggests will lead to sexual physical and verbal, abuse and violence against women in Sheffield.

I respectfully urge you to vote against the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Chris Bronsdon

MBCChB MRCGP

The growth of lap dancing clubs has fed into what OBJECT terms 'sex-object' culture – the mainstreaming of the sex and porn industries and the ever increasing sexual objectification of women and girls. With lax licensing laws leading to the number of lap dancing clubs doubling over the last five years, and a PR makeover branding lap dancing as glamorous and 'harmless fun', we have found ourselves in a situation in which major retailers sell pole dancing kits along with pink frilly garters and paper money in their 'toys and games section'¹, and leisure centres offer pole dancing lessons to girls as young as twelve². This has led to 25% of teenage girls seeing being a lap dancer as their *ideal* profession³.

FACT THREE: Lap dancing clubs are linked to wider systems of prostitution

As well as the structural conditions in lap dancing clubs which pressure many performers into offering extra sexual services, research further shows that, even if clubs do enforce a no touching rule, and even if there is no sexual contact between dancers and customers, **the presence of strip clubs in a locality increases demand for nearby prostitution services**⁴.

This places lap dancing on a continuum of commercial sexual activity, irrespective of whether the sexual exchange occurs within the club itself.

FACT FOUR: Lap dancing clubs create 'no-go' zones for women in the local vicinity

Research undertaken in the London Borough of Camden found a fifty percent **increase in sexual assaults** in the borough after the rapid expansion of lap dancing clubs⁵. Personal testimony reinforces the idea of a link between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment for women in the vicinity:

¹ Eden, I. (2007) *Inappropriate Behaviour: Adult Venues and Licensing in London*, London: The Lilith Project, Eaves Housing for Women.

² BBC News Online (2006), 'Children are Taught Pole Dancing' Tuesday, 12 December 2006, url: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/tyne/6173805.stm>

³ http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/ts/161/161338_naked_ambition_clubs_off_on_teen_girls.html

⁴ Coy, M, Horvath, M & Kelly, L (2007) *It's just like going to the supermarket: Men talk about buying sex in East London* London: Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit

⁵ Eden, I. (2003) *Lilith Report on Lap Dancing and Striptease in the Borough of Camden*, London: The Lilith Project, Eaves Housing for Women

"Once I walked past [a local strip club] at closing time, when a stripper tried to discreetly leave the premises and a group of punters stood outside. On recognising her, they erupted into loud whooping and cheering as she ran across the road to get away. I found this behaviour completely intimidating and totally in keeping with the atmosphere of the street sexual harassment that makes women feel uncomfortable on a daily basis. Punters are encouraged to engage the area, often with loud and obnoxious behaviour and they are not shy about making their intentions clear. This is what their own behaviour has done to them and they are considering alternatives so that they do not take any further measures to limit the harassment, such as changing their usual route or wearing extra clothing. Women feel safe and confident to walk down a busy street without fear of harassment and abuse."

Some residents also object to lap dancing clubs in Hamlet 10.

Furthermore, a recent six-month review⁶ into the licensing of strip clubs in the **London Borough of Tower Hamlets**, which received the highest number of contributions in recent years for a public consultation, stated:

"Some residents referred to the impact of new sex services [strip clubs] were having on the character of the Hamlet, with the following extracts from a consultation survey (100 family and individual replies) showing streets where strip clubs are located, especially those mentioned in the survey, are not safe for women walking past these clubs."

In addition, the **UK Royal Institute of Town Planning** issued a Good Practice Note in December 2007 on the issue of lap dancing clubs and women's sense of safety⁷:

"In relation to the 24 hour community safety, ensure that the flows of women are considered. Evidence shows that in certain locations, lap dancing and exotic dancing clubs make women feel threatened or uncomfortable."

Links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and increased levels of sexual harassment and assault led the **Women's National Commission** to include the need to regulate lap dancing clubs in their **submission to the UN Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 2005**:

⁶ London Borough of Tower Hamlets (2008) *Licensing of Strip Clubs*.

⁷ Royal Town Planning Institute (2007) *Gender and Spatial Planning: Good Practice Note 7*, 10 December 2007.

"The use of women in degrading entertainment exacerbates violence against women...lap dancing and similar clubs must be regulated to ensure that local violence against women do not increase"

FACT FIVE: Lap dancing clubs have a negative impact on women's safety in wider society

Lap dancing clubs normalise the representation of women as sexual objects who are always sexually available. They make sexual harassment seem normal, as what takes place within the four walls of a lap dancing club would be considered harassment in any other context.

The links between objectification, discrimination and violence against women are recognised at the international level by the legally binding **United Nations Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**, which has repeatedly called on states – including the British Government – to take action against the objectification of women⁸.

Similarly the UK-based **End Violence Against Women coalition** has called on the UK Government to tackle the sexualisation of women and girls because it provides a 'conducive context' for violence against women⁹.

The links between the expansion of lap dancing clubs and an increase in the levels of sexual violence in society was raised by **Glasgow City Council**¹⁰ in response to research it commissioned into the impact of lap dancing clubs on the city:

"Language of women and entertainments which demean and degrade women, portraying them as sexual objects provide a perfect environment for sexual violence and contribute to male access of women being a workplace, at work, at home and sexual. Such entertainments have a number of related consequences by a range of means, public and voluntary, as a means to promoting women's equality."

⁸ 1979 Convention on All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Article 5

⁹ Realising Rights, Fulfilling Obligations: An Integrated Strategy to End Violence Against Women (EVAW) 2008

¹⁰ Glasgow City Council report on the need for review of licensing legislation in the light of concerns re table dancing <http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/hq/indon/fres/CD/13236F-009A-4457-95F7-6A9528C1FB120?eqtable2.pdf>

FACT SIX: Lap dancing clubs run counter to efforts to promote equality between women and men

The **Gender Equality Duty 2007** requires local councils to assess the gendered impact that lap dancing clubs have on society as a whole.

The lap dancing industry is highly gendered, with men paying women to strip for them in the vast majority of lap dancing clubs - otherwise known as 'gentlemen's clubs'. The gendered nature of the industry makes the proliferation of lap dancing clubs relevant to the Gender Equality Duty making gender equality a factor which should be considered during licensing process.

The ever-increasing sexual objectification of women, facilitated by the expansion of lap dancing clubs, runs directly counter to efforts to achieve equality between women and men.

The more it becomes acceptable to view and treat women as sexual objects, the easier it becomes to disrespect women as a group. As stated by Chris Green, Director of the **White Ribbon Campaign**¹¹:

"Every expansion of lap dancing clubs serves as a message to the rest of society: 'We accept it'."

Research into male motivations for visiting strip clubs found that men went to strip clubs to meet women who were not 'feminist' and who were willing to act in more 'traditional' ways¹². This is reflected by **testimonies from former lap dancers**¹³:

"I learned that the best way to encourage a man to return from the kitchen for him to ask you, 'submit to me, please and thank you!'"

Male customers also said that they wanted to 'let frustration out' at the ways in which they had been forced to monitor their behaviour towards women in the workplace¹⁴:

¹¹ The White Ribbon Campaign works with men to end violence against women
¹² Frank, K. (2005) 'Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations', *Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504
¹³ See OBJECT website for more testimonies
¹⁴ Frank, K. (2005) 'Exploring the Motivations and Fantasies of Strip Club Customers in Relation to Legal Regulations', *Sexual Behavior*, Vol. 34 (5), pp. 487 – 504

"With all of this sexual harassment stuff going around these days, men need somewhere to go where they can act like they want"

In this way, lap dancing clubs represent one of the last bastions of male privilege - a place that time forgot in relation to society's efforts to achieve equality between women and men.

Recent sex discrimination law suits against corporate use of lap dancing clubs, and **top business women in *The Economist*¹⁵ blaming corporate strip club culture for the lack of female representation at high levels of business** demonstrate the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on women's equality in wider society. According to a female business woman in the UK¹⁶:

"Often about after-work meetings increase visits to strip clubs and I know senior guys who had lots of 'fluff' (what's a new fluff or foam material and that's the most heinous brand and it's this guy covered in warts with his hands on his face and his penis was off holding and manipulating) consumed by senior men. It's bad some say things to prove the case"

The *Sexism in the City* campaign spearheaded by the **Fawcett Society**, the UK's leading campaign for gender equality, further highlights the links between lap dancing and gender inequality as it calls on government and business to take steps to end commercial sexual exploitation, sexual objectification and sexual stereotypes as crucial measures to achieve equality between women and men in the work place¹⁷.

FACT SEVEN: Regulating the expansion of lap dancing clubs is an issue of equality, not morality

Objections to lap dancing clubs are based on issues of equality, not morality.

The need for policy to be scrutinised in relation to gender equality was recognised by the Government in 2007, with the passing of the **Gender Equality Duty**. The Gender Equality Duty places a legal obligation on public bodies to take out **Gender Equality Impact Assessments** on all policy decisions to ensure that decisions do not have a negative impact on women's equality. Furthermore, the Gender Equality Duty requires public bodies to **actively promote gender equality and work towards countering gender stereotypes**.

¹⁵ Jeffreys, S. (2006b) 'The Sex Industry and Business Practice', Seminar: School of Business, Ballara University, 21 May 2008

¹⁶ Kate, Former City of London worker, Sexism and the City Manifesto, Fawcett Society 2008

¹⁷ <http://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/documents/SATC%20manifesto%20public.pdf>

Lap dancing clubs promote gender stereotypes and attitudes that say it is acceptable to treat women as sexual objects, rather than real people. They are linked to gender discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace (as demonstrated by recent successes of sexual harassment cases in which use of lap dancing clubs has been recognised as linked to discrimination) as well as the creation of no go areas in the surrounding areas which reduce women's sense of security and entitlement to public space.

Highlighting these issues is not about morality, or 'having an issue with sex', it is about ensuring that local councils abide by their legal requirements to promote equality between women and men.

FACT EIGHT: The Policing and Crime Act 2009 allows councils to set a limit of zero for Sexual Entertainment Venues. This means rejecting all licensing applications for lap dancing clubs.

The **Policing and Crime Act 2009** allows local authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs by setting a limit on how many Sexual Entertainment Venues can be licensed in each ward – and therefore in the borough as a whole. The limit may be set at nil.

It is specifically provided in the Local Government (Sexual Entertainment Venues) Regulations 2010 that a council may set an appropriate limit for the number of sex-related premises to be licensed in a ward.

All current lap dancing clubs must apply for a Sexual Entertainment Venue license in order to operate. Licenses last for a duration of one year.

A local authority is under no obligation to renew a license for a currently operating club under the Sexual Entertainment Venue licensing regime. If a local authority sets a 'nil policy' / a limit of zero, this will automatically allow the council to reject all licensing applications for Sexual Entertainment Venues. This is an important part of the new licensing regime in relation to lap dancing clubs considering the negative impact that lap dancing clubs have on local communities and in particular on women's equality and women's safety (see above).

Indeed, **the introduction of a nil policy is currently being proposed by the London Boroughs of Hackney and Haringey**. In the view of Hackney council⁷:

"... [Sexual Entertainment Venues] contradict and undermine [the Borough of Hackney's] stated aims and exacerbate the challenges it faces in bringing about positive, genuine, sustainable characterful and thriving neighbourhoods which support the need and principle of upskilling the population and closing the education gap across its communities."

⁷ Hackney Draft: Sex Establishment: Licensing Policy, 2010

And in Harringey, Councillor Nilgun Canver states¹⁹:

"This new legislation allows us to stop lap dancing and pole dancing clubs from setting up in sensitive areas where they will cause concern. We consider this would apply to every ward and wants this to be central to our policy. We are asking for comments from residents, to see if they support this stance."

FACT NINE: Introducing a 'nil' policy/zero limit for Sexual Entertainment Venues and therefore rejecting licensing applications for lap dancing clubs is fully compliant with the Human Rights Act

Some lap dancing club operators have threatened to appeal against the rejection of a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence on the grounds that it violates their human rights under the Human Rights Act 1998. The two rights they threaten to invoke are the *right to freedom of expression* and the *protection of property*.

It is extremely unlikely that such an appeal would be successful considering that it is within the law for councils to set nil policies (see FACT SEVEN)

Furthermore, the two rights specified above are qualified, they are not absolute.

Philip Kolvin QC, Chairman of the Institute of Licensing, states²⁰:

"Where a rational justification has been given by the licensing authority for its exercise of the powers of the statute, it is most unlikely that the grounds will be found to have been a disproportionate interference with the Human Rights."

Indeed, before the Policing and Crime Bill became law – enabling local authorities to licence lap dancing clubs as Sexual Entertainment Venues under the LGMPA - the **Minister of the Crown** in charge of the Bill made a **written statement that the new law, including the provision to set nil policies, was compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.**

Thus the power of local authorities to set a nil policy for Sexual Entertainment Venue licenses has been validated in human rights terms.

Rejecting a lap dancing club licence application – and/or setting a nil policy for lap dancing clubs – is therefore fully compliant with the Human Right Act 1998.

¹⁹ http://www.haringey.gov.uk/index/news_and_events/latest_news/lap_dancing_ban.htm

²⁰ Kolvin, P. (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing, p82

FACT TEN: The current coalition government supports moves to tackle businesses which promote the sexual objectification of women, including lap dancing clubs, as part of their work on violence against women

The current **Home Secretary, Theresa May**, sent a powerful message to councils to take a bold stance against businesses which promote the sexual objectification of women when, in July 2010 at the Women's Aid Conference, she stated:

"It is only when businesses are held to their responsibility to end the sexualisation of women that some people will stop treating women like objects. And it's only when our communities stand up and say violence against women is unacceptable – that attitudes will really begin to change".

The **Conservative Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for London (2010 - 2013)** explicitly refers to the links between lap dancing clubs, prostitution, trafficking and other forms of violence against women²¹.

The Conservative Mayor for London, **Boris Johnson**, further states his support for councils to take tough measures against the proliferation of lap dancing clubs:

"The proliferation of lap dancing clubs and venues is a further indication of a lack of respect for women and our women's work. We will ensure that the sector can be regulated by a licensing regime which is fair, robust and effective. We will work with local authorities and police partners through the Mayor's Local Authority Partnership and ensure that the new licensing regime under the Planning and Crime Act 2010 ensures the London-wide way of regulating the sector can be applied across all local councils and government remains the same. We will ensure that clubs in their areas will support licensing by ensuring that the proliferation of lap dancing clubs is controlled. We will also champion any police operations that target lap dancing clubs for law-abiding, responsible and cultural activities".

And the Leader of the opposition, **Ed Miliband**, states his support for OBJECT and urges councils to adopt strong measures to tackle the growth of lap dancing clubs as part of tackling the attitudes and behaviours that underpin violence against women²²:

²¹ <http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/The%20CWa%20Forward%20Final%20S%20Strategy.pdf>

²² Ed Miliband's response to the End Violence Against Women Coalition, September 2010,

<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk>

"We need to think about how our culture treats women more generally. The vital work of organisations such as OBJECT has exposed the ease with which lap dancing clubs have sprung up. In government we took some steps to enforce stricter controls on these establishments, but we were too slow to recognise this problem and act on it. I have already stated that I want real people to have more power to challenge the tenets of these establishments."

There is cross-party support for tackling the growth of lap dancing clubs.

Councils across the country are adopting the SEV licensing laws and considering setting the limit at zero.

You too can be part of stemming the sexualisation of women and girls by taking a stand against the 'sex-object' culture that lap dancing clubs promote.

Take action now and help end commercial sexual exploitation for generations to come.

To find out more email OBJECT at anna@object.org.uk or visit our website at:

object.org.uk

Appendix C

Representations – Supporters/Neutral

Representation of Support 1

23rd Feb 2017

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have been an employee at Spaurmint Rhino Sheffield for over two years as a Bat tender, this is my full time job and main income, there is no other work that suits and supports me like this job as both my parents are disabled and have to care for them during the day. The management are really supportive of my situation and not found this anywhere else, I also feel safe in my work as security is really good here and get escorted to my car at the end of every shift. The management and employees are very friendly and supportive of each other. I love working here and hope so for some years to come.

Yours Faithfully

Representation of Support 2

Dear Sir,

For the last 35 years I have worked as a doorman in Sheffield City Centre. The last three and a half decades has seen me employ myself as a doorman in a number of the city's prominent establishments. The biggest venue that at over the years I have worked in Sheffield has to be the theatre in district. The last 9 years I have been in the employ of a person called Bruno as a part of a service to operate in the area. Bruno's company they have provided me with a secure past that is both an environment of safety and good practice. They spend no expense and make every effort to ensure

that customers and employees at the end of a positive experience would not be the entertainment services they offer. I feel sure that not past or future with the Council and its agencies will be a test to me that that fact. At 55 years of age I look forward to a job that 10 years of happy work exist with Speed in the UK. I would like to be able to work in the area of Bruno at Brown St Sheffield as a valuable employee of an established business, a job that is secure and in the future.

Kind regards

Representation of Support 3

I am a 35 year old professional relationship coach and mother

of 2 children. I started working as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino's Sheffield last year as it was something I had always wanted to try. I have genuinely been blown away by the warm, friendly atmosphere all the staff have created and by the professionalism of everyone who works there.

Management and security are highly polite and welcoming to customers. I have NEVER seen or even heard of any trouble. The worst thing I have seen is an over inebriated customer fall asleep in his chair and then he was politely asked to leave. Security are very skilled at dealing with customers and at making sure all of the girls are safe at all times.

We are briefed on all of the rules and regulations and there are signs and notices up regarding our code of conduct and about how we need to be respectful of the community and business around us, which we are.

The clientele at Spearmint Rhino's has also really surprised me. I have spoken with wonderful people from all over the world, with fantastic jobs who are incredibly respectful and a pleasure to talk with and dance for. People who have been recommended to visit us. 'Regulars' who come in frequently to enjoy the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We also have many women visit the club, which is always lovely to see.

I have also been pleasantly surprised with how loving, kind and supportive all the dancers are. It is literally a pleasure and joy coming into work and catching up with all of the incredible women that work there. Many of them have full time day jobs and work extra nights to support their families or self-fund their educations. We have psychologists, social workers, health care professionals, mothers and many other interesting, beautiful and hard working women at the club.

Some may believe we are a sordid, seedy hoard of perverts when actually we are quite the opposite. We are a little community of hard working, confident, sexy people who share an interest and appreciation of the female body and erotic dancing. We are a professional business, like any other, the only difference is that ours is frowned upon because ours incorporates nudity.

It genuinely is a pleasure and privilege to work at Spearmint Rhino's and I would encourage anyone to come in and see just how friendly and wonderful our environment actually is.

Yours sincerely

Representation of Support 4

To whom this my concern,

I have worked at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for a number of years in my opinion it is a very safe environment. There is never any indications of trouble at the club and I always feel at home. The staff that work there look after the club and the women including me who work there with the upmost care. I have noticed the club has become a place for a lot of women to come to as a customer with friends or with partners, which I have become a regular thing, they seem to enjoy themselves a lot. The club has become a great social place for hen parties, stag parties and work parties. I love working at the club and would rather work here than any other gentlemen's club. I truly love where I work as it is my only job and I have and am enjoying every minute as if it is such a friendly place to work. The staff and I have become a family not just work colleagues.

Representation of Support 5

Dear Sirs,

I currently work as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and wish to write this letter to outline my experiences throughout my employment.

I have worked for the company over a number of years which enabled me to fund myself through a law degree. I am presently employed as a full time Legal Executive for a Legal 500 firm. My day time employment is very demanding, however I still choose to remain in employment, part time, at Spearmint Rhino given that the management allow me to work as and when it is convenient for me. Aside from supplementing my income from full time employment, I continually and genuinely enjoy working there.

Spearmint Rhino has always provided me with a safe and relaxed working environment, which in this industry is paramount. From the Management to bar staff, every employee is professional and courteous, but more importantly it is an absolutely friendly environment to work in. As a dancer I always feel looked after and supported. I am able to be flexible with my working hours and am able to choose when and how often I work. As I live within close proximity of the club, I am always escorted home at the end of my shifts.

I cannot praise Spearmint Rhino enough as an employer and as such I do intend to continue working there for the foreseeable future.

Yours faithfully,



Representation of Support 6

I'm a 21 year old single mother and have been working as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino for the last 2 years. I really enjoy working here as it is flexible with shifts so I can work when it's convenient for me. The working environment is great and most importantly safe as all the doorstaff and management have very high standards of security and me and all the other dancers are well looked after. I have worked at other clubs before but have been here consistently for the last 2 years as it is by far the best. I plan on keeping working here for as long as possible as the pay is providing me and my child with a fantastic lifestyle.

Representation of Support 7

IN A 391 YEAR OLD HISTORY OF THE
FOR THE LAST 130 OR SO YEARS WE WORKED
IN SHEFFIELD AS A DISTRICT, THE LAST 94
YEARS I HAVE WORKED AT "SHEFFIELD RINGS"
BURNING ST. RINGS IS MY FAMILIAR MAIN
SOURCE OF INCOME.

AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY TEAM,
AT RINGS WE KEEP THE CITY ONE OF,
IF NOT THE SAFEST VENUES IN TOWN
TO WORK AND VISIT. ALL THE STAFF FROM
MANAGERS, SECURITY, BAR RIGHT DOWN
TO THE DANCERS WHO WORK HERE
ARE PROFESSIONAL. IN HOW THEY GO ABOUT
THEIR JOBS. ON THE PUBLIC WHO VISIT
ENJOY THEIR TIME SPENT AT SHEFFIELD
I UNDERSTAND THERE IS A LOT OF
PEOPLE AGAINST SHEFFIELD'S LICENSE,
THOSE PEOPLE PROBABLY NEVER VISITED
RINGS AND ARE BUILT ON THE IDEA
THAT ITS A BAD ENVIRONMENT, THEY COULDN'T
HAVE GOT IT SO WRONG, SO NOT CREATING
THE RENEWAL OF RINGS LICENSE COULD
RESULT IN THE LOSS OF EVERYONES JOBS
AND ONE OF THE SAFEST, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS
SHEFFIELD RINGS IS THE CLUSTER

Representation of Support 8

I am a third year Psychology student at Sheffield Hallam University and I have worked as a bartender at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for nearly 3 years. I am writing to express my concern over some individuals whose influence may affect the club's future in Sheffield and to express how much the staff, including myself, depend on the club's future as well.

I have worked at the club in both full-time and part-time positions and this is my main and only income apart from my student loan which just about covers my rent. I always think myself lucky for having such a job with managers who are always so flexible, trusting and understanding of me and my situation being at University. For example, whenever I have exam periods or I go home for the holidays, they are always accommodating in ways which previous employers have not been (I worked at Taco Bell for a few months last year), they really care about me and I never feel like just a number working in a big company. I now only work one Saturday night shift a week because of my studies and this is something that I am unable to do elsewhere.

I know some people may look down on the fact that there is a strip club in Sheffield and that they think that it's an unsafe and seedy establishment. I even had some of these misconceptions before I started working here, that changed very quickly when I joined Spearmint Rhino nearly 3 years ago. Even behind the bar, customers (including girls) telling me how surprised they are on how friendly all the doormen are and how safe they feel is not uncommon. I get walked to my taxi every single night and my managers will always have my back if there is a difficult customer, I know and feel like I am being looked after. Moreover, people do have misapprehensions about strip clubs being seedy places and all sorts of illegal things happening like they see in films (without physically going into one themselves) and I can tell you first hand, this is not true. In my opinion, my managers enforce all the rules and regulations better than in any other place that I have worked before. It really is just a bunch of normal people working shifts like any other normal job serving normal people that come in.

I know there is an argument that strip clubs aren't very feminist and that they take advantage of women but if thinking that women shouldn't be allowed to choose to take their clothes off for money then isn't that not very feminist? That actually all of the girls that work at the club really do enjoy it and for me it's a bit strange to think that society automatically assumes that when it comes to female sexuality or women behaving sexually, we should suppress it. You can even swap the argument around and wonder if this business even takes advantage of men but because of our culture we don't see it like that. Furthermore, some people may think that a strip club is

8 (Cont'd)

even disgusting, but what's wrong with expressing your sexuality? Some people have certain things that they like, we know it happens but we don't question it. There is an argument to be made about the morality of making money from this but we live in a capitalist culture anyway. You could think about the ridiculousness of people making money from food sales – I would say having food is a human right but supermarkets are making profit from a basic human necessity but we buy food everyday without question. It is just the view on women that is the problem, if you see women as vulnerable and impressionable and that a strip club is taking advantage of them, then that in itself is not a feminist way of thinking and if you think that making money from this is morally wrong then you are not aware of the society we live in today or thinking about the people that work there.

I really hope to see Spearmint Rhino's license get renewed year on year and I am aware of the criticism people give the club but I really do think that a more open-minded way of looking at this is needed and to really think about the people in these places. We are just normal people, working a job like everybody else, we work nights because it suits us and fits in with our lifestyles better than any other job. I consider the people I work with like my family and I would hate for that to be broken.

18.02.2017

To Whom It may Concern,

I am a 25 year old woman I first started dancing from the age of 18 at spearmint rhinos. I have spent 7 and a half years at this club, in my time here I can honestly say I have never experienced any problems. I have worked in a few clubs around the country throughout my time as a dancer as I like to travel but if I have to say I feel this club is by far the best that I have experienced. I have always found myself returning back to spearmint rhino Sheffield as no other club can compete for the level of safety and the respect the club have for the girls.

In my time at the club they have hired the best security in my opinion, the girls and I always feel safe as we are constantly being watched for our wellbeing.

Spearmint rhino Sheffield has a very calm, relaxed atmosphere to which I feel very safe and comfortable to work in.

This club gives us the freedom to work when we want which I have found in my time some clubs are stricter with working shifts and that can make you feel pressured.

When I have had any personal/ health issues the management have been more than understanding they have been happy for me to have time off work, let me cancel my chosen shifts I had put on the rota and to return to work in my own time.

Without this club I wouldn't be able to support myself as a young woman living by myself. I need this job as this is my only career for now that can support me financially.

Representation of Support 10

24/02/17

To whom it may concern,

Spearmint Rhino (Sheffield) has been my only place of work for 41 years now, as the hours are more suited to my home life as a single parent. I find it to be a very safe environment to work in, with the security team constantly checking that all the girls are ok and making sure that the customers are also safe.

We receive a mixture of customers from straight single males through to gay Female couples, from all areas of society and races/religions. It is a fun place to work, with a professional team and nothing like the picture that the people who object to the Club are painting. My colleagues and I are most certainly not being exploited at this venue; in fact I actually look forward to seeing everybody when I'm heading out to work

Representation of Support 11

20/01/17

To whom it may concern,

My name is

and I

have been dancing at Spacemint Rhine for over 10 years this is a venture which I truly enjoy doing as it has made me a more convenient and outgoing person, plus it is now my main source of income

Spacemint Rhine itself is a fantastic place to work as they provide a safe working environment for not just me but all dancers, staff and customers. This is thanks to high standards the management team have in place and the care staff they provide, as to me security/safety is there number one priority. The fact that I have worked here shows volumes of I wouldn't want to work anywhere else,

Thank you.

Representation of Support 12

My name is

i am 38 years old and i am the head DJ at

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I have worked here as Dj for the past 14 years, over the years i have made many friends and even my wife to witch i have two children aged 2 and 3.

I love working here and it is my main source of income to look after my family. I work hard for my money doing 6 nights a week with some nights till 6 in the morning, there is a lot more to it than just playing music. I am here to keep the night going and make sure everyone has a good time. This is why i feel working environment is very important and working for spearmint rhino is the best, you may have heard it all before but we are all like family here.

The Management that i work for are the best i have ever worked for i have never had a problem that i couldn't go and speak to them about and i know all the staff feel the same. We also have a amazing door team here that know how to look after the place and make everyone feel safe.

To finish just like to say this is the best job i have ever had that's why i have stayed here so long the people i work with are great and i feel working here has made me a more confident person. I hope to stay here many years to come.

22nd Feb 2017

To whom this may concern,

My name is _____ and I have

worked at Greenmint Rhino Sheffield for many years and it is a fantastic place to work. The management are brilliant and make sure we are very well looked after. The security team do a great job at keeping us safe. I hope to continue working here for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Representation of Support 15

My name is _____ and for over 12 years I have been Head of Security at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

I take my role as Head of Security very seriously making sure all customers, staff and dancers are in a safe, friendly environment and work closely with the management team to make sure that we adhere to all the conditions on our SEV. Since the last hearing last year we have had no incidents or need to contact the police as this itself speaks volumes on how important I take my employment at Spearmint Rhino. I also make sure that all dancers and staff member arrive safely to and from work whether it's organising them a taxi and having my members of security walking them to their cars. Again safety is my main objective.

So I feel upset and dishearten that every year we are fighting objectors who are trying to close us down due to their own personal views against us. Especially since they have never been into the club in the first place and have no concept on how the club is run. This in its self is wrong as personal morals views should not dictate whether Spearmint Rhino should operate or not. We follow and take out conditions very seriously again putting all dancers, staff and customers safety first,

Regards

Representation of Support 16

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

USA - EUROPE - AUSTRALIA

SONFELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
T/A SPEARMINT RHINO SHEFFIELD

40 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS
TELEPHONE 0114 2798092 FAX 0114 2762816
GENERAL E-MAILING: info@spearmintrhino.co.uk
WEBSITE: www.spearmintrhino.co.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Michael Goodwin and I am one of the managers at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield I am 51, born and brought up in Sheffield and have been working for the club full time for almost 15 years. I have two children 15 and 17 and obviously rely on this job to pay my mortgage and pay the bills etc.

I fully support the SEV licence and agree that since it was brought in it has weeded out the less desirable element in our industry and left just the more respectable clubs like ourselves to go about their business.

In the 15 years we have been open there have been no serious incidents requiring a police presence as I believe our door staff are one of the best teams in the city and our staff and dancers are professional and friendly at all times.

Every year it frustrates me that the same people come up with the same lame excuses why they think we should be closed down and it upsets me that somebody of reasonable intelligence would gladly take away my livelihood just because they don't agree with us being near their place of business. Even though we don't open until 5 hours after they have closed and we close at least 3 hours before they open for business, so all they see is a closed building.

They shout about fighting for womens rights and that lap dancing clubs degrade women and encourage rape and domestic violence and yet they are not trying to stop any of the other clubs in the area from getting their licence ? just Spearmint Rhino.

So this would seem to indicate that its just because we are near to them and spoil their idea of a perfect cultural quarter and nothing to do with being concerned for vulnerable women.

Please let Spearmint Rhino carry on trading as we have done for almost 15 year in a professional manner

Kind regards Mick Goodwin

Michael Goodwin
Manager
Spearmint Rhino Gentlemens Club
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S1 2BS
Telephone: - 0114 2798092
Direct E-mail: - mjgoodwin@spearmintrhino.com
Company website: - www.spearmintrhino.co.uk

Neutral Representation

Dear Madam / Sir

Over the last couple of years, I have watched with interest the annual renewal proceedings for Spearmint Rhino and another similar venue. At first, I was simply an interested bystander, curious at the enthusiastic persuasive attempts of the various equality groups.

I have witnessed one individual in particular give a powerpoint presentation which, to my relatively untrained eye, seemed to completely miss the point. After each speaker in turn received a round of applause I became more and more disillusioned with their cause, sensing that any person who dared to contradict their blinkered view of the world would be fair game. I note that the recent appearance of male strippers in Genting Casino passed by without so much as a murmur of protest from any equality group. Similarly the regular appearance of male "dance troupes" across the City. Equality for whom?

I regularly walk along Brown Street and can state that I have no qualms whatsoever walking past the venue, both early morning and later in the evening. I can categorically state that Brown Street is always quiet. In fact, I am more wary walking past the Student Union building due to the behaviour of some students when drunk.

The point of this email is not to support or oppose the application. I have spoken to many of my contemporaries from various walks of life and can categorically state that the overwhelming opinion is "live and let live". The fact of the matter is that the vast majority of Sheffield people do not care if Spearmint Rhino is granted a licence or not. The vociferous minority would have you believe otherwise.

What I do object to is the expensive charade that is the hearing which seems to be held every year as a result of what I assume the Law or Council or various action groups demand? The money spent on this hearing would be far better spent on a public questioning exercise, in referendum fashion.

Should the Council renew Spearmint Rhino's licence? Yes, no or don't care. I know which answer my money is on!

Yours

Appendix D

Meeting Invites



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT 1982

Sexual Entertainment Venue – Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield.

IMPORTANT: NOTIFICATION OF A LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARING

LEGISLATION: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

LICENCE TYPE: Sexual Entertainment Venue (Renewal)

I refer to the above and an application for the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence.

This matter has been referred to the Licensing Sub Committee of Sheffield City Council for determination. Full details will be provided in the report to the Committee which will be sent to you in due course. The Licensing Committee has the authority to decide what action to take in relation to each application.

The hearing in respect of the application will take place on Tuesday 11th April 2017 in a Committee Room of the Town Hall, Sheffield (Pinstone Street entrance) and you are invited to attend at **10:00 am**.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the number of interested parties, it is vitally important that you reply to this invite. If you fail to respond to this invite and subsequently attend the hearing, your admission cannot be guaranteed due to health and safety considerations. Entry precedence will be given to individuals who have confirmed their attendance in advance.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that you will be attending the meeting by emailing the Licensing Service at licensing@sheffield.gov.uk or by telephoning 0114 273 4264 before 5pm on Thursday 6th April 2017.

Steve Lonnia

Date: 29th March 2017

.....
Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing

Licensing Service, Business Strategy and Regulation, Block C,
Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield, S9 3HD

Telephone 0114 273 4264
Email licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

The Licensing Service reception is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday

Appendix E

Equality Impact Assessment Notes

Spearmint Rhino SEV Premises Licence Renewal Application

Equality Impact Assessment Notes

Age

Potential Impact – Negative

There is potential impact of those 18 years and under. There are other establishments in the vicinity of the premises, such as the Student Union Hub and other university buildings. The location of the premises may have a negative impact on the young people that attend these establishments; however, during the operational hours of the premises, these establishments are not substantially used by or for children under the age of 16.

Evidence –

The Licensing Authority has not received any complaints regarding underage access to the premises.

South Yorkshire Police have confirmed that there have been no age related issues in relation to access to the premises in the time that it has been licensed.

Sheffield Safeguarding Board has also confirmed that there have been no complaints received in relation to the premises.

Mitigating actions -

In the licence conditions, no dancer under the age of 18 may perform at the premises.

In the event of the licence being renewed, access to the premises will be prohibited to those under 18 years of age, through both the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the Licensing Act of 2003. This will be controlled by conditions currently on the licence.

Mandatory conditions on any SEV licence prohibit advertising etc. outside of the premises without the prior approval of the Council.

Disability**Potential Impact - Neutral**

As this is a renewal application the Council's Health Protection Service (Health and Safety) will have already worked with and advised the applicant regarding accessibility to the premises in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority has not received any complaints in relation to the treatment of disabled people or in relation to disabled access at the premises

Mitigating actions -

The Council will do everything possible to ensure premises are conforming to disability legislation.

Pregnancy / Maternity**Potential Impact - Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Race**Potential Impact - Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Religion / Belief**Potential Impact - Negative**

Sex establishments are such that they may offend or go against the beliefs of certain faiths, religions or sectors. However the Council recognises that it is lawful to operate such premises and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority is not aware of any religious buildings and establishments within the locality of the premises.

The Licensing Authority's role is to administer and enforce the licensing regime in accordance with the law and not to take into account moral objections and standpoints.

This law pertaining to the licensing of sexual entertainment venues empowers local people and the wider community to be involved in the licensing process and if necessary to raise objections and representations. However, paragraph 3.23 of the Home Office guidance on licensing for sexual entertainment venues states explicitly that "objections should not be based on moral grounds or

values and Local Authorities should not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds set out in Paragraph 12.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority will consider the character of the relevant locality when considering an application and will particularly take account of the proximity of various types of premises including religious buildings and establishments.

Sex

Potential Impact – Negative

In the past the Licensing Authority has received representations submitted by action groups and interested individuals that contend that sexual entertainment venues contribute to the objectification, victimisation and harassment of women.

To the extent that many people would believe that this is a “moral” standpoint, it would not be something that the Licensing Authority can take into account. However, we as a Licensing Authority have considered this and taken it into account on an “equalities” basis and do not feel that it is primarily a moral standpoint.

As the Licensing Authority we feel we must endeavour to reduce the normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women, avoid exploitation of women and to promote healthy sexual practices.

However, we feel it would be a negative move to impose a total ban on these types of premises and it is felt that through regulation, imposition of strict conditions, a strong policy and strict limits on numbers of such premises we can help achieve this aim.

Representations submitted by performers and employees across various age ranges and demographics, suggest that the opportunity for a flexible work pattern is an attractive proposition, providing a sustainable income and work / life balance. Not licensing such premises could have a negative impact on those in lawful employment, which is regulated and subject to controls and visits from many different organisations, including, but not limited to, the Licensing Authority, Police, Health Protection etc...

Whilst the customer demographic for such venues is largely male, it is not unusual for females or couples to visit such premises. There is no bar to entry for either gender at any time.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority has carried out proactive enforcement visits to the premises on numerous occasions and no issues have been

raised by officers. No formal complaints have been received in relation to the premises and/or the conduct of its staff and no direct complaints have been made by users or members of the public to the Licensing Authority. However, two complaints have been made by organisations who had objected to a previous renewal application. These complaints related to alleged breaches of conditions and were investigated appropriately and found to have little or no substance.

The Sheffield Safeguarding Board has confirmed that no complaints have been made in relation to the premises.

The Police have never objected to previous applications demonstrating that there is no negative impact on crime and disorder from such premises.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority will work closely with the Sheffield Safeguarding Board to promote safeguarding and to raise awareness of associated issues and potentially provide a confidential system for reporting incidents/issues if and when they arise.

Regulation, imposition of strict conditions, a strong policy and strict limits on numbers of such premises to support the aim of reducing the normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women, avoid exploitation of women and to promote healthy sexual practices.

Extensive safeguards are to be in place for the protection of performers from harassment and other unwarranted attentions. These safeguards are documented within the application paperwork.

Sexual Orientation

Impact – Neutral

Evidence - Whilst the application makes no specific reference to sexual orientation, it is assumed that the target audience is heterosexual male. Notwithstanding, there is no bar to anyone seeking legal entry to the premises.

Data gathering on admittance to such premises is not asked for or obtained during the application process or on enforcement visits as there is no legal bar to legal entry dependant on sexual orientation.

Transgender**Impact – Neutral**

Evidence - Whilst the application makes no specific reference to transgender issues, it is assumed that the target audience is heterosexual male. Notwithstanding, there is no bar to anyone seeking legal entry to the premises, and no reference is made in the application to any such customer data being gathered.

Carers**Impact – Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector**Potential Impact – Negative**

The Council are aware of sensitive buildings/premises that are located around the city. These premises are staffed mainly by volunteers and are visited by individuals who may be negatively impacted upon by this type of premises.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority is aware of sensitive premises located in the city centre but it will be for Members to decide upon the level of impact of the premises on these buildings/establishments.

Mitigating actions –

There is no bar to legal entry for people of a particular voluntary, community or faith organisation/sector at any time.

The Licensing Authority will consider the character of the relevant locality when considering an application and will particularly take account of the proximity of various types of premises, including Hospitals; Mental Incapacity or Disability Centres; Substance Misuse Treatment Centres; Sexual Exploitation Services; Rape and Sexual Abuse Centres; places of religious worship, including churches mosques; temples; synagogues and other places of religious worship.

Financial Inclusion, Poverty, Social Justice**Potential Impact – Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Cohesion**Potential Impact - Negative**

It may be the belief of some people that sex establishments and /or entertainment venues contribute towards a decline in societal cohesion.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority notes that it is lawful to operate these and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority's role is to administer the licensing regime in accordance with the law. This law empowers local people and the community to be involved in the licensing process. The policy also states that the authority will consider the character of the relevant locality when considering an application and will particularly take account of the proximity of various types of premises including residential areas that are frequented by children and families or vulnerable adults.

Other / Additional**Potential Impact - Neutral**

The premise is close to the railway station, a college of further education and university buildings, together with other premises which may be perceived to be sensitive. The exterior of the building is required to be neutral and approval must be granted for its appearance.

That said, any brand or logo may be likely to evoke a certain level of consternation amongst some sections of the local community. Therefore anything on the exterior of the building including logos, advertising should be required to be approved.

Sexual entertainment venues are legally in existence by way of an Act of Parliament.

Evidence - It may be the belief of some people that sexual entertainment venues contribute towards prostitution and/or crime and disorder. However there is no evidence of this in Sheffield. South Yorkshire Police have confirmed that in terms of the area in which Spearmint Rhino is located, recent crime analysis for the city centre concerning violence in the night time economy indicts the general area of Spearmint Rhino to be a low crime area and not an area that is considered by South Yorkshire Police to be a problem. As part of the procedure for this application, South Yorkshire Police has been consulted and has made no objection.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority will consider applications in line with the relevant legislation and policy guidance. This will consist primarily of the locality and any relevant conditions that can be imposed in order to allow effective management and enforcement of the same.

The Equality Act 2010 obliges the Council to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations in discharging its licensing functions.

Although the legal rights of the equality law are not within the scope of the licensing of sexual entertainment venues to enforce, the Council will encourage Licensees to:

- use an equality policy to help them check that they have thought about equality in the way they plan what they do and how they do it
- provide equality training, to make sure they know the right and wrong ways to behave.

Overall Summary

Sexual Entertainment Venues are legally in existence by Act of Parliament. The Licensing Authority notes that it is lawful to operate these and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries.

However, overall it is considered that there are some potential negative equality impacts, in particular regarding young people, women and community cohesion. This is due to the location of the premises in this particular application and its proximity to premises that are frequented by young adults and vulnerable adults.

To mitigate any potential negative impact, the Licensing Authority will administer and enforce the licensing regime in accordance with the law. We will also work with organisations such as the Police and Sheffield Safeguarding Board.

Appendix F

Hearing Procedure

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES
-
LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE

This procedure has been drawn up to assist those attending Sexual Entertainment Venue Committee hearings. The hearing can be heard in two parts and may be held on separate dates – objectors will be invited to attend Part One only. Part One will not apply if there are no objectors.

The hearing before the Council is Quasi-Judicial.

PART ONE

1. The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will introduce the Sub-Committee and ask officers to introduce themselves.
2. The Chair will ask the objectors (or nominated speaker(s) on behalf of the objectors) to formally introduce themselves.
3. The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed in the hearing.
4. Hearing Procedure:-
 - (a) The Licensing Officer will introduce the report.
 - (b) Questions concerning the report can be asked by Members.
 - (c) The Licensing Officer will introduce in turn the objectors (or nominated speakers) who will then be asked to detail the relevant representations. New representations must not be raised.
 - (d) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will invite members of the Sub-Committee to put any relevant questions to the objectors.
 - (e) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will close Part One of the hearing.

PART TWO

1. The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will introduce the Sub-Committee and ask officers to introduce themselves.
2. The Chair will ask the applicants to formally introduce themselves.
3. The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed in the hearing.
4. Hearing Procedure:-
 - (a) The Licensing officer will introduce the report.
 - (b) Questions concerning the report can be asked both by Members and the applicant.

- (c) The applicant/licensee (or his/her nominated representative) will then be asked to:-
 - i) Present their case to the Sub-Committee and respond to any objections made;
 - ii) Call on any witnesses in support of their application;
 - (d) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will invite Members of the Sub-Committee to put any relevant questions to the applicant/licensee (or his/her nominated representative) and/or any witnesses who speak.
 - (e) The applicant will be invited to briefly sum up the application.
 - (f) The Licensing Officer will then detail the options.
 - (g) There will then be a private session for Members to take legal advice and consider the application.
5. The decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee will be conveyed in writing following the hearing, to the applicant/licensee (or his/her representative).
6. Objectors will receive a copy of the written notification of the Sub-Committee's decision sent to the applicant, if they have advised the Licensing Authority that they wish to do so. The decision will also be made available on the Council's website.
- NB: At any time in the Licensing Process, Members of the Sub-Committee may request legal advice from the Solicitor to the Sub-Committee. This advice may be given in open session or in private.

Appendix G

Discretionary Grounds for Refusal

Discretionary Grounds for Refusing a Licence

The Council may refuse the grant or renewal of a licence in the following circumstances:-

- (a) the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;
- (b) if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself;
- (c) the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;
- (d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard—
 - (i) to the character of the relevant locality; or
 - (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

Nil may be an appropriate number for the purposes of (c) above.

The Council may refuse the transfer of a licence only in the circumstances of (a) and (b) above.

NOTE:

- The Sheffield City Council has not set a limit for the number of Sexual Entertainment Venues within the city, nor is it obliged to.
- A Nil Limit can only be set pursuant to policy review, not as a result of this application.
- The Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy published in April 2011 is in the process of being reviewed. It is anticipated that the new policy will be finalised by the Summer of 2017.