

Licensing Sub-Committee

Monday 16 September 2019 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 Karen McGowan (Chair), Andy Bainbridge 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 John Turner on 0114 273 4122 or email john.turner@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
16 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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 - 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.

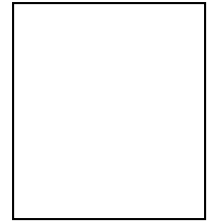
To obtain a dispensation, you must write to the Monitoring Officer at least 48 hours before the meeting in question, explaining why a dispensation is sought and desirable, and specifying the period of time for which it is sought. The Monitoring Officer may consult with the Independent Person or the Council's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

Date: 16th September 2019

Subject: Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

Author of Report: Emma Rhodes-Evans

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 decision based on the evidence

Background Papers: Attached documents

Category of Report: OPEN

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

Ref No 52/19

**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 29th April 2019 and is attached to this report, labelled Appendix 'A'. Supplementary information is attached at Appendices 'B' and 'C'.

3.0 REASONS FOR REFERRAL

- 3.1 Representations objecting to the application are attached at Appendix 'D'.
- 3.2 Representations in support of the application are attached at Appendix 'E'.
- 3.3 A petition in support of the application is attached at Appendix 'F'.
- 3.4 The Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Response is attached at Appendix 'G'.
- 3.5 The Licensing Service in its capacity as a responsible authority has carried out an investigation into allegations made against Spearmint Rhino. This has now concluded and there are concerns over the apparent level of management control at the establishment, particularly considering the conditions imposed upon the licence.
- 3.6 The Licensing Service is referring the investigation report to the Licensing Sub-Committee on the grounds of applicant suitability. A copy of the investigation report summary is available as a separate addendum with these papers.

4.0 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 4.1 The hearing will be held in two parts in accordance with the hearing procedure, which can be found at Appendix 'I'. 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 & Support received concerning the application 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 'J'.

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 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: **Page 7**

- 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. Members should be aware that equality impact assessments are under constant review. A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment is attached at Appendix 'H'.

8.0 POLICY – SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 Members should be aware of Section 7 of the policy with regards to the Location of Licensed Premises. The Sex Establishment Policy published in April 2011 is the policy by which the application will be determined.

8.2 Members will need to consider the character of the relevant locality and have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;
- (b) the premises are sited near shops used by or directed to families or children, or on frontages frequently passed by the same;

- (c) the premises are sited near properties which are sensitive for religious purposes e.g. synagogues, churches, mosques, temples;
- (d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;
- (e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions;
- (f) the premises are sited near civic buildings.

8.3 Members should consider the use of other premises in the vicinity and have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age;
- (b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;
- (c) places primarily used for religious worship;
- (d) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;
- (e) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;
- (f) predominately residential areas;
- (g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library)

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

- (a) any 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;
- (d) the design of the premises frontage (signage/images etc.);
- (e) any relevant representation to the application; and/or
- (f) the proposed operating hours

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 'I'.

10.0 APPEALS

10.1 There is a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court against decisions for the refusal to grant, renew, vary or transfer of a licence, the imposition of conditions and revocations may also be appealed.

10.2 Appeals must be made to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days, starting from the date the applicant is notified of the Licensing Authority's decision.

10.3 Appeals only lie against the mandatory refusals on the basis that the mandatory ground does not apply to the applicant/licence holder. Further, no appeal lies against the Licensing Authority's decision made on the discretionary grounds, namely:

- That it is inappropriate to grant or renew a licence on the grounds of the character of the locality or the number of premises in it; or
- The use of premises in the vicinity or the layout, character or condition of the premises

10.4 The only discretionary grounds which an appeal lies are those relating to the suitability of the applicant, the manager and/or the beneficiary of the operation.

10.5 There is no statutory right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court for the police or objectors.

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 Sex Establishment 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.



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Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing
Business Strategy and Regulation
Place Portfolio
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S9 3HD

16th September 2019

Sheffield City Council Licensing Service

Investigation into Alleged Breaches of Licence Conditions at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Summary Report

Investigating Officers: L Freeman and S Marshall

Date of report summary 24th July 2019

**Note : This is a summary of the findings of the investigation.
A full report and evidence log is held by Sheffield City Council Licensing Service.**

1.0 The complaint

- 1.1 Sheffield City Council Licensing Service (SCCLS) was alerted to an allegation of breaches of Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) Licence Conditions at the premises "Spearmint Rhino" (SR) on 30/3/2019 on receipt of an email informing us of a press article.
- 1.2 The Licensing Service ascertained over the following days from various news articles that the allegations were being publicised by The Women's Equality Party (The WEP).
- 1.3 SCCLS contacted The WEP on 2/4/2019 to request information and Charlotte Meade attended the SCCLS office on behalf of The WEP on 4/4/2019.
- 1.4 She told officers that on 09/02/2019 (into 10/02/2019) and 28/02/2019 (into 01/03/2019) two Private Investigators had attended the venue, posing as ordinary customers, and during their visits a number of dancers had performed "private dances" for them during which breaches of SEV Licence Conditions had occurred.
- 1.5 The Private Investigators had been commissioned by an organisation called Not Buying It (NBI) and the WEP provided SCCLS with written witness statements from the two Private Investigators.
- 1.6 Officers were told that covertly filmed footage was also available and this was provided to SCCLS at a later date.
- 1.6 At this point, a formal investigation was launched by SCCLS.

2.0 The Investigation

- 2.1 The investigation included:
 - The examination of the Private Investigators' witness statements;
 - The examination of the covertly filmed footage;
 - The gathering and examination of CCTV footage from SR (note: officers were unable to access all CCTV footage as SR's licence conditions require them to keep footage for 31 days. This complaint was brought to our attention after this period);
 - The interviewing of witnesses/ potential witnesses including staff at Spearmint Rhino;
 - The liaison with partner agencies where appropriate; and
 - Five interviews under caution with SR management.

3.0 The Allegations and Findings

3.1 Allegation 1: Sexual touching of customers by dancers, sexual touching between dancers, self-masturbation by dancers and mutual masturbation and oral stimulation between dancers.

3.1.1 Officers examined the covert footage and witness statements from the two private investigator visits and found:

- 74 breaches of the SEV Licence Conditions (attached at Appendix 1)
- 145 breaches of the SR Code of Conduct for Dancers (attached at Appendix 2)
- committed by 6 dancers
- over 8 dances.

3.1.2 Details of the exact nature of the breaches can be found attached at Appendix 3.

3.2 Allegation 2: At least two staff members are in relationships with dancers.

3.2.1 It has been confirmed during the investigation that some dancers are in relationships with staff/ management however, there is no licence condition that restricts dancers from being in relationships with staff/management and vice versa.

3.2.3 In the SR Code of Conduct for Dancers Section B: Dancer Conduct, No 22 it states:
“Dancers are never to invite or knowingly permit dancer’s spouse, boyfriend, nor anyone else with whom dancers are romantically involved to enter the club”.

3.2.4 This allegation is not considered to breach the SR Code of Conduct for Dancers.

3.3 Allegation 3: Dancers being forced to distribute flyers.

3.3.1 The relevant condition for this allegation is worded as follows:

“The Premises – Condition 8 – There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the city any advertisements (including flyers), photographs, or images that indicate or suggest that relevant entertainment takes place on the premises.”

3.3.2 The private investigator statement describes a female, assumed to be a dancer, coming out of SR seemingly upset/distressed as she walked to a vehicle to “get a box from her car”. According to the statement, a conversation took place between the private investigator and a member of door staff who explained that the female was a dancer and wasn’t happy because she had to go out with flyers.

3.3.3 SR CCTV covers the outside area but owing to the passage of time, this was not available to interrogate.

3.3.4 Officers asked dancers about “flyering” during the dancer interviews; all of them stated that they did go “flyering”, however it was ascertained that they use the term “flyering” for visiting premises in the city centre and stamping the hand of potential customers with a discounted or free entry hand stamp.

3.3.5 The practice as described by those interviewed is not a breach of the conditions of the SEV licence.

3.3.6 On the balance of probabilities there is insufficient evidence that this condition has been breached.

3.4 Allegation 4: Dancers not providing customers with the rules prior to a dance taking place.

3.4.1 The relevant condition for this allegation is worded as follows:

“General Conditions - Condition 1 - Rules shall be produced by the licensee for customers indicating conduct that is permitted. These rules shall be prominently displayed in any bar area, and at sufficient other locations within the venue to ensure that they are brought to the attention of customers.”

3.4.2 There is no condition that states that dancers or staff must verbally inform the customers of the rules.

3.4.3 The signage at SR is present and has been present during quarterly inspections, there are signs in the reception area, in the dance areas and prominently displayed in the dance booths.

3.4.4 There is no breach of this condition.

3.5 Allegation 5: Security staff forcing dancers to tip them to escort them to their cars late at night.

3.5.1 The SR Code of Conduct for Dancers states at Section B: Dancer Conduct, No 18:
“Dancers will either leave at the end of a shift in a nominated taxi, or a member of security staff will escort them to their car or off the premises”.

3.5.2 Officers interviewed staff and dancers and posed this question directly; no information was given to corroborate this allegation.

3.5.3 There is insufficient evidence of any breaches in relation to this allegation.

4.0 Officer analysis of evidence:

4.1 Allegation 1 is upheld. Breaches of SEV licence Conditions and Spearmint Rhino Code of Conduct for Dancers have been identified and are detailed in Appendix 3.

4.2 During the investigation Officers have found no evidence that management were aware that breaches were taking place.

4.3 However, given the nature and extent of the breaches, SCCLS has concerns over the apparent level of management control at the establishment particularly considering the conditions imposed upon the licence. Therefore, SCCLS is referring the investigation report to the Licensing Sub-Committee on the grounds of applicant suitability.

4.3 As a result of the allegations and subsequent investigation, SCCLS are aware that SR management have implemented an action plan to ensure that further breaches will not take place.

4.4 In the interim, Officers have been and will continue to inspect the premises (unannounced) on a monthly basis which will include accessing CCTV for all areas.

4.5. Allegations 2 to 5 were either not upheld or there was insufficient evidence or information.

Appendix 1

Spearmint Rhino Sexual Entertainment Licence Conditions

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982

Sexual Entertainment Venues - Standard Conditions

LICENCE No: SEV002

Licence commences 01/05/2018 Expires 30/04/2019

Licensee Sonfield Development Ltd

KEY DEFINITIONS

The following terms are used frequently throughout this document:

- “The Council/Licensing Authority”** refers to Sheffield City Council
- The **“2009 Act”** refers to the Policing and Crime Act 2009
- The **“1982 Act”** refers to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
- The **“2003 Act”** refers to the Licensing Act 2003
- “Section 27”** refers to section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009
- “Schedule 3”** refers to schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended
- “The Licensing Committee”** refers to the committee of Sheffield City Council.
- “Relevant Entertainment”** refers to: live performance and live displays of nudity, provided solely or principally for the purposes of sexually stimulating any member of the audience
- “Nude”** means in the case of a woman exposing her nipples, pubic area, genitals or anus and in the case of a man, exposure of his pubic area, genitals or anus.

General Conditions

1. Rules shall be produced by the licensee for customers indicating conduct that is permitted. These rules shall be prominently displayed in any bar area, and at sufficient other locations within the venue to ensure that they are brought to the attention of customers.
2. No relevant entertainment provided shall be visible from the street or from any other external area to which the public have access.
3. Performers shall not whilst Nude, whether engaged in relevant entertainment or not, be visible from the street or from any other external area to which the public have access.
4. The licence holder shall ensure that no staff or other persons engaged on their behalf remain in any area of the premises which can be viewed from outside the premises, or from any other area outside the premises, for the purpose of encouraging potential customers into the premises.
5. Without the prior written consent of the Council there shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the city any advertisements, photographs or images that indicate or suggest that relevant entertainment takes place on the premises.
6. There shall be prominently and legibly displayed a comprehensive tariff of all charges and prices in respect of relevant entertainment, including any charge for the company of any person working at the premises, which shall be illuminated and placed in such a position that it can at all times be easily and conveniently be read by persons inside the premises.

7. No charge shall be made to the customer for any food or drink provided for any person working at the premises unless that customer has specifically ordered it having first been made aware of the cost.

The Premises

1. Colour CCTV will be provided and in working order in the premises, the positioning of such cameras will be in liaison with the Police Licensing Officer and Crime Prevention Department and shall comply with the minimum specification of the South Yorkshire Police at the date of license issue.
2. CCTV recorded material should be kept secure for a period of 31 days and disclosed to any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council.
3. No CCTV footage is to be copied, for the purpose of being given away or sold (except as required by Police / Council for investigation / enforcement purposes). CCTV footage may be distributed internally by licence holders (including to other group premises) for the purposes of internal management and training.
4. Except in accordance with the requirements for CCTV as described above, no photographs, films or video recordings shall be taken of the performances. Nor shall electronic transmissions of a performance be shown outside of the premises (except for the purpose of remote management of the premises and in those circumstances, the licensee shall ensure that only those involved in management shall view any photograph, film or recording).
5. Notices shall be displayed informing customers of the presence of CCTV.
6. An appropriate room shall be available as a change and rest area for performers. Access to this room shall be restricted to performers and employees only whilst the performers are on the premises. This room shall be marked on the plans.
7. The licence holder or his nominated deputy (who is authorised in writing), or door-supervisors shall carry out regular monitoring of all areas of the premises to which the public have access and shall intervene promptly, if necessary, to ensure compliance with licence conditions.

Management Standards

1. Training shall be provided to all members of management and staff regarding the conditions of the licence, management practices and any relevant legislation to ensure compliance with the same. A written record of all such training shall be maintained at the premises and made available on request to the Police and authorised officers of the Council.
2. The licensee shall not employ any person under 18 years of age in the business of the establishment.
3. No person may provide relevant entertainment at the premises until such time as photographic proof of identity showing date of birth is provided to the licence holder, confirming that the person is over the age of 18 years.
4. A record of any person employed or engaged at the premises, including name, address, National Insurance number, photograph and date of birth will be retained in a register at the premises. Such details are to be checked and verified by the

licence holder against other forms of identity. These records are then to be retained at the premises for at least 12 months from the last day (date) of their employment and made available to both Police Officers and authorised officers of the Council on request.

5. A 'Signing-in' register shall be kept at the premises that records the date, start time and finish time of all person(s) involved in the relevant entertainment at the premises. This shall be retained for a period of 12 months and made available for immediate inspection by a Police Officer or authorised officers of the Council.
6. When the premises are open for relevant entertainment no person under the age of 18 shall be permitted to be on the premises. The licensee shall operate a Challenge 21 Policy and persons appearing to be under the age of 21 shall be required to show proof of ID. A notice to this effect shall be displayed in a prominent place at the entrance to the premises and any other appropriate location (i.e. at the bar).
7. The licence holder must maintain an incident log of any person(s) refused entry at the premises and record the reason why such persons were refused entry. The log shall be retained for a period of 12 months and the licence holder shall make the log available to any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council on request.
8. A written code of conduct for those engaged in the relevant entertainment shall be produced by the licence holder together with a disciplinary procedure for any breaches of the code. The code of conduct shall prohibit activities that might be thought to lead to prostitution, breaches of the licence or any other unlawful activities. The Code shall be made available to the Police or authorised officers of the Council on request.

The Protection of those Engaged in Relevant Entertainment / Prevention of Crime and Disorder

1. Any person who is providing relevant entertainment, must be briefed verbally, or in writing, by the licence holder or his nominated deputy (authorised in writing) as to the conditions that pertain to their particular premises and as to the code of conduct, including the fact that their activities will be recorded on CCTV. The performer(s) shall sign in a register that they have been briefed, any such register shall be retained for 12 months and made available for inspection by any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council.
2. During any performance of relevant entertainment there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public, except for the placing of money / tokens in an item of clothing worn by a performer or into the performer's hand before or at the end of the performance and a customary kiss on the cheek of the patron by the performer at the conclusion of the performance. A brief handshake before or at the end of a performance is permitted.
3. There shall be no penetration of a performer's genitals or anus by any means.
4. Performers shall not engage in masturbation and or/oral sex.
5. Except with the consent of the performer and at their invitation no customer shall participate in any relevant entertainment. Any customer participating must remain seated during the performance.
6. No customer shall be required or encouraged to participate in any relevant entertainment against their will.

7. No customer shall have any clothing removed during any relevant entertainment.
8. At the completion of the relevant entertainment the performers shall dress themselves immediately and leave the designated performance area.
9. Whilst on the premises performers are not to solicit, exchange addresses or telephone numbers with customers, or arrange to liaise with customers off the premises.

Safety and Security

1. The licensee shall maintain good order in the premises at all times and shall ensure that persons entering or leaving the licensed premises conduct themselves in an orderly manner and do not in any way cause annoyance to residents and persons passing by.
2. Relevant entertainment may only take place in 'designated areas' that are marked on the plan of the premises submitted to the Licensing Service as part of their application.
3. The licensee shall have in place and comply with a policy concerning the safety of performers arriving at and leaving the premises. The policy shall be recorded in writing and made available to the Police or authorised officers of the Council on request
4. The licensee or a nominated manager (in writing) shall be present on the premises at all times whilst the relevant entertainment is taking place.

Annex 2 - Conditions attached after a hearing by the Licensing Authority

1. There shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the city any advertisements (including flyers), photographs or images that indicate or suggest that relevant entertainment takes place on the premises.
2. No external signage shall be visible outside the premises whilst the premises is closed. This should be implemented as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within six months of the commencement of the licence.
3. Quarterly inspections will be carried out by the Licensing Authority.

Spearmint Rhino Code of Conduct for Dancers

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES AT ALL TIMES AND MUST
BE READ SUBJECT TO ANY VARIATIONS
AGREED WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES ATTACHED**

A. General points and dancer attire:

1. Dancers must always sign in with the Club Management prior to commencing each shift;
2. At any time, dancers arriving or departing the Club must be fully dressed in clean, neat and smart attire. Dancers must endeavour *always* to arrive at and depart from the Club quietly, particularly during the evening and early morning;
3. Dancers are to arrive within adequate time to ensure that the dancer is ready on the main floor commensurate with the dancers shift or as designated by the Club management;
4. Except in an emergency, the use of mobile phones in public areas is prohibited;
5. After arriving at the Club and entering the dressing room, dancers are to change into appropriate attire as required by the Club and remain so dressed unless providing a stage or table dance performance. On leaving the premises, dancers' attire should be as indicated at (2) above;
6. Dancers' appropriate attire shall include:
 - a) Floor length elegant gowns and high heel shoes as approved by the Club management. The Club reserves the right to specify what is and is not appropriate on a continual basis;
 - b) Shoes must retain a minimum of a 3" heel and be worn at all times while in any public area of the Club;
 - c) Dancers' hair and make-up must be presented professionally. The Club encourages the use of costume jewellery, hairpieces, gloves and related accessories – remember style and elegance is the desired intent;
 - d) Dancers shall be required to wear at least a g-string or t-back undergarment in addition to the afore mentioned appropriate attire and not be completely nude except while performing on the centre main stage of the Club or performing a nude table dance where permitted;
 - e) At all times, other than during a table dance or stage performance, dancers must remain clothed whilst in the public areas and;
 - f) Dancers must fully dress at the end of each performance.

B. Dancer conduct:

1. Dancers may *never* give out any personal information, including telephone numbers, or contact details away from the Club. Dancers may provide a customer with the days and shifts they or other dancers work at the Club;
2. Dancers may *never* accept any telephone number, address or any other contact information from any customer, except in the form of a business card, but may *not* make use of that information to contact the customer. Before leaving the premises, dancers *must* permanently surrender all such cards to a member of *management* (without copying any information);
3. Dancers are *never* to be in the company of a customer except in an area open to the public within the Club (excluding toilets);
4. Dancers are *never* to enter or be in a roped-off V.I.P. dance area, *only* a floor supervisor or manager may open such a roped-off area;
5. Dancers are *never* to perform a nude table dance unless dancer is in a supervised area or within 5 metres of a floor supervisor;
6. Dancers must *never* perform a nude table dance *except* in a V.I.P. dance area.
7. During the performance of a table dance:
 - a) Customers *must* be seated in an upright position against the back of the booth with their hands by their sides *before* a dancer can commence a table dance, customers must remain so seated during the entire dance;
 - b) For the purpose of constraint, dancers may only touch a customer above the customer's chest with only the dancer's hands;
 - c) Dancers must not sit on or straddle the customer;
 - d) Dancers must maintain one shoed foot on the floor at all times and not place their feet on the booth seat;
 - e) Dancers may not place their knee or knees on the booth seat;
 - f) Floor work is prohibited and may only be performed whilst performing stage shows on the Club's designated stages;
 - g) Dancers may not perform any act that clearly simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger into any genital opening. Dancers may not touch their breasts with their mouths, lips or tongues;
 - h) Dancers may not intentionally touch a customer at any time during the performance except as stated in (b) above, or unless absolutely accidental by a third party or object;
 - i) Dancers may not use language of an inappropriate, suggestive or sexually graphic nature at any time;
8. Customers are *not* permitted to dance at *any* time. Customers *must* remain *appropriately* clothed at *all* times. Neither customer nor dancer may remove any of the customers clothing during a performance;
9. If a customer attempts to touch, or speak to a dancer inappropriately, the dancer must immediately stop the performance and explain the relevant rules. If necessary, ask for assistance from and cooperate with a floor supervisor, who will take appropriate action, which may include escorting the customer out of the Club;

10. Dancers are *never* to intentionally touch the genitals or breasts of another dancer or to knowingly permit another dancer to intentionally touch their genitals or breasts;
11. Dancers are *never* to engage in an act of **prostitution** (the receiving of gratuities or payments for any form of sexual favour or offer as such);
12. Dancers may not accept a customer's offer of payment in return for sexual favours (**solicitation**);
13. Dancers must not engage in communications that could be deemed as acts of prostitution or solicitation, even if the dancer has no intention of carrying out the act;
14. Dancers are *never* to intentionally meet any customer outside of the Club;
15. Dancers are *never* to agree to meet a customer outside of the Club;
16. Dancers must *never* engage in any unlawful activity within the Club;
17. Dancers may *never* leave the premises during a shift, except in the case of an emergency and then *only* with the express permission of the duty manager. In that event, dancers must sign out before leaving the premises. If a dancer leaves early, *for any reason*, the dancer will *not* be re-admitted during that *shift*;
18. Dancers will either leave at the end of a shift in a nominated taxi, or a member of security will escort them to their car or off the premises;
19. At the end of the night shift, dancers *must not* leave the premises *until after* the customers have departed and then have been cleared to leave by the manager;
20. Dancers may *only* consume alcohol in *moderation*;
21. Dancers must *never* consume, possess or be under the influence of any unlawful drug or substance, unless it is personally prescribed medication by a registered GP;
22. Dancers are *never* to invite or knowingly permit dancer's spouse, boyfriend nor anyone else with whom dancers are romantically involved to enter the Club;
23. Topless table dances and full nude table dances may be performed for a pre-determined rate as set by the individual Club;
24. Dancers are required from time to time to participate in promotional activities and offers as designated by the Club manager;
25. Dancers are required from time to time to participate in stage and podium performances as designated by Club staff;
26. Whilst performing on stage or podium, dancers may not perform any act that clearly simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger into any genital opening. Dancers may not touch their breasts with their mouths, lips or tongue;
27. For the purposes of safety and standards, the Club may employ the use of closed circuit cameras and radio communications throughout the premises and;
28. Any dancer found to be in violation of any of these rules, without exception, will be subject to the disciplinary procedure.

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

**OBEDY THE CODE!
COMPLY WITH THE LAWS!
USE COMMON SENSE!
ANY BREACH OF THE ABOVE
RULES MAY RESULT IN THE DANCER BEING EXCLUDED
FROM THIS CLUB AND ALL OTHER SPEARMINT
RHINO CLUBS WORLDWIDE. ANY BREACH MAY BE
REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES
FOR POSSIBLE PROSECUTION!**

**SPEARMINT RHINO HAS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR;
PROSTITUTION, SOLICITATION,
UNLAWFUL DRUGS & UNLAWFUL CONDUCT!**

The signing of this document signifies that you, the dancer, have read and understood the **SPEARMINT RHINO CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS**, and that you agree to comply with the Code of Conduct and accept the obligations under it. This document is in no way designed to restrict your own artistic performance or freedom of expression.

Dancer's signature

Date Signed

Dancer's printed birth name

Dancer's stage name

Witnessed:

Printed Club Manager name

Date Witnessed

Appendix 3

Details of Breaches

TABLE OF BREACHES

Condition breached	Date and Time	Who Breached
Dancers Code of Conduct – Sec B Dancers Conduct – 10.	10/02/2019 01.26.19	DANCER A DANCER B
Dancers Code of Conduct – Sec B- Dancers Conduct – 7(e)	10/02/2019 (during performance)	DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and Disorder – 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Sec B- Dancers Conduct – 7(b) 7(h)	10/02/2019 (during performance)	DANCER A DANCER B
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder – 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Sec B- Dancers Conduct – 7(c)	10/02/2019 (during performance)	DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder -4 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (g)	10/02/2019 01.27.04	DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Sec B Dancers conduct – 10.	10/02/2019 01.27.15	DANCER B DANCER B
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder : 4 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (g)	10/02/2019 01.28.33	DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder :4 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (g) Dancers Code of Conduct – section B – Number 7 (f)	10/02/2019 01.29.11	DANCER B DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder : 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – section B – Number 7 (g)	10/02/2019 During the performance	DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder :4 Dancers code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (g)	10/02/2019 01.29.55	DANCER A
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (f) Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 10	10/02/2019 01.30.09	DANCER A DANCER B
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 9	10/02/2019 01.30.48	DANCER B DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 10	10/02/2019 During the performance	DANCER B DANCER A
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 10.	10/02/2019 01.30.53	DANCER A DANCER B
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 10	10/02/2019 01.31.04	DANCER A DANCER B
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of conduct – Section B – Number 9	10/02/2019 01.31.14	DANCER B
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder :4	10/02/2019 01.31.38	DANCER A DANCER B

Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (g)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 4	10/02/2019 01.36.58	DANCER A DANCER B
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (g), Number 10		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 3, 4.	10/02/2019	DANCER B
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (g)		
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (i)	10/02/2019	DANCER B
Dancers code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (i)	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER F
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER F
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (c) (h)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER F
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (h).		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 4.	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER F
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (g)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:2	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER F
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (h)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:2	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (h)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:2, 4	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (c), (g), (h).		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:2	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (h)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2,	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (g), (h)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:9	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 1		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 9	10/02/2019 During performance	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct : Section B – number 1.		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2	28/02/2019 During performance	DANCER A
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (b), (g) and (h)		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2	28/02/2019 23.56.33	DANCER A
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (b) and (g)		

The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:4 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (c) , (g) -Number 9	28/02/2019 During performance	DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (b), (d) (h).	28/02/2019 During performance	DANCER A
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 (b), (h).	28/02/2019 23.57.34	DANCER A
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (i)	01/03/2019 00.27.10	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:4 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (g)	01/03/2019 00.30.05	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (h)	01/03/2019 00.30.46	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 3, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (g)	01/03/2019 00.32.04	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 3, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (g)	01/03/2019 00.31.52	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (c), (h) and (i).	01/03/2109 00.32.17	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (g), (h).	01/03/2019 During the performance	DANCER C
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (i)	01/03/2019	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 9	01/03/2019 00.52.58	DANCER C DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7 – (b), (h) – Number 9.	01/03/2019	DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – number 7 – (b), (g), (h) – Number 9-	01/03/2019	DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2 Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (c), (g), (h).	01/03/2109	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 3, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (g), (h).	01/03/2019	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant	01/03/2019	DANCER C

entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (g), (h). - Number 9	00.55.36	
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (g), (h).	01/03/2019 00.56.40	DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2,3, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (g), (h), (i) - Number 10	01/03/2019	DANCER C DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 3, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (g). - Number 10	01/03/2019	DANCER C DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 4. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (g), (h), (i) – Number 9 -Number 10.	01/03/2019 00.59.56	DANCER C DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 9	01/03/2019	Dancer C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (h).	01/03/2019	DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (c) (h). - Number 9	01/03/2019 01/02/33	DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (h).	01/03/2019	Dancer D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (g), and (h).	01/03/2019 01.02.35	DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (h), (i). Number 9	01/03/2109	DANCER C DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2, 4.. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (c), (g), (h). - Number 9 - Number10.	01/03/2019 01.04.03	DANCER C DANCER D
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2. Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (c) , (g), (h), (i). - Number 9	01/03/2019 01.06.51	DANCER D

Dancers code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (i)	01/03/2019	DANCER C
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder:9	01/03/2019 01.13.11	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 1		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2.	01/03/2019	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (h).		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2.	01/03/2019 01.15.11	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (h).		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 4.	01/03/2019 01.18.04	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (g).		
The protection of those engaged in relevant entertainment/prevention of Crime and disorder: 2.	01/03/2019 01/13/11	DANCER E
Dancers Code of Conduct – Section B – Number 7- (b), (c), (h).		

APPENDIX A

Application

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS^{AI} 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

A3

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

A4

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.	

All individuals named above need to complete Annex A. Now go to question 6

A5

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

Ab

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		b.	Lessee	<input 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			
	(ii) the name and address of the superior landlord (if any)			

	(iii) the amount of the annual rental	
	(iv) the length of the unexpired term	
	(v) the length of notice required to terminate the tenancy	

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 [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]
	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 [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]
	Provide full details:	
	(i) Legislation	Licensing Act 2003
	(ii) Premises Licence Holder	SONFIELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
	(iii) Designated Premises Supervisor	PETER MERCER
	(iv) Licence number	WK/050603
	Does the Applicant intend to obtain or vary a licence under any other Act?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
	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? [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
		From other premises? [<input type="checkbox"/>] Please provide details:

A8

	Is each customer access from the street to be supervised at all times the premises are open to the public?	<p style="text-align: right;">Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]</p> <p>If the answer is No give full details of proposed door controls and supervision:</p>
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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?	<p style="text-align: right;">Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]</p> <p>If the answer is No give full details of proposals for affording such access:</p>
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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?	<p style="text-align: right;">Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]</p>
	If the answer is Yes, state the name and address of the body or person now operating the business.	<p>Name: SONFIELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED</p> <hr/> <p>Address: C/O 161 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1T 7NN</p>

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.	<p style="text-align: right;">Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]</p>
	Which person(s) will be responsible for the day to day management of the business in the absence of the person named above.	Name: EMILY BROWN (ASSISTANT MANAGER) AND 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	
				State any seasonal variations:
	Tue	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:
	Wed	00:00	24:00	
	Thur	00:00	24:00	
	Fri	00:00	24:00	
	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. WHEN PREMISES OPEN -SIGN ABOVE THE FRONT DOOR. WHEN PREMISES CLOSED NO SIGNAGE
		Size:	1. 4FT BY 9FT

		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:	NONE
		Size:	
		Images:	
		Copy Supplied:	Yes <input 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 PROVIDED ARE VISIBLE FROM THE
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All

		OUTSIDE DUE TO THE LOCATION OF THE ROOMS AND WINDOWS BEING BLACKED OUT/BOARDED.
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Q23	State what age restrictions are to be applied in respect of admissions, and how are these to be enforced. In answering, state what forms of identity will be accepted.	NO- ONE UNDER 18 PERMITTED PASSPORT/ DRIVING LICENCE
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Q24	State the arrangements for CCTV and for retention of recordings. 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.	CCTV SYSTEM BEING UPGRADED AND IMPROVED COVERAGE IN CONSULTATION WITH POLICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY. COPIES OF RECORDINGS CAN BE PROVIDED TO POLICE AND LOCAL AUTHORITY SUBJECT TO DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018.
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Q25	State whether the proposal is for full nudity (nudity is defined as per the Council's Policy).	Yes [X] No []
	Give full details of the nature of the entertainment. Lap Dancing	IN BOOTHS
	Pole Dancing	ON STAGE
	Stage Strip-tease	ON STAGE
	Other	ANYTHING OF A LIKE KIND
	State whether arrangements are proposed for private booths or areas. If so, provide full details (highlighted on accompanying plans), including proposals for supervision of such areas.	SEE PLANS, AREAS COVERED BY DOOR SUPERVISORS.

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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
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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.

A14

Q28

Is there any information on this form which you do not wish to be seen by members of the public? If so, state which information and the reasons why you do not wish it to be seen.

ALL PERSONAL INFORMATION

Q29	Please use the checklist below to ensure you have completed all parts of the application. Tick to confirm you have enclosed all of the required information documents:
<p>I have made or enclosed payment of the fee.</p> <p>I have enclosed plans of the premises (scale 1:100) that detail all the relevant information including the designated performance areas, access and egress, etc.</p> <p>I have enclosed a site plan detailing the location of the premises (scale 1:1250) in relation to the surrounding area.</p> <p>I have enclosed drawings of the proposed front elevation as existing and as proposed (scale 1:50).</p> <p>I have enclosed a copy of any other licences for the premises.</p> <p>I have enclosed the Code of Practice and Disciplinary Procedure for Performers.</p> <p>I have enclosed the Rules for Customers.</p> <p>I have enclosed the Policy for the Welfare of Performers.</p> <p>I have enclosed a completed Annex A for all individuals named in questions 2 to 5.</p> <p>I understand and agree that I must send a copy of my complete application to the Chief Officer of Police no later than seven days after the date of the application.</p> <p>I understand that I must now advertise my application on or near the Premises for 21 days starting with the date of the application.</p> <p>I understand that I must advertise the application in a local newspaper within seven days after the date of the application and that a copy of the complete newspaper must be provided to the Licensing Authority in accordance with paragraph 10(8), Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.</p>	<p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>X]</p> <p>[X]</p>
<p>Should the information provided in relation to this application form cease to be correct, or if there are any changes in the information provided in the application form between the date the application is submitted and the date it is determined, the Applicant must advise the Licensing Authority immediately. Failure to do so may result in any licence issued being revoked.</p> <p>I/we agree to notify the Licensing Authority should any of the information given in this application change.</p>	<p>X]</p>
<p>I declare that I have read and agree to abide by the standard conditions of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence made by Sheffield City Council in accordance with Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.</p>	<p>X]</p>

A16

Applicants are informed that any person who, in connection with an application for the grant, renewal or transfer of a licence, makes a false statement which he knows to be false in any material respect or which he does not believe to be true, is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £20,000.

I/we certify to the best of my/our knowledge and belief that the information given in this application is complete and correct in every respect.

X]

Name: Angela Message

Position in Organisation: **Licensing Consultant for and on behalf of the applicant**

Date: 29TH April 2019

Signature: 

Signature:

Q30

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application:

Address:
Angela Message
Keystone Law Limited
48 Chancery Lane

Postal Town: London

Post Code:
WC2A 1JF

Telephone Number: 020 3319 3700

Mobile Number: 07504 975 033

Email Address: angela.message@keystonelaw.co.uk

Please return the fully completed form and all attachments to:
Licensing Service,
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

Guidance Notes for Applicants

1. Application

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.

A separate "Annex A" form must be completed by each of the individuals named in Questions 2, 3, 4 and 6 of the application form. These must be submitted with the application.

The correct fee should be enclosed with the application.

The application must be served on South Yorkshire Police at:

The Police Licensing Team
1st Floor
Attercliffe Police Station
60 Attercliffe Common
Sheffield
S9 2AD

No later than seven days after submitting the application to Sheffield City Council.

2. The Plan

The layout plan must show:

- (a) The layout of the premises including, e.g. stage, bars, cloakroom, wc's performance areas and dressing rooms.
- (b) The extent of the boundary of the premises outlined in red.
- (c) The extent of the public areas outlined in blue.
- (d) Uses of different areas in the premises, e.g. performance areas and reception.
- (e) Structure or objects (including furniture) which may impact on the ability of individuals to use exits or escape routes without impediment.
- (f) Location of points of access to and egress from the premises.
- (g) Any parts used in common with other premises.
- (h) Position of CCTV cameras.
- (i) Where the premises includes a stage or raised area, the location and height of each stage or area relative to the floor.
- (j) Where the premises includes any steps, stairs, elevators or lifts, the location of the same.
- (k) The location of any public conveniences, including disabled WC's.
- (l) The position of any ramps, lifts or other facilities for the benefit of disabled people.
- (m) Any level changes at the entrance to or within public parts of the premises which may be inaccessible to disabled people.
- (n) The location and type of fire safety and any other safety equipment.
- (o) The location of any kitchen on the premises.
- (p) The location of emergency exits.

3. Public Notices

A notice must be displayed at, or on the premises to which the application relates for a period of not less than 21 consecutive days from the day following the day the application was given to the Council. The notice must be able to be conveniently read from the exterior of the premises.

Where the premises cover an area of more than 50 square metres, a further identical notice must be displayed every 50 metres along the external perimeter of the premises abutting the highway.

The full regulations regarding the size, content and font to be used on public notices can be obtained from the Licensing Service.

A notice must also be placed in a local newspaper circulating in the area within 7 days of serving the application on the Council (Example the Sheffield Star or Sheffield Telegraph).

You must send a copy of the newspaper containing the advertisement as soon as is reasonably practicable to the Licensing Section.

4. Grant of a Licence

The Council may grant to any applicant a licence for the use of a premises as a sexual entertainment venue on such terms and conditions as specified by the Council.

A licence will remain in force for one year, or such shorter period specified in the licence, unless previously cancelled or revoked.

To apply for the renewal of a sexual entertainment venue licence an applicant must send to the Council:-

- a) A completed application form;
- b) The fee;
- c) A plan of the premises to which the application relates (to the scale of 1:100) showing all means of ingress and egress to and from the building, layout of the premises;
- d) A site plan detailing the location of their premises in relation to the surrounding area and other premises (to the scale of 1:1250);
- e) Drawings showing the front elevation of the premises as existing and as proposed (to the scale of 1:50);

And must also:

- f) Display a notice at or on the premises (see section 1 above);
- g) Place a public notice in a local newspaper (see section 1 above);
- h) Serve a copy of the application on the Chief Officer of Police at **The Police Licensing Team, 1st Floor, Attercliffe Police Station, 60 Attercliffe Common, Sheffield, S9 2AD.**

Application forms are available from www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

For further information and guidance in relation to applications for a Sexual Entertainment Venue, please see our Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy at www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

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APPENDIX B

Supplementary Evidence (Redacted)

ANNEX A

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Statutory declaration sheet for application for grant of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence.

One of these forms must be completed by (i) the applicant;
 (ii) all directors of any company applying for a licence; and
 (iii) any other person who will be responsible for the management of the licensed premises.

Q1	Full Name:	John Robert Specht
	Former Name (if any):	
	Position in relation to Applicant (e.g. Director, Partner, Manager):	Director and Vice President
	Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
	Gender:	Male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
	Permanent Residential Address:	[REDACTED]
	If resident at this address for less than 3 years, state previous address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Q2	Have you been a resident in the United Kingdom for more than six months prior to the date of the application?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If the answer is No give the date your residency started:
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Q3	Have you ever been disqualified from holding a sex establishment licence (sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue) under Schedule 3, Paragraph 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the answer is Yes give full details:
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Q4	Have you ever been involved in the management of a business, whether as proprietor, director, company secretary, partner, manager, supervisor or otherwise which has had any of the following types of licence refused, refused on renewal, reviewed or revoked?	
	Sex establishment licence	Yes [] No [x]
	Licence for the sale of alcohol	Yes [] No [x]
	Licence for the provision of entertainment, whether sexual or otherwise.	Yes [] No [x]
	Personal licence under the Licensing Act 2003	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes to any of the above give full details:	

Q5	Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere?		Yes [] No [x]	If the answer is Yes please give full details below:
Details of previous convictions and/or cautions				
	Date of Conviction	Court of Conviction	Nature of Offence	Sentence

Q6	To your knowledge are you currently the subject of any criminal investigation?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q7	Have you ever had any civil legal action taken against you?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q8	Have you ever been declared bankrupt or entered into an arrangement with creditors or an individual voluntary arrangement?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q9	Have you ever been disqualified from acting as a company director?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q10	Is there any other information which you believe the licensing authority would reasonably expect notice of or you would like the licensing authority to take into account when considering the information you have supplied?
-----	---

Q11	<p>Is there any information on this Annex which you do not wish to be seen by members of the public? If so, state which information and the reasons why you do not wish it to be seen.</p> <p>Personal information</p>
-----	---

Name: ...John Specht.....

Position in Organisation:Vice President.....

Date: 19-3-2019.....

Signature: .....

Where the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporated body this application should be signed by a partner, the secretary or a director stating in which capacity it is signed.

ANNEX A

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Statutory declaration sheet for application for renewal of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence.

One of these forms must be completed by

- (i) the applicant;
- (ii) all directors of any company applying for a licence; and
- (iii) any other person who will be responsible for the management of the licensed premises.

Further copies of this form can be downloaded from our website at:
www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

Q1	Full Name:	Kathy JoAnn Vercher
	Former Name (if any):	
	Position in relation to Applicant (e.g. Director, Partner, Manager):	Director and Chief Operating Officer
	Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
	Gender:	Male [] Female [x]
	Permanent Residential Address:	[REDACTED]
	If resident at this address for less than 3 years, state previous address:	[REDACTED]

Q2	Have you been a resident in the United Kingdom for more than six months prior to the date of the application?	Yes [] No [x] If the answer is No give the date your residency started:
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Q3	<p>Have you ever been disqualified from holding a sex establishment licence (sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue) under Schedule 3, Paragraph 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982?</p>	<p>Yes [] No [x] If the answer is Yes give full details:</p>
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Q4	<p>Have you ever been involved in the management of a business, whether as proprietor, director, company secretary, partner, manager, supervisor or otherwise which has had any of the following types of licence refused, refused on renewal, reviewed or revoked?</p>		
	Sex establishment licence	Yes []	No [x]
	Licence for the sale of alcohol	Yes []	No [x]
	Licence for the provision of entertainment, whether sexual or otherwise.	Yes []	No [x]
	Personal licence under the Licensing Act 2003	Yes []	No [x]
	<p>If the answer is Yes to any of the above give full details:</p>		

Q5	<p>Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere?</p>	<p>Yes [] No [x] If the answer is Yes please give full details below:</p>	
Details of previous convictions and/or cautions			
	Date of Conviction	Court of Conviction	Nature of Offence
			Sentence

Q6	To your knowledge are you currently the subject of any criminal investigation?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q7	Have you ever had any civil legal action taken against you?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q8	Have you ever been declared bankrupt or entered into an arrangement with creditors or an individual voluntary arrangement?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	


Q9	Have you ever been disqualified from acting as a company director?	Yes [] No [x]
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B9

	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	
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Q10	<p>Is there any other information which you believe the licensing authority would reasonably expect notice of or you would like the licensing authority to take into account when considering the information you have supplied?</p> <p>No</p>
-----	--

Q11	<p>Is there any information on this Annex which you do not wish to be seen by members of the public? If so, state which information and the reasons why you do not wish it to be seen.</p> <p>Personal information in respect of address</p>
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Q12	<p>I declare that I believe the information given above is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>Name:KATHY VERCHER.....</p> <p>Position in Organisation: DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER</p> <p>Date: <i>March 20 2019</i></p> <p>Signature: </p>
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B11

	<p>Where the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporated body this application should be signed by a partner, the secretary or a director stating in which capacity it is signed.</p>
--	---

ANNEX A

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Statutory declaration sheet for application for renewal of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence.

<p>One of these forms must be completed by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the applicant; (ii) all directors of any company applying for a licence; and (iii) any other person who will be responsible for the management of the licensed premises.

Further copies of this form can be downloaded from our website at: www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

Q1	Full Name:	Andrew Lewis Foster
	Former Name (if any):	
	Position in relation to Applicant (e.g. Director, Partner, Manager):	Regional Manager
	Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
	Gender:	Male [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] Female [<input type="checkbox"/>]
	Permanent Residential Address:	[REDACTED]
	If resident at this address for less than 3 years, state previous address:	

Q2	Have you been a resident in the United Kingdom for more than six months prior to the date of the application?	<p>Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>]</p> <p>If the answer is No give the date your residency started:</p>
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Q3	Have you ever been disqualified from holding a sex establishment licence (sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue) under Schedule 3, Paragraph 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982?	Yes [] No [x] If the answer is Yes give full details:
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Q4	Have you ever been involved in the management of a business, whether as proprietor, director, company secretary, partner, manager, supervisor or otherwise which has had any of the following types of licence refused, refused on renewal, reviewed or revoked?		
	Sex establishment licence	Yes []	No [x]
	Licence for the sale of alcohol	Yes []	No [x]
	Licence for the provision of entertainment, whether sexual or otherwise.	Yes []	No [x]
	Personal licence under the Licensing Act 2003	Yes []	No [x]
	If the answer is Yes to any of the above give full details:		

Q5	Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere?	Yes [] No [x] If the answer is Yes please give full details below:		
	Details of previous convictions and/or cautions			
	Date of Conviction	Court of Conviction	Nature of Offence	Sentence

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Q6	To your knowledge are you currently the subject of any criminal investigation?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	


Q7	Have you ever had any civil legal action taken against you?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q8	Have you ever been declared bankrupt or entered into an arrangement with creditors or an individual voluntary arrangement?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q9	Have you ever been disqualified from acting as a company director?	Yes [] No [x]
----	--	------------------

Q10	Is there any other information which you believe the licensing authority would reasonably expect notice of or you would like the licensing authority to take into account when considering the information you have supplied?
-----	---

Q11	Is there any information on this Annex which you do not wish to be seen by members of the public? If so, state which information and the reasons why you do not wish it to be seen. Personal information as to address
-----	--

Q12	I declare that I believe the information given above is true and complete in every respect. Name:ANDREW FOSTER..... Position in Organisation:REGIONAL MANAGER..... Date: 20/3/2019 Signature: 
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	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	
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Where the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporated body this application should be signed by a partner, the secretary or a director stating in which capacity it is signed.
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ANNEX A

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Statutory declaration sheet for application for grant of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence.

One of these forms must be completed by (i) the applicant;
 (ii) all directors of any company applying for a licence; and
 (iii) any other person who will be responsible for the management of the licensed premises.

Q1	Full Name:	Peter Mercer
	Former Name (if any):	
	Position in relation to Applicant (e.g. Director, Partner, Manager):	General Manager
	Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
	Gender:	Male [x] Female []
	Permanent Residential Address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
	If resident at this address for less than 3 years, state previous address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Q2	Have you been a resident in the United Kingdom for more than six months prior to the date of the application?	Yes [x] No [] If the answer is No give the date your residency started:
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Q3	Have you ever been disqualified from holding a sex establishment licence (sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue) under Schedule 3, Paragraph 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982?	Yes [] No [x] If the answer is Yes give full details:
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Q4	Have you ever been involved in the management of a business, whether as proprietor, director, company secretary, partner, manager, supervisor or otherwise which has had any of the following types of licence refused, refused on renewal, reviewed or revoked?	
	Sex establishment licence	Yes [] No [x]
	Licence for the sale of alcohol	Yes [] No [x]
	Licence for the provision of entertainment, whether sexual or otherwise.	Yes [] No [x]
	Personal licence under the Licensing Act 2003	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes to any of the above give full details:	

Q5	Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere?	Yes [x] No []	If the answer is Yes please give full details below:	
Details of previous convictions and/or cautions				
	Date of Conviction	Court of Conviction	Nature of Offence	Sentence
	March 2007	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Fine

Q6	To your knowledge are you currently the subject of any criminal investigation?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q7	Have you ever had any civil legal action taken against you?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q8	Have you ever been declared bankrupt or entered into an arrangement with creditors or an individual voluntary arrangement?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	


Q9	Have you ever been disqualified from acting as a company director?	Yes [] No [x]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

--	--	--

Q10	Is there any other information which you believe the licensing authority would reasonably expect notice of or you would like the licensing authority to take into account when considering the information you have supplied?
------------	---

Q11	Is there any information on this Annex which you do not wish to be seen by members of the public? If so, state which information and the reasons why you do not wish it to be seen. Personal details
------------	--

Q12	I declare that I believe the information given above is true and complete in every respect.
------------	---

<p>Name: ...Peter Mercer.....</p> <p>Position in Organisation:General Manager –</p> <p>Date: 26th April 2019</p> <p>Signature:.....</p>
<p>Where the applicant is a body corporate or unincorporated body this application should be signed by a partner, the secretary or a director stating in which capacity it is signed.</p>

ANNEX A

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Statutory declaration sheet for application for grant of Sexual Entertainment Venue licence.

One of these forms must be completed by	(i) the applicant; (ii) all directors of any company applying for a licence; and (iii) any other person who will be responsible for the management of the licensed premises.
---	--

Q1	Full Name:	Emily Grace Brown
	Former Name (if any):	Emily Grace Budd
	Position in relation to Applicant (e.g. Director, Partner, Manager):	Assistant Manager
	Date of Birth:	[REDACTED]
	Gender:	Male [] Female [x]
	Permanent Residential Address:	[REDACTED]
	If resident at this address for less than 3 years, state previous address:	

Q2	Have you been a resident in the United Kingdom for more than six months prior to the date of the application?	Yes [X] No [] If the answer is No give the date your residency started:
-----------	---	---

Q3	Have you ever been disqualified from holding a sex establishment licence (sex shop, sex cinema or sexual entertainment venue) under Schedule 3, Paragraph 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982?	Yes [] No [X] If the answer is Yes give full details:
-----------	---	---

Q4	Have you ever been involved in the management of a business, whether as proprietor, director, company secretary, partner, manager, supervisor or otherwise which has had any of the following types of licence refused, refused on renewal, reviewed or revoked?
-----------	--

	Sex establishment licence	Yes []	No [X]
	Licence for the sale of alcohol	Yes []	No [X]
	Licence for the provision of entertainment, whether sexual or otherwise.	Yes []	No [X]
	Personal licence under the Licensing Act 2003	Yes []	No [X]
	If the answer is Yes to any of the above give full details:		

Q5	Have you ever been convicted of a criminal offence, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere?	Yes []	No [X]	
	if the answer is Yes please give full details below:			
	Details of previous convictions and/or cautions			
	Date of Conviction	Court of Conviction	Nature of Offence	Sentence

Q6	To your knowledge are you currently the subject of any criminal investigation?	Yes []	No [X]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:		

--	--	--


Q7	Have you ever had any civil legal action taken against you?	Yes [] No [X]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q8	Have you ever been declared bankrupt or entered into an arrangement with creditors or an individual voluntary arrangement?	Yes [] No [X]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q9	Have you ever been disqualified from acting as a company director?	Yes [] No [X]
	If the answer is Yes please give full details:	

Q10	<p>Is there any other information which you believe the licensing authority would reasonably expect notice of or you would like the licensing authority to take into account when considering the information you have supplied?</p>
------------	--

Q11	<p>Is there any information on this Annex which you do not wish to be seen by members of the public? If so, state which information and the reasons why you do not wish it to be seen.</p> <p>Personal details</p>
------------	---

Q12	<p>I declare that I believe the information given above is true and complete in every respect.</p> <p>Name: ... Emily Grace Brown</p> <p>Position in Organisation: <i>Assistant Manager</i></p> <p>Date:23/03/2019.....</p> <p>Signature: </p>
------------	---

APPENDIX C

Supplementary Evidence

Companies House

CI

Companies House does not verify the accuracy of the information displayed
(<http://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/serviceInformation.shtml#compInfo>)

BETA This is a trial service — your [feedback \(https://www.research.net/r/chbeta\)](https://www.research.net/r/chbeta) will help us to improve it.

Search for companies or officers

SONFIELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

Company number **04315210**

Registered office address

161 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 7NN

Company status

Active

Company type

Private limited Company

Incorporated on

1 November 2001

Accounts

Next accounts made up to **31 December 2018**
due by **30 September 2019**

Last accounts made up to **31 December 2017**

Confirmation statement

Next statement date **29 November 2019**
due by **13 December 2019**

Last statement dated **29 November 2018**

Nature of business (SIC)

- 56301 - Licensed clubs

[Is there anything wrong with this page?](#)



C2



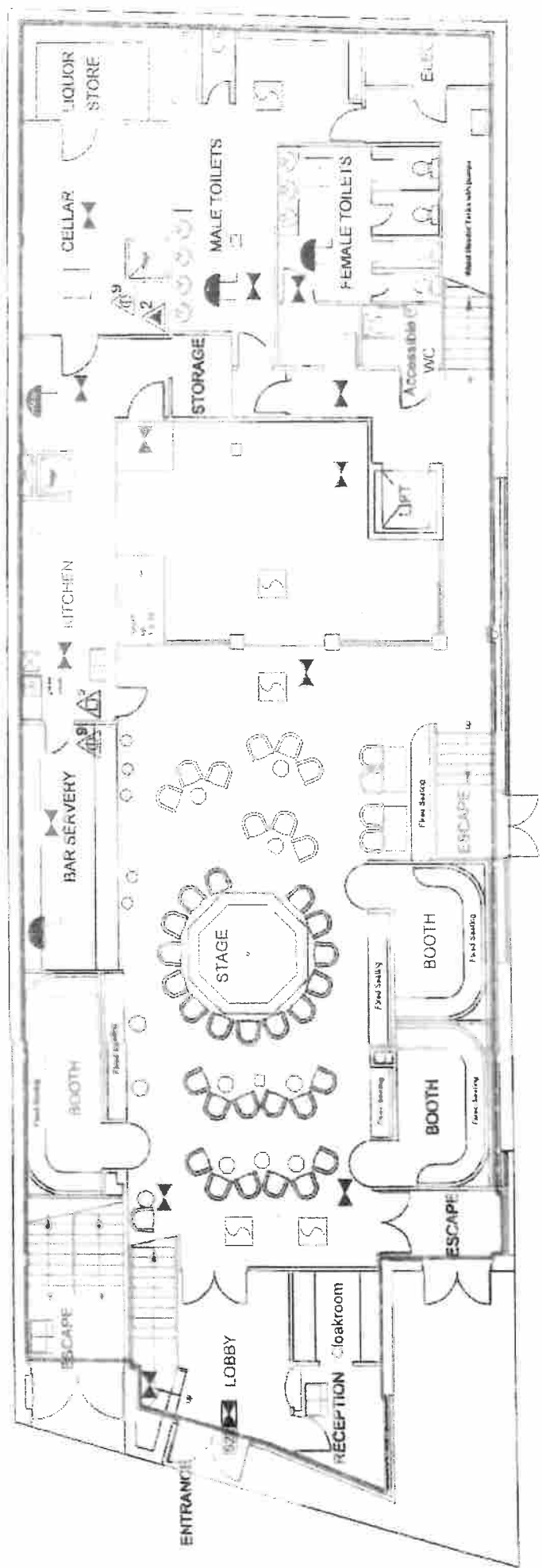
This is a copy of the title plan on 30 APR 2015 at 09:50:41. This copy does not take account of any application made after that time even if still pending in the Land Registry when this copy was issued.

This copy is not an 'Official Copy' of the title plan. An official copy of the title plan is admissible in evidence in a court to the same extent as the original. A person is entitled to be indemnified by the registrar if he or she suffers loss by reason of a mistake in an official copy. If you want to obtain an official copy, the Land Registry web site explains how to do this.

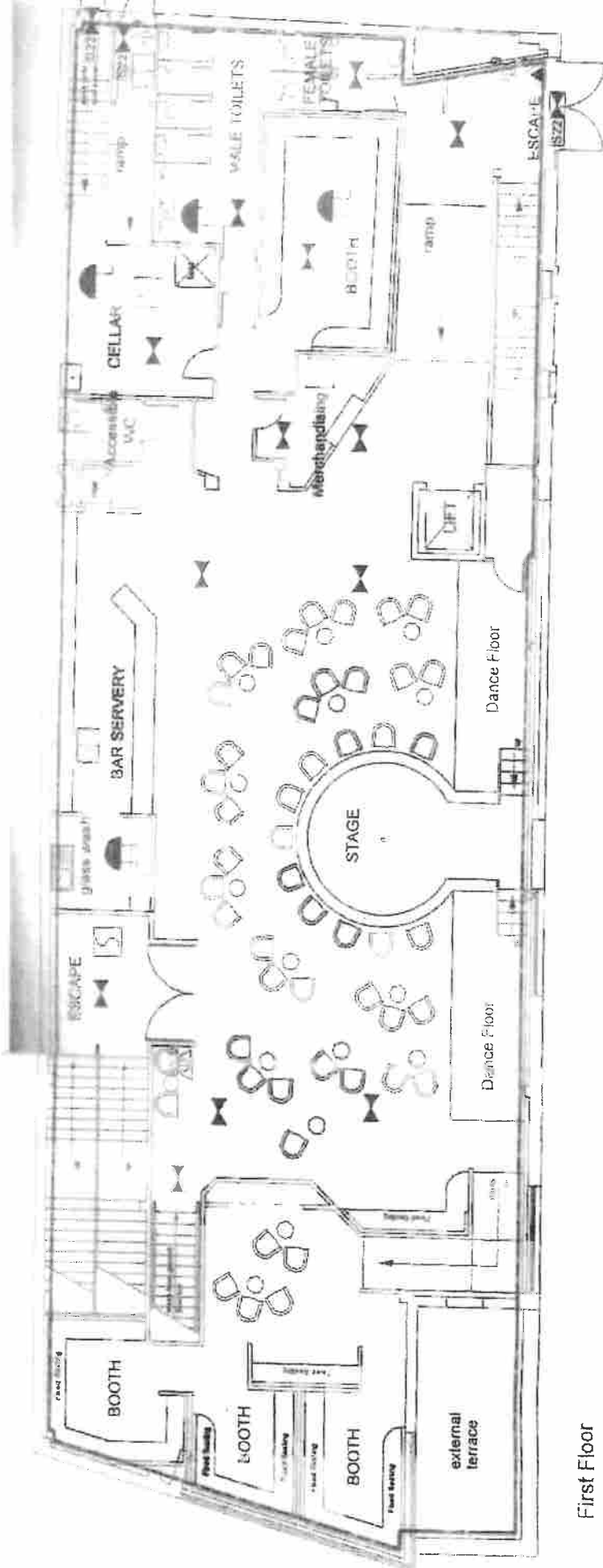
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This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Nottingham Office.

Ground Floor



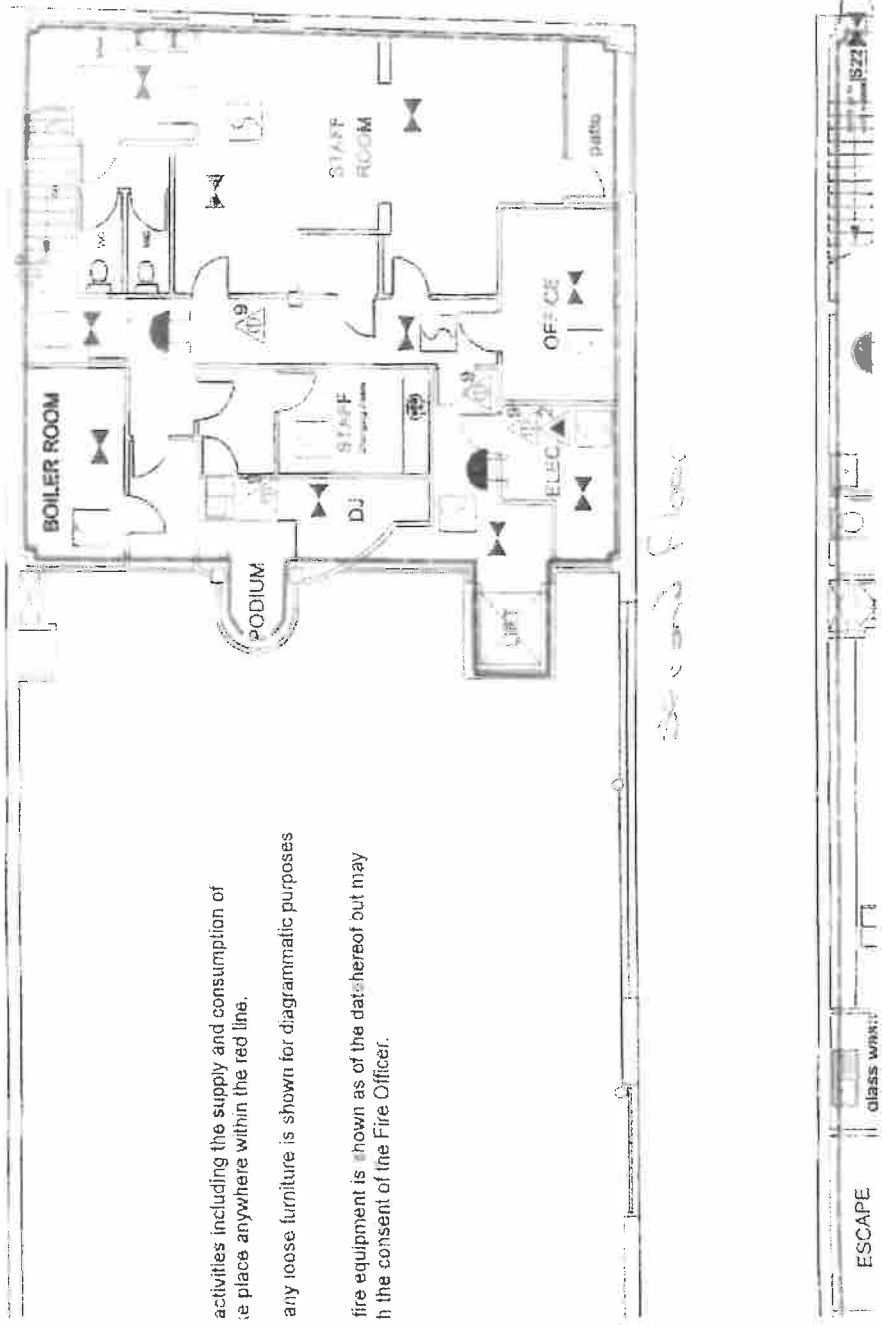
Ground Floor



First Floor



C5



activities including the supply and consumption of
 be placed anywhere within the red line.
 any loose furniture is shown for diagrammatic purposes
 fire equipment is shown as of the date hereof out may
 in the consent of the Fire Officer.

C6

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
Part II, Schedule 3**

Notice is hereby given that:

**We Sonfield Developments Limited c/o 161 Tottenham
Court Road, London W1T 7NN**

Have made an application under Part II and Schedule 3 of
the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
for the renewal of a sex establishment licence for the
Premises known as

**SPEARMINT RHINO, 60 BROWN STREET, SHEFFIELD
S1 2BS**

We intend to operate the premises as a Sexual
Entertainment Venue during the following days and times;

MONDAY TO SUNDAY 00:00 TO 00:00

Interested parties may make written representations to
Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council, Block C, Staniforth
Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield, S9 3HD or by e mail
to licensing@sheffield.gov.uk about this application
no later than **27TH MAY 2019**

For full details and to view a copy of the application please
contact the Licensing Service on 0114 2734264.

The Star

ED NEWS READ BY 350,000 EVERY WEEK



PAGE 4

Advertisement No: FG12061

Job Name:

SPEARMINT RHINO
60 BROWN STREET
SHEFFIELD
S1 2BS

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE
LICENCE -

Media:

SHEFFIELD STAR

INSERTION DATE: 03.05.2019

Instruction from:

KEYSTONE LAW (LICENSING)

Your Advertisement appears on Page:

Rescue for pic park

Site of school and college, with two university centres being built, is 'vital' to region's economy



**BLADES
INTALKS
TO KEEP
HENDO**

Potter's v
BLADES

20

PAGES OF SPORT
including big match
previews &
Grass Roots



**HOW OWLS
FOUND THE
WINNING
FORMULA**

**WEDNESDAY
v Rangers**

Should this busy city street be pedestrianised?



Classified

Waste Removed
- Most items taken -
Building & Gardening Waste, Single Items, Cookers, Washing Machines, Carpets, Scales, Beds, Radiators, Baths, Ovens etc...
Clearance & Removal Service
Gardens, Garages, Sheds, Cellars, Lofts, Full & Part House Clearances
Phone **WASTE SERVICES** for a **Free Quote 07860 210 156**
Licensed Waste Carrier, Identification & Environment Agency Certification shown at the door
Often **CHEAPER** than a skip, and you don't have to fill it in!

PROBABLY the cheapest rates in town, 1st Steps 07900700000 or 07976382718

WASTE REMOVAL
ANTONS TIP RUNS DAILY Single items / 24hrs only 0112312854/0797642942

WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES
**** Calling all conservatory owners! ****

Insulate your conservatory ceiling without replacing the existing roof!
Plasterboard
SALE NOW ON 25% OFF
INTEREST-FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE 0% APR
Rundle & Dorey Ltd
Call 0800 034 9298

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CURTAINS & BLINDS
0114 258 5494
CHARISMA BLINDS

WANTED
Wanted Railways, looking for all types and sizes. 01703040300

HOLIDAYS
EAST COAST

MOBILITY AIDS
Mobility boot scooter in excellent condition. And full working order. Comes with user manual. Breaks down for car boot in seconds. Fantastic scooter in showroom condition. Cost £1495 Accept £395 Can Deliver. 07789534396

Static Caravan For Sale
on a 5* park in Yorkshire Coast near Harrogate
£15000 ONO
Call Chris 07946273618

HOLIDAY HOMES FOR SALE
Static Caravan For Sale
on a 5* park in Yorkshire Coast near Harrogate
£15000 ONO
Call Chris 07946273618

Static Caravan For Sale
on a 5* park in Yorkshire Coast near Harrogate
£15000 ONO
Call Chris 07946273618

Static Caravan For Sale
on a 5* park in Yorkshire Coast near Harrogate
£15000 ONO
Call Chris 07946273618

HOLIDAYS GENERAL

TRAVEL INSURANCE for the over 50s
All pre-existing medical conditions considered
Unlimited medical expenses
24 hour medical emergency helpline
No upper age limit on Single Trip policies
Up to £7,500 Cancellation
SAVE 15% FROM LEASE 151P
Trustpilot
Call our UK team FREE 0800 033 4161
www.ashiff.co.uk

PERSONAL

DEBT MANAGEMENT

Debt Rescuers
Do you have £6,000 or more of debt and NEED HELP?
Call: 0800 009 6362
Debt Rescuers is a trading style of Pacific Financial Solutions Ltd. Registered in England & Wales. Company Number: 09464355. Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRI: 689034

PERSONAL SERVICES

HYPNOTHERAPY
EMDR & EFT for smoking, PTSD etc. David 07578954050

MEN SEEKING WOMEN
MAN SEEKS WOMAN 30-50 As single as me. Interests include countryside walking, swimming, property search, motorised love saucer (divorced) not available for sale. 121 caring and thoughtful. 07327 99232. Reply to 07327 99232. 121 caring and thoughtful. 07327 99232.

MALE SEEKING FEMALE
between age 40-60, looks not important, for long term relationship, cozy nights in, nights out, not into childbearing, for time wasters. 07334 19217

PERSONAL SERVICES
CAESARS SAUNA open 7days a week 2pm-6pm 11 seats, bar friendly facilities 2355 975 5213

PERSONAL SERVICES
DSU 403 would the owner of this vehicle who retained DSU 403 in Sheffield 2007 of a Yamaha 250 motorcycle that was allocated DSU 403 in January 1996. please contact resident bike trader for any information or 1056 registration number. contact Paul on 05392 947290

PERSONAL SERVICES

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR YOUR LOVE LIFE?
Psychic Mia and her gifted team will guide you.
Text **WISH** to **85100**
www.miap psychic.co.uk/wish

BUSINESS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
REGENCY SAUNA IMMINGHAM TO LET FULLY EQUIPPED, NO TIME WASTERS, CALL FOR INFORMATION 07515931997

PUBLIC NOTICES
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Part II, Schedule 3
Notice is hereby given that we, Sonfield Developments Limited c/o 151 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 7BN have made an application under Part II and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for the removal of a sex establishment licence for the premises known as Spiceland House, 49 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BU. We intend to provide the premises as a Sexual Entertainment Venue during the following days and times, Monday to Sunday 09:00 to 00:00. Interested parties may make written representations to Licensing Services, Sheffield City Council, House C, 2, Market Street, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S1 2BQ, or by email to licensing@sheffield.gov.uk about this application on or before 27th May 2019. For full details and to view a copy of the application please contact the Licensing Service on 0114 2734264.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MOTORS
Renault Megane 1.600i Dynamique TomTom Auto leather
2018 184 Reg
OPEN 7 DAYS - £2,499

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE
Citroen c4 picasso 1.6 6000
2018 184 Reg
ONLY 12,999

ATRACTIVE mature lady
07992 407905

PERSONAL-SPONSORSHIP
DSU 403 would the owner of this vehicle who retained DSU 403 in Sheffield 2007 of a Yamaha 250 motorcycle that was allocated DSU 403 in January 1996. please contact resident bike trader for any information or 1056 registration number. contact Paul on 05392 947290

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CAESARS SAUNA open 7days a week 2pm-6pm 11 seats, bar friendly facilities 2355 975 5213

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RADIO DECODING Car radio decoding from £10, car radios fitting from £30 01142493777 or 0800209555

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Caravans Wanted 1990 - 2015 instant Payment
Tow Bar fitted from £175
Caravan service including deep clean £125 (limited period) including 22 volt kerbside power & light wash single ads
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CHEVROLET SPARK 1.0 53 900
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CITROEN C1 EDITION 1.0 53 901
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CITROEN C1 TOUCH 1.0 VTI 53R
2018 184 Reg
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CITROEN C4 PICASSO 1.6 6000
2010
£4,999

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94% OF PEOPLE PREFER TO BUY FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES.

Don't miss out, you can advertise in your local newspaper and website at a cost effective rate.

Call your friendly Classified team today to hear about our multimedia advertising solutions. Tel: 0207 084 5203

SPEARMINT RHINO, 60 BROWN STREET, SHEFFIELD, PHOTOGRAPHS OF PREMISES









ATTENTION CUSTOMERS

OUR ENTERTAINERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH YOU IN ANY WAY AT ALL

YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THE ENTERTAINERS AT ANY POINT

PLEASE KEEP YOUR HANDS TO THE SIDE OF YOU AT ALL TIMES

OUR ENTERTAINERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TOUCH THEMSELVES OR ANY OTHER ENTERTAINER AT ANY POINT

ENTERTAINERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO GIVE OUT PERSONAL INFORMATION, PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL SO PLEASE DO NOT ASK

ANY BREACH OF THESE RULES - THE DANCE WILL BE STOPPED AND YOU WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE

SPEARMINT RHINO – SHEFFIELD

RULES FOR CUSTOMERS

1. Customers must be seated before a dancer can commence a dance and the customer must remain seated during the dance with their hands at their sides.
2. There must be no touching of the dancers at any time during the dance except when paying the dancer a fee.
3. No propositioning the dancers.
4. Customers must not dance at any time.
5. The customer must remain fully clothed at all times.

Any breach of the above rules will result in the customer being excluded from the club.

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

DANCER ASSESSMENT

Step 1: Preliminary Interview with Manager covering:

- Previous experience as a dancer
- Most recent employer
- Reason for leaving (if applicable)
- Any previous convictions for drugs or prostitution
- Knowledge and understanding of Spearmint Rhino brand
- Dance audition

Step 2: Formal Procedures

- Proof of address – 2 forms of ID to include utility bill and photo ID
- Request for data protection statement if applicable
- Explanation of House Rules and Code of Conduct in detail – signature required
- Completion of Dancer Performance Licence and Licence to Occupy Space – signature required
- Explanation of Disciplinary Procedure
- Polaroid photo to be attached to front of envelope
- Tour of venue for familiarity of fire exits and explanation of evacuation procedures

Promotional Opportunities

I am interested in the following:

- TV Events Newspapers and Magazines Flyering Online None

Step 3: Induction

- Explanation of stage and podium requirements
- Working schedules
- Changing room etiquette
- Payment and charging
- Explanation of House Rules and Code of Conduct in detail
- Explanation of additional conditions as part of the PEL and/or Liquor Licence
- Explanation of Disciplinary Procedure
- Customer Relations and Conflict Management
- Arrival and exit procedures for the premises
- Fire Safety – Health and Safety
- Incident reporting
- Mystery shoppers and their function
- Advice on obligations to statutory bodies as independent contractors
- Additional dance tuition if required – Spearmint Rhino 'School of Excellence'

Induction Completed:

Manager's Signature _____

Dancer's Signature _____ Date _____

(Note: Both signature lines and the date line are crossed out with a large handwritten 'VOID' in the center of the page.)

Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluation

- Experienced dancers will initially accompany new dancers
- Ongoing evaluation and supervision by Club Management to ensure compliance of the above

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS

**THE FOLLOWING APPLIES AT ALL TIMES AND MUST
BE READ SUBJECT TO ANY VARIATIONS
AGREED WITH STATUTORY AUTHORITIES ATTACHED**

A. General points and dancer attire:

1. Dancers must always sign in with the Club Management prior to commencing each shift;
2. At any time, dancers arriving or departing the Club must be fully dressed in clean, neat and smart attire. Dancers must endeavour *always* to arrive at and depart from the Club quietly, particularly during the evening and early morning;
3. Dancers are to arrive within adequate time to ensure that the dancer is ready on the main floor commensurate with the dancers shift or as designated by the Club management;
4. Except in an emergency, the use of mobile phones in public areas is prohibited;
5. After arriving at the Club and entering the dressing room, dancers are to **change into** appropriate attire as required by the Club and remain so dressed unless **providing a stage** or table dance performance. On leaving the premises, dancers' attire should be as indicated at (2) above;
6. Dancers' appropriate attire shall include:
 - a) Floor length elegant gowns and high heel shoes as approved by the Club management. The Club reserves the right to specify what is and is not appropriate on a continual basis;
 - b) Shoes must retain a minimum of a 3" heel and be worn at all times while in any public area of the Club;
 - c) Dancers' hair and make-up must be presented professionally. The Club encourages the use of costume jewellery, hairpieces, gloves and related accessories – remember style and elegance is the desired intent;
 - d) Dancers shall be required to wear at least a g-string or t-back undergarment in addition to the afore mentioned appropriate attire and not be completely nude except while performing on the centre main stage of the Club or performing a nude table dance where permitted;
 - e) At all times, other than during a table dance or stage performance, dancers must remain clothed whilst in the public areas and;
 - f) Dancers must fully dress **at** the end of each performance.

B. Dancer conduct:

1. Dancers may *never* give out any personal information, including telephone numbers, or contact details away from the Club. Dancers may provide a customer with the days and shifts they or other dancers work at the Club;
2. Dancers may *never* accept any telephone number, address or any other contact information from any customer, except in the form of a business card, but may *not* make use of that information to contact the customer. Before leaving the premises, dancers *must* permanently surrender all such cards to a member of *management* (without copying any information);
3. Dancers are *never* to be in the company of a customer except in an area open to the public within the Club (excluding toilets);
4. Dancers are *never* to enter or be in a roped-off V.I.P. dance area, *only* a floor supervisor or manager may open such a roped-off area;
5. Dancers are *never* to perform a nude table dance unless dancer is in a supervised area or within 5 metres of a floor supervisor;
6. Dancers must *never* perform a nude table dance *except* in a V.I.P. dance area.
7. During the performance of a table dance:
 - a) Customers *must* be seated in an upright position against the back of the booth with their hands by their sides *before* a dancer can commence a table dance, customers must remain so seated during the entire dance;
 - b) For the purpose of constraint, dancers may only touch a customer above the customer's chest with only the dancer's hands;
 - c) Dancers must not sit on or straddle the customer;
 - d) Dancers must maintain one shod foot on the floor at all times and not place their feet on the booth seat;
 - e) Dancers may not place their knee or knees on the booth seat;
 - f) Floor work is prohibited and may only be performed whilst performing stage shows on the Club's designated stages;
 - g) Dancers may not perform any act that clearly simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger into any genital opening. Dancers may not touch their breasts with their mouths, lips or tongues;
 - h) Dancers may not intentionally touch a customer at any time during the performance except as stated in (b) above, or unless absolutely accidental by a third party or object;
 - i) Dancers may not use language of an inappropriate, suggestive or sexually graphic nature at any time;
8. Customers are *not* permitted to dance at any time. Customers *must* remain *appropriately* clothed at *all* times. Neither customer nor dancer may remove any of the customers clothing during a performance;
9. If a customer attempts to touch, or speak to a dancer inappropriately, the dancer must immediately stop the performance and explain the relevant rules. If necessary, ask for assistance from and cooperate with a floor supervisor, who will take appropriate action, which may include escorting the customer out of the Club;

10. Dancers are *never* to intentionally touch the genitals or breasts of another dancer or to knowingly permit another dancer to intentionally touch their genitals or breasts;
11. Dancers are *never* to engage in an act of **prostitution** (the receiving of gratuities or payments for any form of sexual favour or offer as such);
12. Dancers may not accept a customer's offer of payment in return for sexual favours (**solicitation**);
13. Dancers must not engage in communications that could be deemed as acts of prostitution or solicitation, even if the dancer has no intention of carrying out the act;
14. Dancers are *never* to intentionally meet any customer outside of the Club;
15. Dancers are *never* to agree to meet a customer outside of the Club;
16. Dancers must *never* engage in any unlawful activity within the Club;
17. Dancers may *never* leave the premises during a shift, except in the case of an emergency and then *only* with the express permission of the duty manager. In that event, dancers must sign out before leaving the premises. If a dancer leaves early, *for any reason*, the dancer will *not* be re-admitted during that *shift*;
18. Dancers will either leave at the end of a shift in a nominated taxi, or a member of security will escort them to their car or off the premises;
19. At the end of the night shift, dancers *must* not leave the premises *until after* the customers have departed and then have been cleared to leave by the manager;
20. Dancers may *only* consume alcohol in *moderation*;
21. Dancers must *never* consume, possess or be under the influence of any unlawful drug or substance, unless it is personally prescribed medication by a registered GP;
22. Dancers **are** *never* to invite or knowingly permit dancer's spouse, boyfriend nor anyone else with whom dancers are romantically involved to enter the Club;
23. Topless table dances and full nude table dances may be performed for a pre-determined rate as set by the individual Club;
24. Dancers are required from time to time to participate in promotional activities and offers as designated by the Club manager;
25. Dancers are required from time to time to participate in stage and podium performances as designated by Club staff;
26. **Whilst performing on stage or podium, dancers may not perform any act that clearly simulates masturbation, oral sex or sexual intercourse, including the insertion of any object, including their own finger into any genital opening. Dancers may not touch their breasts with their mouths, lips or tongue;**
27. For the purposes of safety and standards, the Club may employ the use of closed circuit cameras and radio **communications** throughout the premises and;
28. Any dancer found to be in violation of any of these rules, without exception, will be subject to the disciplinary procedure.

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

**OBEY THE CODE!
COMPLY WITH THE LAWS!
USE COMMON SENSE!
ANY BREACH OF THE ABOVE
RULES MAY RESULT IN THE DANCER BEING EXCLUDED
FROM THIS CLUB AND ALL OTHER SPEARMINT
RHINO CLUBS WORLDWIDE. ANY BREACH MAY BE
REPORTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES
FOR POSSIBLE PROSECUTION!**

**SPEARMINT RHINO HAS ZERO TOLERANCE FOR;
PROSTITUTION, SOLICITATION,
UNLAWFUL DRUGS & UNLAWFUL CONDUCT!**

The signing of this document signifies that you, the dancer, have read and understood the **SPEARMINT RHINO CODE OF CONDUCT FOR DANCERS**, and that you agree to comply with the Code of Conduct and accept the obligations under it. This document is in no way designed to restrict your own artistic performance or freedom of expression.

Dancer's signature

Date Signed

Dancer's printed birth name


Dancer's stage name


Witnessed:

Printed Club Manager name

Date Witnessed

C20

Spearmint Rhino  **United Kingdom**



Why use cash for dances
when you can use

RHINO
Chips

Ask your waitress for details

London 161 Tottenham Court Road 0207 209 4488
Birmingham 64 Hagley Road 0121 455 7656
Sheffield 60 Brown Street 0114 279 8092
Leicester 64 Belgrave Gate 0116 262 6010
Bournemouth 1 Yelverton Road 0120 229 5300

Club Rules

1. Customers must be seated before a dancer can commence a dance and the customer must remain seated during the dance with their hands at their sides.
2. There must be no touching of the dancers at any time during the dance except when paying the dancer a fee.
3. No propositioning the dancers or asking them to perform any sexual favour.
4. Customers must not dance at any time.
5. The customer must remain fully clothed at all times and not perform acts of masturbation or indulge in other sexual behaviour.
6. Customers must not make lewd or offensive remarks to dancers.
7. Customers should be polite and not harass or intimidate the dancers.

Any breach of the above rules will result in the customer being excluded from the club.

Table Dance Rules

As an industry standard we recommend a footless dance at £10 and a nude dance at £20. The industry standard is that one dance is the equivalent of one song track. This may on occasion change due to special promotions. The price of a dance should be agreed with the dancer before the dance commences. It is at the discretion of the individual dancer as to whom she dances for.

We consider it customary to tip while you are seated at the tip rail around the stage. This tip should be placed on or at the tip rail at the time of the dance.


Rhino Chips

- Your Rhino Chips can be purchased with any approved credit, debit card or cash.
- If purchased by credit, debit card or cash, a handling fee of 20% will be added.
- You can use them for tipping dancers, waitresses, bar and restaurant staff.
- They cannot be used for the purchase of food or drinks.
- They cannot be refunded.

Rhino Chips are available in denominations of:

£10 (all clubs)	£100 (only at TCR)
£20 (all clubs)	£500 (only at TCR)

All major cards accepted



For VIP guest list & table reservations visit: spearmintrhino.com

SPEARMINT RHINO



FREE PASS
OPEN 10PM TIL VERY LATE

SPEARMINTRHINO.COM

 @RHINOSHEFFIELD
 @SPEARMINTRHINOSHEFFIELD
 @SPEARMINTRHINOSHEFF

SPEARMINT RHINO
60 BROWN STREET SHEFFIELD S12 BS
0114 279 8092
MON-FRI 10PM-LATE SAT 9PM-LATE
SUNDAY CLOSED

weekly specials
at spearmint rhino



MONDAY MAGIC MONDAYS
2-4-£5 BECKS & STELLA ALL NIGHT
£45 FINLANDIA BOTTLES ALL NIGHT
£2 JAGER BOMBS ALL NIGHT

TUESDAY SERVICES PARTY SPECIAL
FREE ENTRY W/ ID: EMERGENCY SERVICES, NUS & HM FORCES
4-4-£5 BECKS & STELLA ALL NIGHT
GO LARGE ON SPIRITS FOR 50P
£2 SAMBUCA SHOTS
VIP AREA AVAILABLE
2-4-1 DANCES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK PARTY
FREE ENTRY W/ ID: EMERGENCY SERVICES, NUS & HM FORCES
2-4-£5 BECKS & STELLA ALL NIGHT
£2 JAGER BOMBS & TEQUILA SHOTS
VIP AREA AVAILABLE
2-4-1 DANCES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT

THURSDAY THURSTY THURSDAYS
2-4-£5 BECKS & STELLA 84 MIDNIGHT
£2 JAGER & TEQUILA SHOTS ALL NIGHT
£5 ENTRY W/ FLYER

FRIDAY FABULOUS FRIDAYS
2-4-£5 BECKS & STELLA 84 MIDNIGHT
£2 TEQUILA & SAMBUCA SHOTS ALL NIGHT
VIP AREA AVAILABLE
2-4-1 DANCES THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT
£5 ENTRY W/ FLYER

SATURDAY LINGERIE NIGHT
£2 SAMBUCA SHOTS ALL NIGHT
VIP AREA AVAILABLE



Licensing Act 2003 Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

LOCAL AUTHORITY



Licensing Service
Place Portfolio
 Block C Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Sheffield
 S9 3HD
 Tel: 0114 2734264
 Email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk
 Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/licensing

The Sheffield City Council being the Licensing Authority under the above Act, hereby grant this licence in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of and subject to the conditions attached:

Part 1 - Premises Details

POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES, OR IF NONE, ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION

Spearmint Rhino

60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

Telephone 0114 2798092

WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED THE DATES

Not applicable

LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED BY THE LICENCE

- a performance of a play
- an exhibition of a film
- a performance of live music
- any playing of recorded music
- a performance of dance
- entertainment of a similar description to that falling within a performance of live music, any playing of recorded music or a performance of dance
- provision of late night refreshment
- the supply of alcohol

THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

Activity	Day	Time From	Time To
A. Performance of a play (Indoors)	Sunday	10:00am	6:00am
	Monday	10:00am	6:00am
	Tuesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Wednesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Thursday	10:00am	6:00am
	Friday	10:00am	6:00am
	Saturday	10:00am	6:00am

Seasonal variations.

Robert Sutherland

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

CERTIFIED AS TRUE COPY OF THE ORIGINAL BY ROBERT SUTHERLAND, CONSULTANT SOLICITOR, KEYSTONE LAW

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during



Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

Issue No. 6

SY000971 PR

THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES continued ...

Activity	Day	Time From	Time To
A. Performance of a play (Indoors) continued ...			
a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.			
B. Exhibition of films (Indoors)			
	Sunday	10:00am	6:00am
	Monday	10:00am	6:00am
	Tuesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Wednesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Thursday	10:00am	6:00am
	Friday	10:00am	6:00am
	Saturday	10:00am	6:00am
	Seasonal Variations:		
On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.			
To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.			
E. Performance of live music (Indoors)			
	Sunday	10:00am	6:00am
	Monday	10:00am	6:00am
	Tuesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Wednesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Thursday	10:00am	6:00am
	Friday	10:00am	6:00am
	Saturday	10:00am	6:00am
	Seasonal Variations:		
On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.			
To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.			
F. Playing of recorded music (Indoors)			
	Sunday	10:00am	6:00am
	Monday	10:00am	6:00am
	Tuesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Wednesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Thursday	10:00am	6:00am
	Friday	10:00am	6:00am
	Saturday	10:00am	6:00am
	Seasonal Variations:		
On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.			



Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES continued...

Activity	Day	Time From	Time To
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F. Playing of recorded music (Indoors) continued ...

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

G. Performance of dance (Indoors)

Sunday	10:00am	6:00am
Monday	10:00am	6:00am
Tuesday	10:00am	6:00am
Wednesday	10:00am	6:00am
Thursday	10:00am	6:00am
Friday	10:00am	6:00am
Saturday	10:00am	6:00am

Seasonal Variations:

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

H. Entertainment of a similar description to that falling within E, F, or G (Indoors)

Sunday	10:00am	6:00am
Monday	10:00am	6:00am
Tuesday	10:00am	6:00am
Wednesday	10:00am	6:00am
Thursday	10:00am	6:00am
Friday	10:00am	6:00am
Saturday	10:00am	6:00am

Seasonal Variations:

On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.

I. Late night refreshment (Indoors)

Sunday	11:00pm	5:00am
Monday	11:00pm	5:00am
Tuesday	11:00pm	5:00am
Wednesday	11:00pm	5:00am
Thursday	11:00pm	5:00am
Friday	11:00pm	5:00am
Saturday	11:00pm	5:00am

Seasonal Variations:

To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and

Licensing Act 2003 Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES continued

Activity	Day	Time From	Time To
I. Late night refreshment (Indoors) continued ...			
the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.			
J. Supply of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises			
	Sunday	10:00am	6:00am
	Monday	10:00am	6:00am
	Tuesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Wednesday	10:00am	6:00am
	Thursday	10:00am	6:00am
	Friday	10:00am	6:00am
	Saturday	10:00am	6:00am
Seasonal Variations:			
On 31st December the hours will be 10:00 to the beginning of permitted hours on 1st January the year following.			
To add such hours during which the licensable activities may be provided during a live broadcast of any 'Olympic Sport', or cricket, where a team representing a Commonwealth Country is taking part together with Formula 1 Grand Prix and the American National Football League Finals. A minimum of 10 days notice is to be given to the Police and Licensing Authority, with the police having the power to veto the occasion.			

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES

Day	Time From	Time To
Sunday	Midnight	Midnight
Monday	Midnight	Midnight
Tuesday	Midnight	Midnight
Wednesday	Midnight	Midnight
Thursday	Midnight	Midnight
Friday	Midnight	Midnight
Saturday	Midnight	Midnight

PLEASE NOTE:

In the event, that the hours permitted on this premises licence differ from those authorised on your planning consent, you **MUST ONLY** operate to which ever is the most restrictive permission.

Both Licensing and Planning carry out enforcement activities and if you are found to be in breach of either your premises licence and / or your planning consent, it may result in legal action being taken against you.

WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND / OR OFF SUPPLIES

- J. Supply of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises

Part 2

NAME (REGISTERED) ADDRESS TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL (WHERE RELEVANT) OF HOLDER OF PREMISES LICENCE

Sonfield Development Ltd
161 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1T 7NN.

REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER FOR EXAMPLE COMPANY NUMBER CHARITY NUMBER (WHERE APPLICABLE)



Licensing Act 2003 Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORIZES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Michael David GOODWIN

14 Buchanan Road, Parson Cross, Sheffield, S5 8AL.
Telephone 07816 867526

PERSONAL LICENCE NUMBER AND ISSUING AUTHORITY OF PERSONAL LICENCE HELD BY DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORIZES FOR THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Licence No: SY03389

Issued by: Sheffield

STATE WHETHER ACCESS TO THE PREMISES BY CHILDREN IS RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED

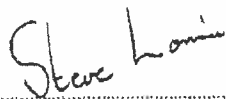
Prohibited

LICENCE DATES

Licence first effective date: 24 November, 2005

This Premises Licence shall be in force from: 10 July, 2018

Issue date of this licence: 13 August, 2018



Steve Lonnia
Head of Licensing Services
On behalf of Sheffield City Council (Issuing Licensing Authority)



C26

**Licensing Act 2003
Premises Licence**

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR



Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

ANNEXES

Annex 1A - Mandatory Conditions**Mandatory Condition 1 (Section 19 ss 2)**

Where a licence authorises the sale of alcohol then no supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence -

- (a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or
- (b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.

Mandatory Condition 2 (Section 19 ss 3)

Where a licence authorises the sale of alcohol then every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Mandatory Condition 3 (Section 20)

1. Where a premises licence authorises the exhibition of films, the licence includes the following conditions relating to the admission of children to the exhibition:
 - (a) The admission of children (under 18) to the exhibition of any film must be restricted in accordance with the classification set by the film classification body (currently the BBFC).
 - (b) In a case where there is no classification given by the classification body (the BBFC) the admission of children to the exhibition of any film must be restricted in accordance with any recommendation given by the Licensing Authority.
2. In this section -
 - "children" means persons aged under 18; and
 - "film classification body" means the person or persons designated as the authority under section 4 of the Video Recordings Act 1984 (c.39) (authority to determine suitability of video works for classification).

Mandatory Condition 4 (Section 21)

Where a premises licence includes a condition that at specified times one or more individuals must be at the premises to carry out a security activity each such individual must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority.

Annex 1B - Mandatory Condition effective from 28th May 2014:

1. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.
2. For the purposes of the condition set out in paragraph 1-
 - (a) "duty" is to be construed in accordance with the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979;
 - (b) "permitted price" is the price found by applying the formula-

$$P = D + (D \times V)$$

where-

- (i) P is the permitted price,
 - (ii) D is the amount of duty chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the duty were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol, and
 - (iii) V is the rate of value added tax chargeable in relation to the alcohol as if the value added tax were charged on the date of the sale or supply of the alcohol;
- (c) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a premises licence-
- (i) the holder of the premises licence,
 - (ii) the designated premises supervisor (if any) in respect of such a licence, or
 - (iii) the personal licence holder who makes or authorises a supply of alcohol under such a licence;
- (d) "relevant person" means, in relation to premises in respect of which there is in force a club premises certificate, any member or officer of the club present on the premises in a capacity which enables the member or officer to prevent the supply in question; and
- (e) "value added tax" means value added tax charged in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act 1994.

Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

ANNEXES continued

3. Where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 would (apart from this paragraph) not be a whole number of pennies, the price given by that sub-paragraph shall be taken to be the price actually given by that sub-paragraph rounded up to the nearest penny.
4. (1) Sub-paragraph (2) applies where the permitted price given by Paragraph (b) of paragraph 2 on a day ("the first day") would be different from the permitted price on the next day ("the second day") as a result of a change to the rate of duty or value added tax.
(2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

Annex 1C - Mandatory Conditions effective from 1st October 2014:

- 1.-(1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.
(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises-
 - (a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to-
 - (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);
 - (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carries a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective;
 - (d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner;
 - (e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).
2. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.
- 3.- (1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.
(2) The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.
(3) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either-
 - (a) a holographic mark, or
 - (b) an ultraviolet feature.
4. The responsible person must ensure that-
 - (a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures-
 - (i) beer or cider: ½ pint;
 - (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
 - (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml;
 - (b) these measures are displayed in a menu, price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises; and
 - (c) where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available.



Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

ANNEXES continued

Annex 2 - Conditions consistent with the operating schedule

1. CCTV installed and maintained according to current standards.
2. Door Supervisors should be SIA registered.
3. A customer code shall be prominently displayed and clearly visible throughout the premises advising patrons of the rules in relation to strip tease.
4. A price list should be displayed in a prominent and clearly visible throughout the premises advising patrons of the rules in relation to striptease.
5. Water and non-alcoholic beverages are available.
6. Notices to leave the premises quietly will be displayed at the premises.
7. Except as with the consent of the council, no external advertising of the striptease / lap dancing shall take place at the premises or in its immediate vicinity (within 440 yards of the premises).
8. No dancer may perform at the premises until such time as photographic proof of identity showing date of birth is provided, confirming that the dancer is over the 18 years
9. Whilst strip tease is taking place, no person under the age of 18 shall be permitted on the premises. A notice shall be clearly displayed at the entrance to the premises stating that no person under 18 will be admitted so it can be easily read by persons entering the premises.

Any embedded permissions and restrictions attached to the justices on/off licence including those specified at Appendix 1.

1. Any personal licence holders at the premises to be a member of the Pub Watch Scheme.
2. Colour CCTV will be installed in positions agreed with the Police and tapes or other forms of record stored for such period of time as the Police may specify.

Specific conditions converted from the Public Entertainment Licence

1. Capacity

1) The number of members of the public who may be present at any one time on the premises or in any part of such premises specified below shall not exceed: -

Area	Capacity
The whole of the premises	450

(2) Where the Council is of the opinion that in order to avoid or reduce any disturbance of or annoyance to residents in the neighbourhood of the premises or the occurrence of disorderly conduct in the premises, it is desirable for the permitted hours specified in Part 1 of the Premises Licence to be varied, the Council may, after affording the licensee the opportunity of making representations to the Council, by notice served on the licensee vary the permitted hours and thereafter the hours specified in the notice shall apply in substitution for the hours specified in Part 1 of the Premises Licence.

2A. Security Staff

The licensee shall maintain at the premises a register containing the following details of all persons present on the premises during Public Entertainments whose duties wholly or mainly consist of the direction or control of the members of the public. The details of each person shall be entered prior to that person commencing such duties and shall not be deleted from the register for a period of twelve months from the last date upon which that person carried out such duties. The details of each person required to be kept are: full name and address, date of birth, photograph, physical description

Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

ANNEXES continued

and description of duties at the premises.

The licensee shall also keep a record showing which registered person (s) are working at the premises on each occasion the premises are open for the purpose of Public Entertainment. This record is to be kept at the premises for a period of not less than twelve months.

The register and record shall be open for inspection at any time by any Police Officer or Authorised Officer of the Council.

2B. Security Staff Registration Scheme

The Licensee shall only permit staff registered by the Council (under its Security Staff Registration Scheme) or licensed by the Security Industry Authority to be engaged in duties which wholly or mainly consist of: (a) deciding on the suitability of persons to be allowed on the premises and/or (b) maintaining order on the premises.

1. The Licensee must take a proactive approach to noise control to ensure that noise is kept to a reasonable level so as not to cause a nuisance at the nearest noise sensitive building.

2. The power amplifier must have an electronic noise limited device fitted and set to a maximum of 94 dB at the nearest bar.

Striptease / Pole / Lap Dancing Conditions:

1. The striptease/entertainment (lap dancing) shall be given only by the performers /entertainers and the audience must remain fully clothed.

2. The performance must not be visible from the street.

3. Except with the consent of the council no external advertising of the striptease/ lapdancing shall take place at the premises or in its immediate vicinity (within 440 yards of the premises).

4. When the premises are open for striptease/lap dancing no person under the age of 18 shall be allowed on the premises.

5. Customers must be informed prior to lap dancing commencing of the following rules:-

- a. No touching must take place during dances.
- b. Customers must remain seated during dancing.
- c. Customers must leave the area as soon as the dances allotted to that customer have finished.

6. Lap dancers must not:-

- a. Sit on customers' laps during performances.

7. On completion of the dance or dances, dancers must:-

- a. Ask the customer to leave the area immediately.
- b. Dress themselves immediately.
- c. Dancers must not leave the dance area in a state of undress and must dress in accordance with club regulations.

8. Podium (Pole) dancers must not:-

- a. Entice customers onto the podium.
- b. Remove their lower undergarments. (Dancers may dance topless)
 - a. Interfere with their undergarments in such a way as to show their genitals.
 - b. Receive gratuities other than in their garter belts or by hand.

9. Sex toys must not be used and penetration of the genital area by any means must not take place.

10. Dancers must not solicit, exchange addresses or telephone numbers with customers or liaise with customers off the premises.



Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

Issue No: 6

SY000971 PR

ANNEXES continued . . .

11. When dancers leave the premises they must be escorted to their cars or taxi by a another staff member.

12. The following minimum number of registered security staff will be located at the front entrance:-

One person Sunday to Thursday;
Two persons Friday and Saturday.

In addition there will be one registered security staff located within the premises for the first 50 customers and then one registered security staff per additional 100 customers thereafter whenever the premises are open.

Notwithstanding the above, no floor at the premises will be open to the public unless there is a minimum of one registered security staff on that floor.

13. These conditions are imposed in addition to the standard Public Entertainment Licence Conditions with which the Licencee must comply.

Annex 3 - Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority**Annex 4 - Plans**

Plan Reference:G/100/40
Date: JULY 2005

APPENDIX D

Representations - Objections

01
PI

McConaghy Julianne

From: Boo Magda (NCC)
Sent: 02 May 2019 09:55
To: McConaghy Julianne
Cc: Fell Greg; Hird Susan; Hague Julie
Subject: RE: Renewal Application, Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield
Attachments: SEV Evidence Summary v5.docx

Dear Julianne

Thank you for the opportunity for Public Health to comment on the renewal application for Spearmint Rhino.

Our view would be that the site at Brown St is no longer suitable for such an establishment due to the changed use and regeneration of the area, in particular nearby sensitive locations which include:

- the Sheffield Hallam University buildings adjacent to the site;
- the University Technology College City Centre for children aged 13-18 site a short distance away on Matilda St;
- the Site gallery now expanded as part of the Cultural Industries Quarter, opposite;
- the substance misuse treatment services a short distance away on Sidney St;

This is also relevant as regards vulnerable adults as the attached health evidence describes that young age or being a student, illicit drug use, mental ill health are predictive of participation in or consumption of sex industry products, which include sexual entertainment. A particular concern of proximity to student venues is that student impoverishment was seen to drive female students into working in the industry and being in debt is predictive of being both a worker and a consumer in the industry.

We appreciate that this is difficult for the venue which will have invested in this site, however there will be other more suitable sites in a city the size of Sheffield. We gave this advice 12 months' ago when the renewal was last due for consideration and recommended at the time that any renewal was contingent on the premise using this time to explore more appropriate sites with a view to re-location. I wonder if you could provide any update as regards alternative site options that the venue has considered and why they have decided to remain on Brown St?

Thanks and best wishes

Magda

Magdalena Boo
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0114 273 4152
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-----Original Message-----

From: McConaghy Julianne

Sent: 30 April 2019 16:40

To: Boo Magda (NCC); eps admin; EPS.commercial; Fire; Gibbons Sean (DEL); Hague Julie; Health Protection; Hepworth Sarah; Ian Mettam; Jones Angela (NCC); Lobo Rose; Pitts Steven; planningdc@sheffield.gov.uk; Police Licensing (E-mail 2); Prasad Shiva; Proctor Matthew; DPHOffice; Ruston Andy (CEX); Trading Standards; Ward Greg
Subject: Renewal Application, Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield

Afternoon

Please find for your information copy of renewal application in respect of the above premise.

Please note the last date for comments is 27 May 2019.

Many thanks.

Julianne

Julianne McConaghy
Licensing Analyst & Processing Officer

Licensing Service, Business Strategy & Regulation, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Sheffield, S9 3HD

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julianne.mcconaghy@sheffield.gov.uk or

Report Title: Sex industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary			
Report Author: Magdalena Boo Health Improvement Principal – Environment, Transport, Planning & Sustainability			
Contact Number: 0114 273 4152		Portfolio: Office of the Director of Public Health	
Purpose: To provide a brief and pragmatic review of the literature on Sexual Entertainment Venues, the sex industry and health.			
For Decision		Progress Update	
For Steer		Other (for information)	x
<p>Report Summary:</p> <p>Attitudes to the sex industry – including sexual entertainment – may dictate local policies, but ideological rather than evidence based health approaches can increase health and personal safety risks.</p> <p>An evidence based health approach to the sex industry and sexual entertainment venues should be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers’ rights and empowerment of sex workers • Decriminalisation and geographically compact zones of tolerance • Partnership between criminal justice, health agencies and venues/sex workers • Tailored in-reach of drugs, alcohol, sexual health, mental health, financial inclusion services to this stigmatised and vulnerable workforce using peer-peer where possible • Sensitive land use considerations to manage the impact of the sex industry on the wider population • Sensible limits on the number of venues and zones in proportion to the local resource of support services (addiction, sexual health, mental health, criminal justice and regulatory services) <p>Ideologically driven approaches such as crackdowns, fines, excessive regulation such as mandatory registration can displace the sex industry to less populous, more isolated areas or can encourage a two-tier system with the most marginalised and socially excluded workers being placed at increased risk.</p>			
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying an evidence based health approach, as set out above, provides the safest environment for staff working within the industry; 			

Sex industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary

Introduction

This brief and pragmatic evidence summary is intended to support the use of evidence in determining policy on the commercial sex industry, including sexual entertainment venues and/or to facilitate policy makers in placing conditions on operations that are evidence based and/or known to work.

This evidence review can aid the development of Equalities Impact Assessments or Health Impact Assessments.

Public Health does not make moral judgements on sex work or the sex industry but concerns itself with the best evidence and best practice for protecting public health.

Methodology

A literature search was conducted by Public Health using the University of Sheffield Starplus system.

Two search terms were used:

- Sex industry + health
- Sexual entertainment venues + health

For some authors, sexual entertainment is included in the term “sex industry” and for this reason this search term has been used to broaden the available literature as there is only a narrow selection on sexual entertainment. Where sex industry, as opposed to sexual entertainment, articles are considered careful consideration has been given to key messages, if any, that are transferable to wider sexual entertainment.

Only peer reviewed journals, in the English Language from the past 5 years were selected.

No priority was given to quantitative over qualitative or mixed methods approach or over study design.

Articles from the top 50 most relevant articles were considered.

The articles selected for further review were from a similar regulatory context – UK and Europe – or from a similar cultural setting in resource rich countries – North America and Australia. However, similar is not the same and where research is very context specific caveats have been noted about transferring knowledge and applying findings more generally.

Much of the commercial sex industry research is centred in resource poor countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These articles were excluded from further review as it was the view that findings from these articles were less transferable to a UK context.

The literature search was limited by time, access and skill; what is presented is a pragmatic response to consider a fair sample of peer reviewed literature to inform a public health view. This is not a systematic review or critical appraisal of the literature.

In the table below, the articles are coded “SEV B” for 9 articles sourced under the terms “Sexual entertainment venues + health” and SEV for 25 articles sourced under the search terms “Sex industry + health”. Full text of the articles is available on request. Duplicates are shown in the table.

The conclusions drawn from the articles considered (“key messages” and “findings from the literature for policy makers”) are those of the author of this paper. The thematic groupings/codes used are those of the author of this paper. Generally, the notes for policy makers are based on where there appears to be a consensus across the literature, rather than a claim made in a single study. Although the aim has been to objectively present knowledge and evidence, bias is always possible and those intending to use the source are encouraged to explore the full text of articles.

Findings from the literature for policy makers

Joined up government – Planning and Licensing both have a role in regulating the environment in which sexual entertainment and sex work takes place and may take differing views. Timings of operation, discreet operation, the local environmental context in terms of sensitive land uses and “fit” of venues within that context are key considerations for Local Authorities. A lack of a joined up approach between Planning and Licensing can make it difficult for sexual entertainment venues to invest and develop their premises (SEV B1, SEV B2).

Sensitive land use – There is a reasonable consensus of sensitive land use where SEVs would not be appropriate which includes residential areas, near schools, near universities or colleges, near religious sites, near shops or high streets, sexual trauma services amongst other places. Where land use changes there may no longer be “fit”, for example the opening of the Olympic Legacy Park School in Attercliffe post-dates the proliferation of the sex industry in that area but may make it no longer suitable. Sensitive land use and suitability to the local setting can be used as reasons for refusing a license or limiting hours of operation. (SEV B1-4).

Young People and students - Evidence suggests most people start work in the SEV under the age of 25 (73.5%) with the average age of entry into the sex industry being 23 years. Students are a key source of temporary labour for SEVs, particularly undergraduates and part-time students. Financial pressure is the main driving force for entering the industry including student debt, debt from benefit changes, and broader economic pressures. However, those working in the industry also perceived relatively high pay, shorter hours and job flexibility as positive factors compared to other employment sectors such as retail. Students were also key consumers of SEV and sex industry services and debt and illicit drug use were predictive of consumption. (SEV B8, SEV B9, SEV 3)

More venues/performers increase risk - The literature suggests that the greater the number of premises and performers/workers, the greater the risks that may be taken to secure

sufficient remuneration. The type of risk taking behaviour included provision of “extras” in Sexual Entertainment Venues in private spaces, arrangements to meet clients outside of SEV for the purpose of selling sex, and in the wider sex industry, agreement to condomless sex. The literature also suggests that burnout and turnover in health and welfare professions supporting the industry is high and resources are limited and overstretched. This is pertinent for policy makers in terms of the expansion of SEV and sex industry as to whether support services and staff will stretch to cover a greater number of venues or geographical spread of venues. In one study, dancers were concerned that an increase in venues lowered the quality of such venues, whereas in another study more venues meant more choice about where to work and greater ability to move away from exploitative venues (SEV B6, SEV B8, SEV 2, SEV 3, SEV 19)

Workers rights, self-organisation and self-advocacy – Those working in the industry are well placed to make recommendations to improve their working conditions and health and safety. Those involved in sexual labour are a marginalised and stigmatised workforce and although advocacy, rights and self-organised workers’ groups do exist, policy makers may need to work hard to ensure these voices are heard. Work with sex workers on rights based work is seen as a key mechanism for addressing HIV transmission but is underfunded globally. Workers human rights and social justice approaches rather than punitive, rehabilitate or rescue approaches are considered most appropriate in this space and investment in sex worker self-organisation is viewed as crucial. Workers are concerned about basic health and safety at work such as adequate heat, light, ventilation, access to drinking water as well as industry specific concerns such as the way abusive customers are dealt with and safety measures in private areas of premises. (SEV B6, SEV B7, SEV11, SEV 20)

Physical and Sexual Violence – those working in the SEV industry and wider sex industry face high levels of workplace violence, including physical and sexual violence. Regulation of such workplaces should include health and safety measures to reduce the risk of violence to staff (SEV B7, SEV 4, SEV 9, SEV 11, SEV 14)

Historic childhood abuse – a number of articles note the association between historical childhood abuse and working in the sex industry. In one study, almost 1/3 of a sample of sex workers had prior sexual abuse histories (SEV 4, SEV 14, SEV 18)

Mental Health – just over 1/3 of participants in one qualitative study had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry. Another study described the most prevalent mental health conditions to be anxiety and depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders with PTSD linked to violence in the industry or historical childhood abuse. Those working in the sex industry reported strain on personal relationships and inability to sustain personal relationships. 1 in 3 sex workers within one study sample of sex workers had prior suicide attempts and 72.3% were unhappy with life (SEV 3, SEV 4, SEV 12, SEV 14)

Sexual Health – Sex work globally is an important driver of sexual transmission of HIV due to high partner change. Decriminalisation has the best evidence for HIV prevention and is recommended by a number of global actors on health and human rights. A key policy measure should be not to use condom carrying as evidence against sex workers for criminal prosecution. Partnerships between the sex industry, police and health are key. Working in the sex industry can negatively impact on romantic relationships with non-paying partners

and this can impact on condom use in those relationships and therefore transmission risks for STIs and HIV (SEV 5, SEV 6, SEV 12, SEV 17, SEV 21, SEV 22, SEV 24)

Drug use – in one study 53.1 % of the sex worker sample reported crack use and 19.2% reported heroin as their drug of choice. Illicit drug use was also predictive of consumption of sex industry services. Sex working women were considered to require more intensive and tailored substance misuse treatment services. Drug using clients may have lower earning power, may be limited to outdoor work, and may take greater risks (SEV 14, SEV B9, SEV 24)

Debt and financial inclusion – debt and financial factors were the main driving force to work in the sex industry in one large study. In other studies, performers were prepared to take risks for higher remuneration. In one study, dancers detailed how “house fees” for performers and fines meant starting their shift out of pocket. In another study, student impoverishment was seen to drive female students into working in the industry and being in debt was predictive of being both a worker and a consumer in the industry. (SEV B8, SEV B7, SEV B9, SEV 2, SEV 3)

Indoor versus outdoor sex work – there is a consensus of evidence that indoor environments are safer and where police and health professionals provide supportive in-reach to working women, these conditions are the safest. (SEV 9)

Human Trafficking – there is a consensus in the literature that sex trafficking is conflated with commercial sex work against the best available evidence. Although the prevalence of trafficking for sex work is high at around 25%, the majority of those trafficked globally are in domestic and agricultural roles. However, 92% of prosecutions for trafficking are for sex trafficking. There is no disagreement in the literature that sex trafficking is an abuse of human rights and should be rightfully prosecuted, but there are concerns that this focus on the sex trade is used to justify excessive surveillance of immigrant women who are already marginalised, working in this stigmatised and marginalised industry. There is a clear consensus that distinction must be made between non coerced sex work and trafficking. Sex workers have in some settings taken a role as peers in screening trafficked women. Resources and rights rather than criminalisation and rescue are recommended (SEV 7, SEV 10, SEV 11, SEV 16, SEV 20, SEV 23)

Decriminalisation - decriminalisation provides the optimal conditions and best evidence for HIV prevention, access to police protection, safe working conditions and access to health services and is supported by global health organisations such as UNAIDS. Zones of tolerance and legalisation have flaws, as do “end demand” policies. However, geographically compact zones of tolerance can facilitate inreach by support services such as health. Conversely, crackdowns and fines and excessive regulation such as mandatory registration can displace the sex industry to less populous, more isolated areas which are more risky for workers (SEV 5, SEV 11, SEV 16, SEV 21, SEV 24).

Peers – peer educators were seen as helpful for both sexual health interventions, empowerment, and anti-trafficking interventions (SEV 21, SEV 22, SEV 7)

Equality Act 2010 Protected Characteristics and SEV/Sex Industry	
Protected Characteristics	Evidence from the literature
Age	Evidence suggests most people start work in the SEV under the age of 25 (73.5%) with the average age of entry into the sex industry being 23 years
Disability	Just over 1/3 of participants in one qualitative study had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry. Another study described the most prevalent mental health conditions to be anxiety and depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders.
Gender reassignment	-
Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)	-
Pregnancy and maternity	-
Race	The prevalence of trafficking for sex work is around 25% globally. Consensual sex work should not be conflated with trafficking, or this can lead to excessive surveillance of migrant women.
Religion or belief	There is a reasonable consensus of sensitive land use where SEVs would not be appropriate which includes near religious sites.
Sex	The consensus in the literature is that the overwhelming majority of those working in the sex industry (including SEVs) are women and the majority of customers are men.
Sexual Orientation	Male Sex Workers may sell sex to men regardless of their own sexual orientation. The male heterosexual commercial sex work market is a very small proportion of the overall sex work market. Men who have sex with men (MSM) may be involved in technology enabled "transactional sex" and may not view themselves as being sex workers.

Conclusion

An evidence based health approach to the sex industry and sexual entertainment venues should be based on:

- Workers' rights and empowerment of sex workers
- Decriminalisation and geographically compact zones of tolerance
- Partnership between criminal justice, health agencies and venues/sex workers
- Tailored in-reach of drugs, alcohol, sexual health, mental health, financial inclusion services to this stigmatised and vulnerable workforce using peer-peer where possible
- Sensitive land use considerations to manage the impact of the sex industry on the wider population
- Sensible limits on the number of venues and zones in proportion to the local resource of support services (addiction, sexual health, mental health, criminal justice and regulatory services)

Magdalena Boo
Health Improvement Principal
Office of the Director of Public Health, Sheffield City Council
January 2018

Evidence-based Checklist for Regulatory & Welfare Visits to Sexual Entertainment Venues/Sex Industry

Name & organisation of person completing checklist:

Date of visit:

	Not evidenced (+/√)	Partially evidenced (+/√)	Evidenced (+/√)	Comments
Welfare information is displayed in staff areas (e.g. sexual health, mental health, addictions, debt, immigration, domestic abuse)				
Under 25s – welfare information regarding young people, including college and university welfare services, is displayed in staff areas.				
Dancers info information is displayed in staff areas http://www.dancersinfo.co.uk				
Trade Union and/or peer support information is available in staff areas.				
Occupational health contact information is displayed in staff areas.				
Venue welfare and/or safeguarding contact person information is displayed in staff/customer areas.				
Information is displayed regarding complaints of abusive staff/customers and how these will be managed/contact person.				
Private or more secluded areas of the premises have appropriate measures in place for protection of staff/customers e.g. line of sight from venue management, panic buttons, mirrors.				
Staff changing areas are adequately heated and ventilated.				
Staff changing areas are of adequate size for the number of staff.				
Staff changing areas have locked storage (e.g. lockers) for staff personal belongings.				
Staff changing areas are smokefree.				
Staff changing areas have access to drinking water and facilities to make hot, cold drinks and prepare basic snacks.				
Stocked First aid kits (including plasters) are available in staff areas.				
Staff/customer toilets have condom machines in working order.				
Licensed taxi firm numbers displayed for staff transport in late evening.				

Code	Source	Summary of article	Key messages for policy makers
SEV B1	<p>Prior, J. and Hubbard, P. (2017) Time, space, and the authorisation of sex premises in London and Sydney, <i>Urban Studies</i> Special issue article: Sex, Consumption and the City 2017, Vol. 54(3) 633–648 <i>Urban Studies Journal Limited</i> 2015 DOI: 10.1177/0042098015612057 journals.sagepub.com/home/usj</p>	<p>This paper considers the different regulatory context in Sydney and London and the role of licensing, planning and environmental control departments in trying to legislate for legal land use for sex premises of various kinds.</p> <p>The authors point to the zoning of land for sex premises by “minor bureaucrats” instead of the police and often acting in silos from the police and each other.</p> <p>The authors refer to a social mainstreaming of sex as a legitimate leisure activity being mirrored in its inclusion in legal land use and therefore its movement from the urban periphery to commercial centres.</p> <p>There is discussion of “time” as well as “space” as many of these premises operate in the night time economy which may be out of kilter with other urban uses nearby. How SEVs should co-exist with other land uses is discussed in the context of a lack of reliable evidence on impact of such venues on their localities.</p> <p>Refers to LB Camden and Hackney which have nil limit SEV policies meaning no more SEVs can be opened despite in Hackney’s case there being no local objections. Refers to other Local Authorities restricting siting of SEVs near other areas of sensitive land use e.g. schools, housing, high street.</p> <p>The authors cite an example from North London of licensing and planning contradictorily awarding and refusing permission within a 2 week period for the same venue for a lap dancing club – planning approved, licensing refused.</p> <p>(The authors’ standpoint is that the legislation is imperfect and this leaves the regulation of SEVs open to “street level bureaucrats” as well as the state.)</p> <p>The authors explore attitudes and reactions to a ‘lap dance club’. The authors suggest that rather than criminal behaviour this type of premise engenders moral disgust and that judgements are subject to social class and gender.</p> <p>The authors’ study revealed that SEVs were not a major cause of distress to local residents, but a significant minority (~1 in 10) claimed to always avoid walking near such venues: women were significantly overrepresented in this group, suggesting the presence of sexual entertainment in the night-time city does have important gendered effects. The study found women were more likely to note, and comment on, the presence of lap dance clubs than men but that this was more related to questions of morality and disgust than fear, with SEVs’ contribution to criminal and</p>	<p>Time use of SEVs may conflict with other local land uses and limits can be set of opening SEVs near areas of sensitive land use (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>There is a lack of reliable evidence of impact of lap dancing clubs on their localities (Hubbard, 2015 cited in Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>Local Authorities may set a nil limit despite no local objections (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>The legislation is imperfect and unclear and there may be differences of view between, for example planning and licensing (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p>
SEV B2	<p>Hubbard, P. and Colosi, R. (2015) Respectability, morality and disgust in the night-time economy: exploring reactions to ‘lap dance’ clubs in England and Wales, <i>The Sociological Review</i>, Vol. 63, 782–800 (2015) DOI: 10.1111/1467-954X.12278</p>	<p>Women may be more aware of lap dancing clubs than men and may consciously choose walking routes to avoid this type of premise.</p> <p>There is a reasonable consensus about sensitive sites where SEVs should not be placed. Not near schools/nurseries 83% Not near universities/colleges 46% Not near religious sites 65% Not near shops 45% Not in residential areas 97%</p>	<p>Women may be more aware of lap dancing clubs than men and may consciously choose walking routes to avoid this type of premise.</p> <p>There is a reasonable consensus about sensitive sites where SEVs should not be placed. Not near schools/nurseries 83% Not near universities/colleges 46% Not near religious sites 65% Not near shops 45% Not in residential areas 97%</p>

		<p>antisocial behaviour deemed less significant than that of clubs, pubs or takeaways.</p> <p>The authors debate views about lap dancing and links to gender based violence and exploitation of women versus narratives of female empowerment and social class.</p> <p>The authors debate whether the clubs add to or take away from vibrancy and discuss a "moral geography" of appropriate sites for SEVs. Signage and names were significant here with a view that clubs should be "low key". However, blacked out windows can also make passers-by feel uncomfortable.</p> <p>Study participants associated SEVs with undesirable characteristics such as binge drinking, drug using, loitering, noise and other anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The authors discuss views of customers of SEVs being threatening and risky and contrast this with the low number of reports of serious sexual assault.</p> <p>The authors discuss views of staff (dancers) in SEVs as being motivated to work there by necessity or coercion versus it being emancipatory. There were also concerns that women would be asked or pressurised to go beyond dancing and perform sexual acts. There were further concerns about human trafficking associated with SEVs. There was a consensus of opinion that SEVs were exploitative of women.</p> <p>(The authors' standpoint appears to be that the views of participants are motivated by traditional views of class, masculinity and femininity and "othering" of customers and staff in SEVs).</p> <p>This article deals with the planning and licensing powers held by local authorities which allow discretion to prevent SEVs operating in specific localities, particularly those undergoing, or anticipated to be undergoing, redevelopment and regeneration.</p> <p>This is usually based on site sensitivity/sensitive land uses or future land uses e.g. a university building <i>will be</i> built in this area in future. This can mean that license renewal for an SEV can be refused if local land use changes.</p> <p>Refers to LA s choosing to set a 'nil limit' on SEVs through policy due to a view that there are no localities where SEVs are suitable or choosing to limit SEV proximity</p>	<p>Signage and names (particularly more explicit) can have a particular impact with a preference for these being low key and discreet.</p> <p>SEV customers behaviour outside the clubs may cause concerns regarding anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>SEV customers may be viewed as threatening and risky. Within the context of very low reporting of sexual assault, the lack of reporting of serious sexual assault may not be significant to dispute this fear.</p> <p>There was a consensus of opinion from participants in the research that SEVs were exploitative of women.</p>
SEV B3	Hubbard, P. (2015) Law, sex and the city: regulating sexual entertainment venues in England and Wales, <i>International Journal of Law in the Built Environment</i> /2015 - Volume 7/Issue 1, 1 April, 5-20		<p>Locality suitability and sensitive land use can be reasons for refusing a license.</p> <p>Suggestion that higher rate of criminality around SEVs is due to their location in high crime neighbourhood's rather than the presence of the SEV per se and ditto being sited in lower value areas rather than directly contributing to lower house prices.</p> <p>A change in the nature of a locality can make</p>

		<p>near areas of sensitive land use such as schools, religious facilities, shopping districts, "family" housing and any facilities which might routinely be used by children. (Hubbard and Colosi, 2015).</p> <p>Refers to the use of licensing conditions to limit the hours of opening and general operation of the club.</p> <p>Refers to SEVs not being defined in the Use Classes Order in England and Wales therefore a change of residential to business use as an SEV will require planning permission.</p> <p>Licensing and planning are not concerned with morality, but instead only with valid material considerations (i.e. the visual appearance of a development, its impact on the setting and potential environmental nuisance).</p> <p>SEVs are being removed from particular localities where they are "out of place", not because the local authority is opposed to sexual entertainment <i>per se</i>.</p> <p>(The author's standpoint appears to be that legitimate businesses are being de-prioritised for land use compared to other land uses such as universities and that this is unfair. The author's standpoint appears to be that SEVs do not impact land values any more than treatment services for drugs and alcohol for example and therefore are being unfairly targeted. The author is concerned about how elected members on Licensing Committees may be influenced by the views of local people.)</p> <p>The authors argue that attitudes have changed over past decade of how "sexual consumption" is visible in the city and describe how views about what belongs where in urban space can shape local policy. They cite examples of SEV businesses being refused because of wanting to enter into new urban territory with no tradition of SEVs. The authors explore the mainstreaming of sex retailing and emergence of female oriented "high street" shops for lingerie and sex toys.</p> <p>(Authors' standpoint is that sexuality impacts on perceptions of urban space and shapes orientation to urban space)</p>	<p>nuisance more likely to be experienced by local residents for example a new school being built in an area with existing SEVs and this can be a reason to refuse license renewal.</p> <p>Licensing conditions can be used to limit hours of opening and general operation – what the author describes as creating a "restrictive environment" for SEVs.</p> <p>Change of use class requires planning permission – an HIA screen should be completed on a request for change of use to an SEV.</p>
SEV B 4	<p>Hubbard, P., Collins, A., Gorman-Murray, A., (2016) Introduction: Sex, consumption and commerce in the contemporary city <i>Urban Studies</i> 2017, Vol. 54(3) 567–581 Urban Studies Journal Limited 2016 DOI:10.1177/0042098016682685journals.sagepub.com/home/usj</p>		<p>Makes economic arguments for SEVs etc as legitimate businesses which may struggle to break into urban territory where they are seen as not rightly belonging but notes that social attitudes change over time.</p>
SEV B5 SEV B6	<p>Duplicate of SEV B4 Sanders, T., Hardy, K., Campbell, R. (2015) Regulating Strip-Based</p>	<p>The authors explore how the voices of other stakeholders (community and campaign groups) have been given precedence over the dancers in SEVs and how by involving dancers in policy development and regulation can lead to better inclusion of dancer welfare and safety.</p>	<p>Dancers need to be consulted as key stakeholders and informants on the industry.</p>

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<p>Entertainment: Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy and the Ex/Inclusion of Dancers' Perspectives and Needs, <i>Social Policy & Society</i> (2015) 14:1, 83–92C <i>Cambridge University Press</i> 2014 doi:10.1017/S1474746414000323</p>	<p>The authors aim is to explore everyday practices in the stripping industry to inform the policy agenda. The authors state that former dancers experience – particularly those with negative experiences of exploitation and degradation in the industry – have informed policy development but that current dancers or collectives of dancers have not been involved. This lack of user involvement is at odds with other arenas of policy development work and further excludes and marginalises dancers.</p> <p>The comments from the dancers include feelings that those making policy were at arm's length from and had no understanding of the industry, concern over the loss of employment/earnings from those who depend on the industry if nil policy is set, and concerns that dancers would be viewed/labelled as sex workers and this would impact on future prospects. There were concerns about clubs/dancers offering "extras" of sexual services which increases pressure on dancers at legitimate SEVS and concerns that the proliferation of clubs would lower quality.</p> <p>The project detailed some financial exploitation of dancers by SEV management – fines for chewing gum, mobile phone use, fees for missing a shift and house fees per shift which left dancers out of pocket.</p> <p>The project sought to ensure that safety and welfare concerns raised by dancers were included in licensing policy with some success, the types of measures requested included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No penalty for sickness, domestic emergencies of dancers - Limit on the number of dancers per club (due to dancers concerns that too many were employed to charge "house fees" where there were not enough customers to earn back house fees) - Adequate changing and kitchen facilities for dancers, heating and air conditioning - Provision of free water - Booths for private dances to have safety measures such as not being entirely screened off, managers having line of sight to booths and having panic buttons; - Measures for dancers safety at the end of late night shifts such as escort to own vehicle or taxi contract with reputable firm; <p>Some of these measures – particularly measures on booths, fines and changing facilities – were adopted by Local Authorities including Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and London Boroughs.</p>	<p>Dancers express concerns that some clubs/dancers offer "extras" and this increases pressure on dancers from customers.</p> <p>Dancers express concerns that a proliferation of clubs will lower quality (bad management, bad practice).</p> <p>Dancers requested welfare measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No penalty for sickness, domestic emergencies of dancers - Limit on the number of dancers per club (due to dancers concerns that too many were employed to charge "house fees" where there were not enough customers to earn back house fees) - Adequate changing and kitchen facilities for dancers, heating and air conditioning - Provision of free water - Booths for private dances to have safety measures such as not being entirely screened off, managers having line of sight to booths and having panic buttons; - Measures for dancers safety at the end of late night shifts such as escort to own vehicle or taxi contract with reputable firm; <p>Some were adopted by Local Authorities.</p> <p>The project created a resource for dancers is available through an iPhone App and website: http://www.dancersinfo.co.uk/.</p> <p>Key 'top tips' written by dancers has been translated into Romanian, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish and Russian. This resource has been used by Local Authorities including Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds.</p> <p>In this US cross sectional study, over 1/3 of young</p>
<p>SEV B7</p>	<p>Decker, M. R., Nail, J.E.,</p>	<p>This cross-sectional US study examines intimate partner violence (IPV) and client violence in</p>

<p>female exotic dancers working for 6 months or less 36% reported intimate partner violence and 16% reported client physical or sexual violence in the 6 months prior to the survey.</p> <p>Survey participants preferred to seek help regarding client violence from within venues from club management than from criminal justice agencies and helplines</p> <p>Workplace violence is a health and safety issue and regulators could engage and support club management to know about local resources and allow in-reach and develop violence prevention strategies.</p> <p>“Regulation for exotic dance venues may be able to include provisions for staff training on available violence support resources and passive strategies such as posting relevant information.”</p> <p>“The high prevalence of recent violence in our sample, coupled with the low intentions to seek help, argue for dedicated outreach to adult women involved in the sex industry as exotic dancers for safety promotion and access to prevention and care, particularly those who are also involved in the sex trade”</p> <p>Financial factors were the main driving force to work in the sex industry.</p> <p>A key finding of the study indicated that students were a core supply source providing dancers into the adult entertainment/stripping industry due to the ability to combine stripping work with the demands of educational courses, due to the flexibility it offered.</p> <p>The industry depends on students as temporary</p>	<p>relation to female exotic dancers who have been dancing for 6 months or less. 36% reported IPV and 16% client violence. Both forms of violence were correlated with arrest, sex trade, substance use, and childhood abuse.</p> <p>In the multivariate model, sex trade was the only factor significantly associated with recent client violence (AOR 4.45, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.59, 12.41).</p> <p>In the multivariate model, sex work history was the only factor significantly associated with recent IPV (AOR 3.13, 95% CI 1.08, 9.03)</p> <p>Female exotic dancers preferred to seek help from the venue management than from police or helplines (mean score 4.51 with a range of 1 to 5; higher score indicative of more likely to seek help from a given source). The study stratifies variations in help seeking behaviour across substance misuse, sex trade, arrest histories and childhood abuse.</p> <p>“Trading sex may enable client-perpetrated abuse in EDC settings in which sex work is illegal. Women who trade sex may be in more intimate and isolated situations with clients in which violence may emerge more privately, as compared with the public spaces within venues where dancers entertain clients without sexual services”.</p> <p>“The regulation of the exotic dance industry makes violence in this setting an occupational health and safety issue”.</p> <p>“Within the work environment, women may make difficult safety trade-offs in the context of economic need or to sustain the biological demands of addiction”.</p> <p>Caveats about transferability of this research to Sheffield: the study is conducted in Baltimore, MD, an urban setting characterized by a high HIV burden [30], a robust drug economy, entrenched poverty, and historic and sustained constraints on accessing justice [31].</p> <p>A large Mixed methods study of striptease industry in UK, in two cities one North and one South covering 20 SEVs and survey with 197 dancers (some interviewer-administered and some via striptease website) with a further 70 qualitative interviews with a range of staff including security and managers as well as regulatory staff.</p> <p>1/3 of dancers were under the age of 25 and 73.5% were under 25 when they started dancing.</p> <p>Changing attitudes and the rise of ‘respectability’ in sexual commerce; the ‘pleasure dynamic’ amongst students; and changes in the higher education structure were all factors explored by the authors.</p>	<p>Lim, S., Footer, K., Davis, W., Sherman, S. G., (2017) Client and Partner Violence Among Urban Female Exotic Dancers and Intentions for Seeking Support and Justice, <i>Journal of Urban Health</i> 94:637–647 DOI 10.1007/s11524-017-0195-5.</p> <p>Sanders, T., & Hardy, K., (2015) Students selling sex: higher education and consumption, <i>British Journal of Sociology of Education</i>, 36:5, 747-765, DOI: 10.1080/01425692.2013.854596</p>
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<p>workers who provide a key source of labour when clubs are at their busiest.</p> <p>The competition between dancers, because there were so many compared with the level of custom, meant that dancers were reducing the standards and breaking the rules persistently. More clubs/dancers could lead to pressure on women to provide extras. This is a pertinent finding in relation to issues of caps on the number of SEV premises licenses in any area.</p>	<p>Cites research from Cardiff, Wales in 2011 of more than half of "escorts" being students and 1/6 of those in off street sex trade</p> <p>Although undergraduate students made up the largest proportion of dancers in education, others were pursuing qualifications and career plans by taking private courses e.g. beauty.</p> <p>The survey found that 34% of dancers reported working in another area of the sex industry (including other dance roles such as freelance and agency dancing).</p> <p>"The empirical work discussed in this paper supports these ideas that students are increasingly part of a culture of sexual consumption: both as providers in the form of sex workers and as consumers in the form of purchasing sex and other forms of sexual consumption through fashion, media, leisure and consumer goods. Stripping as a form of consumption and labour is increasingly acceptable because there is arguably less stigma attached to the industry".</p> <p>A cross sectional survey of a sample of 200 full and part time students (predominantly full time students) from 29 UK universities indicated that around 6% (2.7%–9.3%) of the sample was currently working in the sex industry – in erotic dancing, stripping or escorting, with significant numbers of both male and female students also involved in purchasing and using sexual services.</p> <p>Students engaging in sex work as a flexible income generator whilst studying has increased over the past decade.</p> <p>Small numbers from the sample were involved in sex work of any type with sexual entertainment (pole/lap/table/topless/erotic dancing) 4% (n=8) being the most common occupation followed by stripping 2.5% (n=5). Of the 12 respondents who reported engaging in some kind of sex work, all but one were female. The male responder reported stripping.</p> <p>There was some indication that those involved in sex work were more likely to have experienced childhood sexual abuse and to have a current alcohol problem.</p> <p>Prior debt was statistically significant to predict engagement with sex work of any kind after controlling for variables.</p> <p>A logistic model, comprising full-/part-time status, debt status, amount of debt and degree of illicit drug use, was constructed to predict sex-work consumption. This model was significant and had an acceptable fit with the data.</p>	<p>Ron Roberts , Amy Jones & Teela Sanders (2013) Students and sex work in the UK: providers and purchasers, Sex Education, 13:3, 349-363, DOI: 10.1080/14681811.2012.744304</p>
<p>There is agreement that student debt and impoverishment is contributing to the growing involvement in the sex industry. The study adds weight to previous studies which show financial factors as being a major driving force behind student participation in the sexual economy. Those engaged in sex work were more likely to be in debt prior to their studies and to be part-time students, with part-time status once again no longer significant with debt controlled for.</p> <p>"Findings from studies of students and the sex industry have implications for policy, which must take seriously the relationship between debt in students and supply routes into the sex industry". The authors reiterate the role of those that have a duty of care and benefit from their presence (the universities).</p> <p>Debt and illicit drug use were predictive of student consumption of sex work.</p>	<p>SEV 1-25 below are sourced from search terms "sex industry + health" through Starplus</p>	

SEV 1	Christina Mancini a, Amy Reckenwald b, Eric Beauregard c, Jill S. Levensond (2014) Sex industry exposure over the life course on the onset and frequency of sex offending Journal of Criminal Justice	<p>"Broadly, results suggest that adolescent exposure to the sex industry was associated with a younger age of onset sex offending among sex offenders. Findings indicate less consistency for the models examining the frequency of sex offending; some adult exposures influenced greater frequency in offending, but three were not predictive. Not least, results from an ancillary set of models suggest that adolescent exposure affected the "start" of sex offending careers, but not necessarily the duration of offending".</p> <p>"In short, two competing bodies of scholarship examining the sex industry exist. One finds support for the social learning theory, or the "imitation" effects of the sex industry. The other literature suggests null or cathartic impacts. To be clear, both bodies of research are underdeveloped."</p> <p>Caveat: US Context – may not be directly transferable to Sheffield or UK. This was a retrospective design with convicted male sex offenders (n=616)</p>	Exposure to the sex industry is associated with a younger age of onset of sex offending but not necessarily frequency or duration of offending.
SEV 2	Gillian M. Abela* and Lisa J. Fitzgeraldb 'The street's got its advantages': Movement between sectors of the sex industry in a decriminalised environmentHealth, Risk & Society Vol. 14, No. 1, February 2012, 7–23	<p>This article deals with perceptions of risk and trade offs between risk and earnings in choosing street work/unmanaged sex work with higher earnings possible through street work. The article advises that stringent regulatory practices on street work are unrealistic and will place this vulnerable segment of the sex worker population at greater risk.</p> <p>Caveats: The findings are drawn from a survey of 772 sex workers and in-depth qualitative interviews with 58 sex workers in New Zealand. New Zealand, where prostitution is decriminalised may not be transferable to Sheffield or UK context</p>	<p>Article excludes sexual entertainment and focuses on direct sex work so has less to offer in terms of key messages. However, motivation for street work of maximising income retained may be relevant in understanding motivation for outdoor work compared to indoor work.</p> <p>Further, the incentives of higher income through riskier practice in a competitive market is transferable in the context of lifting the cap on the number of SEVs. The preference of some workers for higher earnings in a deregulated market is also notable for policy makers.</p>
SEV 3	Fairleigh Evelyn Gilmour (2016) Work Conditions and Job Mobility in the Australian Indoor Sex Industry Otago University Sociological Research Online, 21 (4), 14 < http://www.socresonline.org.uk/21/4/14.html > DOI: 10.5153/sro.4166	<p>This study conducted 14 in depth interviews with female sex workers and former sex workers. The article focuses on indoor direct sex industry – brothel work.</p> <p>The study explores the concepts of job flexibility and mobility in the sex industry and argues that the availability of increased options in a decriminalized setting leads to greater potential for workers to negotiate improved working conditions.</p> <p>Financial need was the main reason for entering the industry.</p> <p>The average age of entry into sex work was 23.</p> <p>Women valued what they perceived as better pay and working conditions from sex work compared to traditional job roles for women.</p> <p>5/14 participants (just over 1/3) in the study had mental health difficulties prior to entering sex work and saw flexibility of the job as a benefit.</p>	<p>Job mobility and flexibility within the industry emerge as the key benefits with single parents and students particularly viewing flexibility of working hours as key. Mobility allows staff to move away from poor working conditions with relative ease.</p> <p>Financial need (due to benefit changes and broader economic pressures) was the main reasons for entering the industry with more traditional jobs such as nursing, hospitality and retail being either unavailable because of lack of experience and references or conditions considered to be poor.</p> <p>The average age of entry into sex work was 23.</p>

	<p>Participants perceived the rise in high-risk services (no condom) being offered as being due to increasing competition of both more women and more brothels.</p> <p>There was some discussion about self-employed status of women being a means of brothel managers avoiding employer responsibility for superannuation and sick pay.</p> <p>There was some discussion of pressure to perform unsafe practices by managers and the difficulties in refusing particularly for migrant women or drug using women.</p> <p>Caveats: The study is set in Australia in the direct sex industry and therefore is not completely transferable to SEV in the UK.</p>	<p>1/3 of study participants (n=5) had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry.</p> <p>Participants perceived that competition between premises and individual workers for income led to more high risk services.</p>
SEV 4	<p>ANKLESARIA, A., and GENTILE, J.P (2012) Psychotherapy with women who have worked in the sex industry <i>Innov Clin Neurosci</i>. 2012;9(10):27–33</p>	<p>The most prevalent mental health symptoms of women working in the industry (including SEV) were anxiety and depression (mood disorders) alongside substance misuse addiction. PTSD is widespread in this group and linked to childhood abuse or sex industry trauma.</p>
SEV 5	<p>Victoria Powell and Eva Karlson (2017) Sex industry regulation, Sex Worker Health and STI/HIV prevention, <i>Sex Transm Infect</i>, 93: A6 doi: 10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.14</p>	<p>Decriminalisation of the sex industry provides optimal conditions for STI/HIV prevention.</p> <p>Under decriminalisation New South Wales sex workers have better access to healthcare and STI/HIV education and prevention tools including free, confidential and anonymous sexual health services as well as peer-led services. Higher rates of safer sex, lower rates of STIs and improved Workplace Health and Safety were also evident, while in other jurisdictions sex workers continue to face barriers to treatment and other health services and often work outside legal frameworks.</p>
SEV 6	<p>A Reeves, S Steele, D Stuckler, M McKee, A Amato-Gauci and JC Semenza (2017) Gender violence, poverty and HIV infection risk among persons engaged in the sex industry: cross-national analysis of the political economy of sex markets in 30 European and</p>	<p>Decriminalisation is the optimal regulatory model and is supported by the UNFPA, UNDP, UNAIDS, WHO and Amnesty International as critical to HIV prevention and for human rights.</p> <p>Reducing poverty and exposure to gender violence may help reduce HIV infection amongst people involved in the sex industry.</p> <p>Countries with higher violence against women may have higher HIV rates amongst female sex workers (there is an association between the two). HIV prevalence among sex workers was most closely associated with the experience of violence in the last 12 months.</p>

	<p>The authors look beyond individual factors and interventions e.g. educating and empowering sex workers to carry and use condoms, to structural factors e.g. condom carrying being used as evidence that a crime is being committed or economic pressures impacting on condom use as condomless sex carries a higher price.</p> <p>"This article explores the silencing effect of conflating prostitution with sex trafficking, the ways in which sex workers might contribute to addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children as "allies," and the ethical responsibility of social workers in anti-trafficking work."</p> <p>Caveats: The article is from a US context</p>	<p>HIV prevalence amongst sex workers was lower in countries where the income of the poorest was comparatively higher.</p> <p>Notes the importance of distinguishing between forced involuntary prostitution and voluntary commercial sex work. Notes the positive role of peers in screening for trafficking.</p> <p>The takeaway message for policy makers is to be clear about what type of activities in the commercial sex industry your policy is designed for and be clear when using evidence from one context about whether it is transferable – particularly, not to use evidence of sex trafficking when speaking of all commercial sex work.</p>	
SEV 7	<p>Central Asian countries DOI: 10.1111/hiv.12520 HIV Medicine (2017), 18, 748–755, © 2017 British HIV Association</p> <p>Kathleen Ja Sook Bergquist, (2015) Criminal, Victim, or Ally? Examining the Role of Sex Workers in Addressing MinorSex Trafficking, Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work, Vol. 30(3) 314-327</p>	<p>Not relevant to SEV and Sheffield as predominantly focussed on interactions of immigration staff at the border and women.</p>	
SEV 8	<p>Sharon Pickering and Julie Ham (2014) HOT PANTS AT THE BORDER <i>Sorting Sex Work from Trafficking</i> BRIT. J. CRIMINOL. (2014) 54, 2–19 Advance Access publication 29 October 2013</p>	<p>This article concerns the use of a supported housing programme for women which included an approach of harm reduction for women in the sex trade, including the ability to use the building to see clients during managed hours of operation as well as health in-reach services including for addiction and ARVs.</p> <p>"Women's accounts indicated that unsanctioned indoor sex work environments promoted increased control over negotiating sex work transactions, including the capacity to refuse unwanted services, negotiate condom use, and avoid violent perpetrators. Despite the lack of formal legal and policy support for indoor sex work venues in Canada, the environmental-structural supports afforded by these unsanctioned indoor sex work environments, including surveillance cameras and support from staff or police in removing violent clients, were linked to improved police relationships and facilitated the institution of informal peer-safety mechanisms.</p> <p>This study has drawn attention to the potential role of safer indoor sex work environments as venues for public health and violence prevention interventions and has indicated the critical importance of removing the sociolegal barriers preventing the formal implementation of such</p>	<p>This study supports other studies which demonstrate that indoor work environments are safer and that indoor environments where police and health professionals are allies to working women provide the best structural support for women's safety.</p> <p>The takeaway message for policy makers is that indoor work environments where in reach from police and health can take place are generally safer than outdoor sex work.</p>
SEV 9	<p>Andrea Krüsi, MSc, Jill Chettiar, Amelia Ridgway, BSW, Janice Abbott, BA, Steffanie A. Strathdee, , and Kate Shannon, Negotiating Safety and Sexual Risk Reduction With Clients in Unsanctioned Safer Indoor Sex Work Environments: A Qualitative Study American Journal of Public Health June 2012, Vol 102, No. 6</p>	<p>This study has drawn attention to the potential role of safer indoor sex work environments as venues for public health and violence prevention interventions and has indicated the critical importance of removing the sociolegal barriers preventing the formal implementation of such</p>	

	<p>programs.” (Caveat: Canadian policy and cultural context may be different from UK)</p>	<p>This study is interesting because the indoor environment is a supported housing complex for working women rather than a sex industry setting. The authors explore the evidence base around trafficking and are concerned by the lack of rigour of some studies – the takeaway message for policy makers is that not all evidence is equally valid, reliable and robust, and that over-generalisations particularly should be avoided. Sex work is over-represented in trafficking convictions compared to its prevalence (25% of trafficking prevalence and 92% of convictions). Argues that policy should focus on resources and rights for workers and sex work be viewed in the same moral space as other paid work, avoiding a moral bias.</p>	
SEV 10	<p>Discussed the evidence about the sex industry and policies on sex work and human trafficking and urges activists and policy makers to listen. The article argues not to conflate sex work with trafficking and to view sex work, like all paid employment as a complicated continuum of power, coercion and agency. “One quarter (~25%) of estimated trafficking victims globally are in the sex industry, but constitute nearly all of the convictions (92%) for human trafficking” – prosecutions over-represent sex industry victims compared to the 8% convictions concerned with the 75% working in domestic or agricultural labour. The authors argue that this is an anti-sex work bias. Argues that any form of criminalisation and aggressive policing can lead to harm for those in the sex trade. Argues for resources and rights rather than rescue and criminalisation.</p>	<p>Lerum, K., Brents, B. G., (2016) Sociological Perspectives on Sex Work and Human Trafficking, <i>Sociological Perspectives</i> 2016, Vol. 59(1) 17–26 © The Author(s) 2016 Reprints and permissions: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628550 spx.sagepub.com</p>	
SEV 11	<p>The authors reviewed evidence from more than 800 studies and reports on the burden and HIV implications of human rights violations against sex workers. There were widespread abuses of human rights perpetrated by both state and non-state actors and these directly and indirectly increase HIV susceptibility, and undermine effective HIV-prevention and intervention efforts. “Violations include homicide; physical and sexual violence, from law enforcement, clients, and intimate partners; unlawful arrest and detention; discrimination in accessing health services; and forced HIV testing”. Abuses occur across all policy regimes – the article looks at both Iran where selling sex carries the death penalty, partial criminalisation in Brazil and “end demand” policies in Sweden - although most profoundly where sex work is criminalised through punitive law. Where sex work is legalised this is associated with mandatory testing regimes for STIs and some workers evade these and resist registration creating a two tier system where only registered workers can access health and support</p>	<p><i>Michele R Decker, Anna-Louise Crago, Sandra K H Chu, Susan G Sherman, Meena S Seshu, Kholi Buthlezi, Mandeep Dhaliwal, Chris Beyrer</i> (2015) Human rights violations against sex workers: burden and effect on <i>HIV Lancet</i> 2015; 385: 186–99 Published Online July 22, 2014 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)60800-X</p>	<p>Criminalisation of sex work provides “ideal conditions” for human rights violations to occur and the least desirable conditions in which to address HIV transmission. However legalisation and zones of tolerance also have flaws. Rights based responses for sex workers provide the best conditions for HIV work with this marginalised group. The article refers to reforms to policy and practice to assure safe working conditions, access to police protection instead of abusive and discriminatory treatment, and equality and non-discrimination in accessing health</p>

		<p>services. Legalisation does not assure rights-based law enforcement practices and does not eliminate violence against sex workers (examples of Switzerland). Zones of tolerance approaches in Hungary facilitated police abuse of sex workers.</p> <p>New Zealand and New South Wales in Australia are the only jurisdictions that operate under full decriminalisation— ie, where sex work is not penalised through punitive laws, and regulation is premised on worker health and safety, and comparable to that for similar forms of labour. Decriminalisation improved police attitudes towards sex workers, and prompted them to notify sex workers of potential attackers. Police liaisons designated to work with sex workers on abuse issues also improved safety.</p> <p>The article warns against the conflation of sex work with trafficking – in global settings this has led to human rights abuse such as mass incarceration. Sex worker rights and anti-trafficking are not oppositional and an example from Calcutta (sic) is given of the involvement of sex workers in screening for trafficked women.</p> <p>Protection of sex workers is essential to respect, protect, and meet their human rights, and to improve their health and wellbeing. Research findings affirm the value of rights-based HIV responses for sex workers, and underscore the obligation of states to uphold the rights of this marginalised population”.</p> <p>Sex worker organising generates some of the most crucial and effective work on health and human rights, yet is severely underfunded. Less than 1% of funding on HIV prevention is spent on HIV and sex work, and even less is directed towards sex workers’ organisations.</p> <p>Caveats: This article takes a global perspective and findings may not be generalizable to the UK or Sheffield.</p>	<p>services. However, Sex worker self-organisation is severely underfunded from global HIV funding.</p> <p>Conflation of sex work with trafficking is inconsistent with the best available evidence.</p>
SEV 12	<p>Bellhouse C, Crebbin S, Fairley CK, Bilardi JE (2015) The Impact of Sex Work on Women’s Personal Romantic Relationships and the Mental Separation of Their Work and Personal Lives: A Mixed-Methods Study. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0141575. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141575</p>	<p>Research conducted to understand impact of sex work on women’s personal romantic relationships.</p> <p>“Most women (78%) reported that, overall, sex work affected their personal romantic relationships in predominantly negative ways, mainly relating to issues stemming from lying, trust, guilt and jealousy. A small number of women reported positive impacts from sex work including improved sexual self-esteem and confidence. Just under half of women were in a relationship at the time of the study and, of these, 51% reported their partner was aware of the nature of their work. Seventy-seven percent of single women chose to remain single due to the nature of their work. Many women used mental separation as a coping mechanism to manage the tensions between sex work and their personal relationships”.</p> <p>Findings very pertinent to health professionals, such as the distinction between work-sex and private sexual relationships meaning most women did not use condoms in personal sexual relationships. Other findings of relevance to mental health concern separation of work and home life through manufactured identity, ritual and emotional distance.</p>	<p>Study concerns indoor sex work in brothels, massage parlours and as call girls rather than sexual entertainment so findings may not be transferable but the main finding is that overall sex work had a negative impact on the personal sexual relationships of working women.</p>
SEV 13	<p>Wahab, S., and Panichelli, M. (2013) Ethical and</p>	<p>The article deals specifically with prostitution and diversion from prostitution using forms of coercion such as criminal justice community sentences or orders and access to health services being contingent</p>	<p>Those who develop “exit programmes” from sex work should not make access to</p>

<p>SEV 14</p>	<p>Human Rights Issues in Coercive Interventions With Sex Workers <i>Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work</i> 28(4) 344-349 a The Author(s) 2013 Reprints and permission: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0886109913505043 aff.sagepub.com</p>	<p>on participation in exit programmes. The article argues that this is not ethical for social workers to be involved in and is a form of structural violence against minorities.</p>	<p>health and support services contingent upon exit.</p>
<p>Page 132</p>	<p>Patton, R., Snyder, A., Glassman, M., (2013) Rethinking substance abuse treatment with sex workers: How does the capability approach inform practice? <i>Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment</i> 45 (2013) 196–205</p>	<p>Article argues that sex workers need a different approach to substance misuse treatment than non sex workers. 1710 (25.5%) of the sample of 6716 had a history of sex work. 20% of the whole sample reported ever having attempted suicide which rose to 30.7% for sex workers (SW). 22.2% (44.7% SW) of respondents reported ever experiencing sexual violation and 32.6% (49.8 % SW) stated they had ever experienced physical violation. Within the sample, 64.2% of participants reported they were very unhappy or somewhat unhappy with life which rose to 72.3% of sex workers. Among the sample, 15.7% reported a history of child sexual abuse (30.2 %SW) and 18.8% answered affirmatively to ever experiencing child physical abuse (24.8 %SW) For the subsample of sex workers , 53.1% of the respondents reported that crack/ cocaine was their DOC, 19.2% reported that heroin was their DOC, and 12.4% stated that alcohol was their DOC. “These findings suggest that certain capabilities differentiate between sex workers and non-sex workers within a substance abusing sample; challenges to life, bodily health, bodily integrity, emotions, practical reason, and control over one’s environment were all found to be significantly associated with sex work involvement.”</p>	<p>The article is concerned with prostitution rather than SEV but some findings are similar to other studies in terms of mental health and historical childhood abuse. Addiction in-reach commissioned into SEV and other sex industry should be tailored to the cohort, “they may need more intensive or different services compared to other substance abusers” . Mental health and suicide prevention staff should be aware of the high prevalence of prior suicide attempts (1 in 3) amongst this sample which are three times as high as attempted suicide in the general population of 1 in 15 (mental health.org.uk). Domestic abuse and sexual violence organisations should note the higher prevalence of sexual violation, physical violation and historic childhood abuse amongst female sex workers in this sample.</p>

SEV 15	<p>Minichiello et al. BMC Public Health (2015) 15:282 DOI 10.1186/s12889-015-1498-7</p> <p>Minichiello, V., Scott, J., and Callander, D. (2015). A new public health context to understand male sex work. BMC Public Health (2015) 15:282</p>	<p>Article takes a global view of male sex work, STIs and HIV, and the role of technology in particular online communities. Considers transactional sex in some economies e.g. wealthy women tourists forming romantic attachments with local men where the men do not consider themselves to be sex workers and women do not consider themselves to be sex tourists as well as the predominantly MSM MSW in global contexts.</p> <p>Information technology has changed the way the sex industry is organised and this can include online negotiation and forums for riskier sexual practices (condomless sex) as well as more co-ordinated affiliations of sex workers in rights advocacy.</p>	<p>Not directly transferable to a Sheffield SEV context other than as regards the use of information technology as a positive means of linking workers with peers for rights advocacy as well as possible negative uses e.g. male customers online reviews of female sex workers' performance or use of online forums to seek riskier sexual practices for STIs.</p>
SEV 16	<p>Roxana Baratossy a, Sarah Wendt (2017) "Outdated Laws, OutspokenWhores": Exploring sex work in a criminalised setting Women's Studies International Forum 62 (2017) 34–42</p>	<p>This article explores the experiences of sex workers living and working in South Australia under laws that criminalise their profession.</p> <p>It was found that working in a criminalised setting raised particular concerns for sex workers including an erosion of workplace protections, outreach services, access to health service and increased policing.</p> <p>Sex workers advocate for decriminalisation as it has a growing evidence base showing it supports and maintains sexual health programs and has an effect on the course of HIV and other STI transmissions for sex workers when compared to other regulatory models.</p> <p>The Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS in their Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work (UNAIDS, 2012) concluded that countries should move away from criminalising sex work and promote the decriminalisation of sex work.</p> <p>Criminalisation can displace sex work into less populous areas which are perceived as less safe.</p> <p>Confiscation of condoms as evidence by police still occurs in Australia and this can lead to reluctance to carry condoms or have them on site. Police also take away condoms from street based sex workers to encourage them to stop working.</p> <p>It has been argued by sex worker groups that decriminalisation and the removal of criminal laws relating to adult sex work is the most effective legislative approach.</p> <p>The authors' literature review revealed that within a criminalised setting sex worker organisations experience difficulties in accessing sex workers on 'outreach' because the industry moves underground due to stigma and fear.</p> <p>The most prominent theme extracted from the interviews was police intervention within the</p>	<p>This article argues that criminalising sex work leads to human rights violations, therefore sex work should be decriminalised to ensure workers are protected. This is in line with sex workers' advocacy organisations views and the best evidence for HIV prevention (UNAIDS). The most common theme was police abuse of power when sex work is criminalised.</p> <p>Article warns about conflation of sex work and trafficking which has shifted attention away from other sectors such as the garment industry.</p>

	<p>industry, where each interviewee expressed concern with the 'policing' of the industry. As sex work is criminalised police enforce laws and it is common for police to take advantage of their power.</p> <p>This article articulates different ways in which the criminalisation of sex work disrupts sex worker safety and rights to health care.</p>		
SEV 17	<p>"Jennifer L. Syvertsen a,1, Angela M. Robertson a,1, María Luisa Rolón a,b,2, Lawrence A. Palinkas c,3, Gustavo Martínez d,4, M. Gudelia Rangel e,5, Steffanie A. Strathdee a,*Eyes that don't see, heart that doesn't feel": Coping with sex work in intimate relationships and its implications for HIV/STI Social Science & Medicine 87 (2013) 1e8 prevention</p>	<p>" Using qualitative data from a social epidemiology study of risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among female sex workers and their intimate, non-commercial male partners along the Mexico - U.S. border, we examined both partners' perspectives on sex work and the ways in which couples discussed associated HIV/STI risks in their relationship.</p> <p>Couples employed multiple strategies to cope with sex work, including psychologically disconnecting from their situation, telling "little lies," avoiding the topic, and to a lesser extent, superficially discussing their risks. While such strategies served to protect both partners' emotional health by upholding illusions of fidelity and avoiding potential conflict, non-disclosure of risk behaviors may exacerbate the potential for HIV/STI acquisition. Our work has direct implications for designing multi-level, couple-based health interventions.</p> <p>Caveats: US-Mexico border context, may not be directly transferable to Sheffield.</p>	<p>This article is of importance to those providing sexual health services to SW and non-SW partners of SW around STI risk.</p> <p>The article is specifically exchange of sex for money sex work so not directly transferable to SEVs.</p>
SEV 18	<p>Lutnick, A., Harris J., Lovrick, J., Cheng, H., Wenger, L. D., Bourgois, P., Kral, A. H., (2015) Examining the Associations Between Sex Trade Involvement, Rape, and Symptomatology of Sexual Abuse Trauma <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i> 2015, Vol. 30(11) 1847-1863 DOI: 10.1177/0886260514549051 jiv.sagepub.com</p>	<p>The high prevalence of rape and sexual trauma amongst women involved in the sex industry is well established. This article looks at a rape and sexual trauma experience amongst women who do and do not trade sex in a community based sample of 322 substance mis-using women (methamphetamine) in San Francisco, California, 61% of whom were involved in the sex trade.</p> <p>The authors found that urban poor women, regardless of sex trade involvement, suffer high levels of rape and related trauma symptomatology.</p> <p>Caveats: article focuses on a very specific sub sample of substance misusing women in the US.</p>	<p>This article deals with a very specific sample, of substance misusing women and found higher levels of rape and related trauma amongst this group regardless of sex trade involvement.</p>
SEV 19	<p>Rachel Phillips1, Cecilia Benoit1,2, Helga Hallgrimsdottir2 and Kate Vallance1 Courtesy stigma: a hidden health concern among</p>	<p>Article explores how stigma associated with vulnerable and marginalised groups can attach itself with those who work or volunteer with those groups, and how this influences turnover in those professions. The article deals with adult sex workers as a specific group and those who work with them and their experience of this form of stigma.</p> <p>Issues such as underfunding of the work and defending the value of the work were key issues of stress</p>	<p>This article provides insight into the role of paid and volunteer staff working with adult sex workers. The difficulty of providing meaningful services with limited resources is a key source of stress for staff and</p>

<p>front-line service providers to sex workers</p> <p>Sociology of Health & Illness Vol. 34 No. 5 2012 ISSN 0141-9889, pp. 681-696 doi: 10.1111/j.1467-9566.2011.01410.x</p>	<p>for staff and volunteers whereas meaningful engagement was a key positive. Underfunding of other services which created barriers when referring women for other support was also a source of stress.</p> <p>Not being able to talk openly with family and friends about their job for fear of disapproval or a reluctance to burden others with the tension that surrounds the work resulted in a sense of isolation for some workers.</p> <p>While the participants described the emotional rewards associated with providing front-line services, as well as a high degree of skill discretion and autonomy, the work was also described as very stressful, with stress and fatigue being commonly associated with a decision to leave the organisation. High levels of emotional exhaustion and a low sense of personal accomplishment were recorded.</p>	<p>volunteers and the role is isolating and stigmatised.</p> <p>This is pertinent for policy makers in terms of the expansion of SEV and sex industry and whether those involved in supporting those working in the industry are consulted as to whether services and staff will stretch.</p>
<p>SEV 20</p> <p>Jackson, C.A., (2016) Framing Sex Worker Rights: How U.S. Sex Worker Rights Activists Perceive and Respond to Mainstream Anti-Sex Trafficking Advocacy Sociological Perspectives 2016, Vol. 59(1) 27-45 DOI: 10.1177/073121416628553 spx.sagepub.com</p>	<p>Interviews with sex worker rights activists which (1) contest the labelling of sex workers as victims and (2) contest the accuracy and emotionality of stories and statistics used in mainstream anti-sex trafficking efforts. Argues that moral position of US policy is anti-sex work which creates a hostile environment for sex labour rights activism.</p> <p>The article argues that the dominant moral positions in the US are to incarcerate, rescue, rehabilitate or protect women working in the sex industry rather than invest in social welfare empowerment or public health programmes.</p> <p>Rights based activists argue that criminalising and stigmatising prostitution is a greater social problem than sexual labour itself.</p>	<p>Self-organised labour rights groups for sex workers (including sexual entertainment workers in this sample) may be disadvantaged as against other labour rights organisations due to moral views about the industry. Sex workers are marginalised workers in a stigmatised industry. Policy makers should ensure that the voice of workers in the industry is heard.</p> <p>The rights articulated include: the right to work safely—free from arrest, police harassment, and violence; free to report violence or theft; free to remain as a primary caretaker for a child/children; the right to leave sex work without identifying as a victim.</p> <p>Activists insist on the separation of sex work and coerced sex work through trafficking arguing that choice and agency make the difference in consensual sex work.</p> <p>Partnerships between public health, the police and the sex industry are key to preventing the spread of HIV. The</p>
<p>SEV 21</p>	<p>The article argues that criminalisation and regulatory control of sex work, and in particular certain negative police practices, can inhibit progress in combating the spread of HIV globally.</p>	

<p>Partnerships between Sex Workers and Police to Reduce HIV Risk and Promote Professionalization within Policing Institutions: A Realist Review. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0134900. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0134900</p>	<p>"Decriminalisation is widely regarded as the evidence-based model of sex industry regulation that best supports effective health promotion, public health outcomes, the human rights of sex workers and is the best practice model for the prevention of HIV and STIs." "The decriminalisation of sex work, particularly legalising the possession of condoms and the provision of managed sex work zones facilitate more effective HIV prevention programs." The example was given of the Asia Pacific region where apart from NSW and New Zealand, sex work is criminalised and police are often perpetrators of violence against sex workers, using criminalisation to extract bribes or free sexual services or targeting sex workers for arrest to fill arrest quotas. The need to promote partnerships between sex workers and police is also encouraged by various UN political declarations including UNESCAP Resolutions 66/10 and 67/9 but there is limited evidence of good practice in this area. The Ugly Mugs programme is a good case study of joint work between police and the industry to protect workers from abusive clients. "The review found that political and police leadership, civil society strengthening and police reform in relation to HIV, are critical factors and key ingredients in changing the enabling environment in which sex work takes place to ensure that HIV prevention, individual and public health as well as HIV prevention and the promotion of human rights are the number one priority. Further research into this relationship is needed to provide evidence for effective HIV programming with police."</p>	<p>regulatory framework around sex work can inhibit efforts to halt the spread of HIV such as the possession of condoms being used as evidence for arrest for sex work. The decriminalisation of sex work is currently regarded as the best practice model. This can include "zones of tolerance" for sex work where in each of sexual health services is more easily facilitated. Crackdowns have been demonstrated to displace rather than eliminate sex work and increase risk by pushing sex work into more isolated, less populous areas and away from health services. Fining women was shown to increase debt and increase frequency of sex work. The use of peer educators is viewed as positive in a number of global settings and a good relationship between peer educators and the police.</p>
<p>SEV 22 Steen R, Wheeler T, Gorgens M, Mziray E, Dallabetta G (2015) Feasible, Efficient and Necessary, without Exception – Working with Sex Workers Interrupts HIV/STI Transmission and Brings Treatment to Many in Need. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0121145. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0121145</p>	<p>Caveats: global and HIV/selling sex focus "High rates of partner change in sex work—whether in professional, 'transactional' or other context—disproportionately drive transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections." Decades of empirical evidence, extended by analyses in this collection, argue that protecting sex work is, without exception, feasible and necessary for controlling HIV/STI epidemics." The disproportionate burden of HIV borne by sex workers (globally) calls for expedited and facilitated access to appropriate services. Direct interventions should include peer-based outreach, condom programming and appropriate clinical services, and should be supported by structural interventions to reduce vulnerability, facilitate condom use and promote participation and ownership by sex workers. Programmes should prioritise coverage of overt, high-volume sex work as a first step to interrupting transmission and controlling epidemics. (Caveats: this paper takes a global view and generally focuses on countries which are resource poor and have a high HIV prevalence. The article focuses on selling sex rather than "no touch" SEV)</p>	<p>Sex work is an important driver of sexual transmission of HIV. Direct interventions should include peer-based outreach, condom programming and appropriate clinical services, and should be supported by structural interventions to reduce vulnerability, facilitate condom use and promote participation and ownership by sex workers.</p>
<p>SEV 23</p>	<p>Elena Shih (2016) Not in My "Backyard Abolitionism":</p>	<p>Conflation of sex work and trafficking can lead to disproportionate surveillance of</p>

	<p>Vigilante Rescue against American Sex Trafficking Sociological Perspectives 2016, Vol. 59(1) 66–90 DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628551 spx.sagepub.com</p>	<p>and policing of working class immigrant women in the state. The use of racial profiling and assumptions about criminal behaviour on the basis of race were noted.</p> <p>The author notes that moral positions about the legitimacy of sex work can assume that all commercial sex work is exploitative and non-consensual and that moral concern about the sex trade has led to a disproportionate focus on sex trafficking compared to other forms of trafficked human labour; this has led to punitive approaches to migrant women.</p> <p>The author raises concern that such non-state organisations as this acting in the state's interest draw resources away from labour rights, social welfare and social housing.</p>	<p>migrant women involved in the sex trade (including SEV) and further marginalise these women. Social welfare responses are preferred.</p>
<p>SEV 24</p>	<p><i>Stefan David Baral, M Reuel Friedman, Scott Geibel, Kevin Rebe, Borché Bozhinov, Daouda Diouf, Keith Sabin, Claire E Holland, Roy Chan, Carlos F Cáceres (2015) HIV and sex workers</i> Male sex workers: practices, contexts, and vulnerabilities for HIV acquisition and transmission <i>Lancet</i> 2015; 385: 260–73</p>	<p>“Male sex workers, irrespective of their sexual orientation, mostly offer sex to men and rarely identify as sex workers, using local or international terms instead. Growing evidence indicates a sustained or increasing burden of HIV among some male sex workers within the context of the slowing global HIV pandemic.”</p> <p>This group as a key population is underserved by current HIV prevention, treatment, and care services (globally). Men who sell sex represent a subset of individuals who have been mostly ignored to date in the context of the global response to HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Commercial heterosexual sex probably encompasses a small proportion of all commercial sex offered by men. HIV acquisition and transmission risks for men who sell sex only to women are also probably much lower than those affecting other male sex workers.</p> <p>Not defining as a sex worker can be a barrier to male sex workers accessing sex worker specific health services.</p> <p>Male sex workers may have lower HIV prevalence than other MSM due to a higher propensity to use condoms with non-paying partners – but this is a mixed picture globally. In one study male sex workers in Sydney, Australia had lower HIV prevalence than other MSM due to lower propensity for unprotected sex with non-paying partners. In China, similar lower HIV prevalence amongst “money boys” than other MSM is noted.</p> <p>Police abuse of male sex workers and evidence of condoms being used to prosecute complicates safer sex work with male sex workers.</p> <p>Caveats: this paper takes a global view, so findings although applicable and generalizable in global terms may not be specifically applicable to Sheffield or the UK. This paper is focussed on selling sex rather than sexual entertainment.</p> <p>Sex workers who inject drugs can acquire HIV through unprotected sex or syringe sharing.</p> <p>Sex workers who are alcohol or drug dependent are more likely to engage in transactions while under the influence of substances and might earn less per transaction.</p>	<p>Evidence-based and human rights affirming services dedicated specifically to male sex workers are needed to improve health outcomes for these men and the people within their sexual networks.</p> <p>Decriminalisation of sex work and access to protective public health and legal structures would probably improve understanding of health issues specific to male sex workers, increase service uptake, and—from an occupational health perspective—foster better working conditions.</p>
<p>SEV 25</p>	<p><i>Maia Rusakova, Aliya Rakhmetova, *Stefanie A Strathdee (2014) Why are sex workers who use substances at risk for HIV?</i></p>		<p>Although empowerment of sex workers has been pivotal to HIV prevention successes in many countries, such programmes have tended not to focus on</p>

01 P26

<p>www.thelancet.com Vol 385 January 17, 2015 Published Online July 22, 2014 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61042-4</p>	<p>Drug users may feel more pressure to acquiesce to clients' demands for unprotected sex, especially if offered more money or drugs.</p> <p>Sex workers' intimate male partners and clients often engage in behaviours with high risk of HIV infection.</p> <p>Drugs may be used as a form of coercion or control of sex workers.</p> <p>Injecting drug users are more likely to work outdoors exposing them to greater risks as injecting drug use is stigmatised in indoor venues.</p> <p>Injecting drug use is associated with elevated HIV risks in sex workers. In 20 countries worldwide, HIV prevalence was higher in female injectors than male injectors. There is high prevalence of injecting drug use amongst female sex workers in some Eastern European countries (e.g. Russia).</p> <p>(Caveat: article deals with onward sexual transmission of HIV and therefore selling sex rather than non-touch sexual entertainment)</p>	<p>sex workers who inject or use drugs, in part because they are even more marginalised.</p> <p>Policy makers should consider the particular health and support needs of sex workers who inject drugs.</p>
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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to license application spear mint rhino

From:

Sent: 06 May 2019 21:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to license application spear mint rhino

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I Wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Letter of objection to the proposed relicensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 06 May 2019 21:45

To: licensingservice

Subject: Letter of objection to the proposed relicensing of Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I would like to once again write to your licensing service politely requesting that the proposed re-licensing of the "gentlemen's club" Spearmint Rhino in its present incarnation is reconsidered both acting as an individual and as a supporter of the local Women's Equality Party.

There are many reasons that I have for submitting a letter of objection to the service, not least that as both identifying as a feminist and advocate for human rights in employment, I believe that the club does very little to promote positive gender relations between the sexes, where one gender is naked and the other fully clothed this automatically creates an imbalance. In addition to this point the club is consciously putting women's physical safety in immediate jeopardy as one of the main "selling points" of such a club includes women dancing around a pole in extremely high heels which would be considered inappropriate footwear for the working environment and role in many other organisations where employee safety at work would be given prime consideration.

As a council with a Public Sector Equality Duty to uphold it is incumbent upon members of your cabinet to set an example during this age of austerity to licence organisations which will help to support and promote employment opportunities for men and women alike which are more conducive to the utilisation of intellectual capacity rather than mental disengagement from the various "sexual entertainment" activities that take place inside the club as many of the dancers themselves are compelled to do in their occupation.

I would like to conclude my objection with two rhetorical questions:

If a woman's body can be purchased for the purposes of sexual entertainment is it merely a logical extension of this legalised practice that some individuals who may frequent the club may hold derogatory attitudes towards all women, as the continued relicensing of such a club serves to facilitate an attitude of entitlement which may permeate other interpersonal relationships, thereby inadvertently legitimising violence against women and girls?

How many women over the years since the venue first came to Sheffield a city "where everyone matters" have been denied the opportunity to apply for a licence to set up their own business in the city providing further sources of inspiration to their colleagues, family and friends alike?

Please reconsider relicensing this club for the benefit of all women in the city of Sheffield including the dancers and other employees of the club. A revocation of the current sexual entertainment licence combined with a bespoke employee career and retraining programme would be a far more favourable option and use of time than continually providing the means for the coerced commercial exploitation of human flesh which has more serious ramifications than a mere form of entertainment.

Thank you for your time in reading this objection.

Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

From:
Sent: 07 May 2019 08:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

Dear Sheffield Council,

I cannot believe I am having to email this in 2019, to a Labour controlled council!

Women's equality and not having to work in an industry that objectifies women and makes money from this for profit should not be tolerated in our fine city. You have the obligation to think about all women in society and not pander to the sex lobby.

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application.

Kind regards

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 07 May 2019 15:07
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Council,

I wish to object to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the licence.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than human beings and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this licence application.

Please do so! We especially don't want a strip club in the heart of our Cultural Industries Quarter or within the Hallam University campus.

Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 08 May 2019 10:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application.

Yours

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 14:17

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application.

Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: OBJECTION TO THE RE-LICENCING OF SPEARMINT RHINO, SHEFFIELD

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 11:58

To: licensingservice

Subject: OBJECTION TO THE RE-LICENCING OF SPEARMINT RHINO, SHEFFIELD

For the Attention of Licensing Officers,

OBJECTION TO THE RE-LICENCING OF SPEARMINT RHINO, SHEFFIELD

I wish to register objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield on the serious grounds outlined in the attached letter.

Kindly provide acknowledgement.

Yours faithfully,

09 May 2019

FAO : licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Licensing Officers,

OBJECTION TO THE RE-LICENCING OF SPEARMINT RHINO, SHEFFIELD

I wish to register objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield on the grounds outlined below:

1. Breach of rules and regulations

Undercover investigators recently provided hard evidence of violation of club rules including evidence of prostitution and prohibited sexual contact and sex acts taking place within the club www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs It is now undeniable that sexual abuse and harassment of women takes place at the Spearmint Rhino club Sheffield and that the Council has full knowledge and evidence of this.

These concerns have been reiterated by the police. Women who have worked at this club exposed abuses and violation of rules at the Spearmint Rhino Sheffield at its previous license hearing but were marginalised and ignored.

It is well known that such violations of regulation cannot be mitigated by 'increased regulation' such as by extra CCTV or 'improved security': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenPIs
www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs : www.notbuyingit.org.uk/Publication#Press

The sexual predation and degradation of women is commonplace at the Spearmint Rhino club and should have no place whatsoever in Sheffield: relicensing of the club should therefore be denied.

2. Prevention of Crime & Disorder Licensing an Illegal Brothel

The club has been under the same management for years yet there is longstanding concern that it has been operating as a form of brothel for a very long time. Recent investigations have confirmed the license holder is in clear violation of license rules, there is brokering of prostitution going on and thus considerable urgency for renewal of the license to be refused.

Renewal of the license to Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield would effectively provide license to an organisation operating as an illegal brothel and could lead to the Council being taken to court themselves at unacceptable financial cost to the city (see also Point 4 below).

3. Unsuitable location according to the Council's own policy

The venue for the Spearmint Rhino club in Sheffield is in an inappropriate locality in the middle of university vicinity; close to schools, nurseries, children's library, Together Women Project for vulnerable women; in the cultural centre of the city and so on.

The law provides absolute power to all Councils *not* to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable and cannot be challenged in the courts. Strip club operators have not succeeded in challenging refusal on these grounds. It is not **necessary** for there to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any 'evidence of harm' for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripLegal.

However, there *is* now evidence of overwhelming abuse and harm arising within and from the activities of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield and the Council has persistently been made aware of this.

4. Breach of Equality Law

The inappropriateness of the Council's pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance plus its failure to uphold equality law has been plainly established through its loss of two court cases at the cost of £130,000 of tax payers' money. I urge the Council not to relicense Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield and to divert monies previously used for court cases to defend harms of the sex club, to the provision of exit packages to all performers, who will need support once this venue is shut.

I call upon Sheffield City Council not to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield in the light of evidence-based concerns exposing the considerable harms of the club for citizens – particularly women and girls - of our city.

Yours faithfully,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield license application

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 18:28

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield license application

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to object to the Spearmint Rhino license application, once again.

Having been engaged in previous objections, I'm aware that there is a current investigation into serious breaches of conduct within the club. I would expect that without reservation, should the outcome of the investigation demonstrate that the breaches have happened, Sheffield Council will not grant the license.

Stripping is presented by those who enjoy it, and who can profit from it, as a harmless, 'lightweight' entertainment medium. In my reality, as a woman and mother to a teenage girl, places like Spearmint Rhino actively encourage the objectification of women, with the wider ramifications across society - that women should be pretty, silent, and constantly sexually available, with cash outweighing her right to say no.

Licensing Spearmint Rhino legitimises this objectification, and I agree with the argument that this is not conducive to the councils Public Sector Equality Duty, in particular the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation. I have yet to see any explanation of how licensing a strip venue can meet the Equality Duty. I suspect this is because the Council is unable to construct a robust argument to do so.

The economic argument - that women should have to opportunity to make money from their body - carries no weight. We no longer allow men to work in industries that cause them harm, legislating by health and safety regulations. Women in the sex industry suffer excessive harm from violence, sexual assault and poor mental health - no amount of money can balance this out.

Sheffield Council has the right, and legal ability to refuse the license. It is not prudish or old-fashioned to deny a strip club license in our city - it would be an inclusive and forward thinking action that expresses in a meaningful way a commitment to gender equality in Sheffield.

I would appreciate being sent the debate/decision, or a link to the decision making process for this license which I truly expect to be denied, and if issued, to have extremely robust positive reasons for doing so.

Yours sincerely,

Sent from my iPad

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino licence

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 19:26

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino licence

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to object to Spearmint Rhino's licence application.

First - I believe they are currently being investigated regarding serious breaches.

Even without these breaches I object to the council's support for a trade that blatantly objectifies and commodifies women.

Yours faithfully

Sent from my iPhone

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the Licence application of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 13:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the Licence application of Spearmint Rhino

Hello

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application
Yours

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to SEV application

From:

Sent: 11 May 2019 21:00

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to SEV application

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to object to renewal of the Sex Entertainment Venue license for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I am a Councillor with Southend Borough Council and I have served on the Licensing Committee for two years, during which time the Sex Establishment Policy has been reviewed, a nil cap has been implemented and conditions have been changed for performers in the town's existing SEVs.

From my knowledge and experience of Sex Establishment licensing, it is absolutely clear to me that this renewal application must be refused and an immediate review of policy undertaken to include a nil cap.

Evidence has been made publicly available in the national press of breaches in conditions at this club, and at least one other with the same licence holder, which clearly indicates the licence holder and management team are unsuitable to hold a licence. I cannot see how the Licensing Authority can be satisfied that the applicant is honest, that they are qualified to hold the licence, that they understand the licensing conditions or that they are competent. Under these discretionary grounds alone the renewal of the licence must be refused. The applicant seems unable to monitor or enforce conditions of the licence and, if policies are in place to protect the welfare of staff and performer, these are clearly inadequate and not followed.

The fact that this club has been issued with a licence at all is shocking considering its location. A renewal must be refused on the grounds that the character and locality of the area is not appropriate or suitable for a Sex Entertainment Venue. Other premises in the vicinity include the Students' Union of Sheffield Hallam University, Together Women who are supporting vulnerable women and girls, UTC who are educating children and Freeman College which is serving young people. If the Licensing Authority considers this to be an appropriate area for the club I would like to know where they would consider inappropriate.

I would expect that all councillors who sit on the Licencing Committee or sub-committees to have had specialist, specific training around licensing of Sex Establishments and, in particular, Sex Entertainment Venues. Assuming this is the case, I would urge those members, in light of revelations about conditions with the club, to think carefully about how the performers are safeguarded from harm, especially acts of sexual harassment and sexual violence perpetrated by customers. It is clear to me that this club is not, and cannot ever, be a safe place for performers, staff or customers and I strongly urge the Licensing Committee to refuse the renewal application.

Best regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection letter re Spearmint Rhino's re licence

From:

Sent: 12 May 2019 16:16

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection letter re Spearmint Rhino's re licence

12/05/19

To the Licencing Service

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. I call for the council to refuse it. I believe the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's SEV licensing policy on the following grounds.

- Sexual entertainment venues discriminate against women and objectify and dehumanise them. SEVs perpetuate inequality between the sexes.
- The year is 2019. We are well into the 21st century and SEVs should be a thing of the past. How do they help create a culture where men and women respect each other's humanity?
- The location of SR opposite Sheffield Showroom and near student accommodation places it where families, young people and children are exposed to it. Is this the role model of respectful adult behaviour we want to show children and young people?
- Sheffield Council have a chance here to make a stand against sexist and degrading practises. For those who say this is robbing women of the chance to make a living I'd ask, who is actually making the real money in this business? It's not the women on the ground floor!
- A recent undercover investigation revealed that in order to make money at SR the women there seem to be e pecked to perform 'extra' services that are in breech of the clubs licencing rules.

Thank you

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal Objection
Attachments: objection letter 2019.docx

From:
Sent: 12 May 2019 11:54
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal Objection

Dar Licensing,

Please find attached my objection to the licence renewal of Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

All best,

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

11th May 2019

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 horned 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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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."[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds
- [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>
- [6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90
- [7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

From:

Sent: 12 May 2019 10:15

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

From:

Sent:

To:

Subject:

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

11th May 2019

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

I am a frequent visitor to Sheffield city centre, with my family living close by. I do not think Spearmint Rhino should be allowed to continue to operate in its current location, right next door to a university, opposite the Showroom Cinema and near lots of organisations for vulnerable and young people. If my grandchildren decide to go to Sheffield Hallam University, what message does it send to them about gender equality and respect that there is such a club right next door?

I also understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

015P2

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a licence, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of the reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this licence application.

Yours sincerely

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Application

From:

Sent: 11 May 2019 14:41

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Application

Hi

I wish to object to the licence application for Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I believe it is totally inappropriate and incompatible with any aims for Sheffield to be regarded as a forward thinking, inclusive, safe city to continue renewing the licence of this establishment. We should be celebrating and further enhancing the Cultural Industries Quarter in which it is located; the area cannot realise it's full potential whilst Spearmint Rhino continues to operate at the heart of it.

Thank you for your time.

Many thanks

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

0178

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino objection letter
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino objection letter 2019.docx

From:
Sent: 13 May 2019 09:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection letter

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find my letter, attached.

Regards,

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

13th May 2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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.

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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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an ‘extraordinary campaign’, he called ‘the working of democracy’.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’” (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: ‘Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision’ July 18th 2015
<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

From:

Sent: 13 May 2019 09:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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

I work as a Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University and as such I attend events in various buildings around the campus, including The Hubs, our Student Union building. I, and other staff and students at Sheffield Hallam feel uncomfortable about the presence of Spearmint Rhino so close to our Students' Union, and in the heart of our campus.

The middle of a university campus and the city's Cultural Industries Quarter is a completely inappropriate location for a strip club.

I 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 misogyny and violence against women, I think Sheffield Council need to be taking responsibility and thinking about the role they have to play.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the **Discretionary Grounds** for refusal (under the Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy), and on the grounds of the **Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality**.

I was also concerned to hear that there is evidence of serious breaches of the licence at the club. This is something we were assured was not the case at last year's hearing – and is surely something the council must take very seriously.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 13 May 2019 19:35

To: Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: Objection to spearmint rhino

Dear Emma Rhodes,

To the Licencing Service

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. I call for the council to refuse it. I believe the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's SEV licensing policy on the following grounds.

- Sexual entertainment venues discriminate against women and objectify and dehumanise them. SEVs perpetuate inequality between the sexes.
- The year is 2019. We are well into the 21st century and SEVs should be a thing of the past. How do they help create a culture where men and women respect each other's humanity?
- The location of SR opposite Sheffield Showroom and near student accommodation places it where families, young people and children are exposed to it. Is this the role model of respectful adult behaviour we want to show children and young people?
- Sheffield Council have a chance here to make a stand against sexist and degrading practises. For those who say this is robbing women of the chance to make a living I'd ask, who is actually making the real money in this business? It's not the women on the ground floor!
- A recent undercover investigation revealed that in order to make money at SR the women there seem to be e pecked to perform 'extra' services that are in breech of the clubs licencing rules.

Thank you

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 13 May 2019 22:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Xxxx xxx xxxx is an independent group which campaigns against street sexual harassment and we object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street Sheffield.

We believe that everybody has the right to feel safe as they go about their lives, whether at work, in school or in a public place.

A University of Kent study concluded that sexually objectifying a woman can lead to aggression towards women and to the harmful perception that women are solely to be seen as sexual objects.

If not challenged, casual misogyny and sexual harassment create a cultural environment that normalises inappropriate behaviours, and can lead to problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour towards women and girls.

The strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial

commodity and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them.

Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which they have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. This duty can not be upheld by granting a license a strip club.

Councillors have the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license. The legislation allows for local

people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Licensing Committee to refuse this license application.

Chair of

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to license for Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 13 May 2019 22:41

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to license for Spearmint Rhino

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Licensing Committee will not grant the license.

The strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women by men.

Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them.

Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which they have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. This duty can not be upheld by granting a license a strip club.

Councillors have the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

I expect the Licensing Committee to refuse this license application.

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McConaghy Julianne

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

From:
Sent: 14 May 2019 13:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

Dear Councillors

I am writing to object to object to the application for license renewal fro spearmint Rhino at Brown Street in Sheffield.

My objections is on a number of grounds:

- the existence of SEVs is an indicator of the inequalities that exist in our city, and I think that refusing the license would underline the council's commitment to addressing these inequalities
- the council has been ruled against now in 2 judicial reviews on its failure to consider the equality impact assessment in its SEV licensing and policies
- I have concerns about the safety and well-being of the staff in the venue, and I am aware of an ongoing investigation in to breaches of license conditions
- I am proud of Sheffield and its culture, as I'm sure you are. I feel that continued licensing of these premises undermines Sheffield positive culture.
- it is within the council's legal powers to decline a license based on a their preference not to have any in the city.

I hope that on this occasion you will make a decision that is best for Sheffield.

Please can you redact my name from the published objections a which I understand from previous years is circulated as part of the license review.

Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licence objection

From:
Sent: 15 May 2019 08:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licence objection

Dear Sheffield City Council,

Please accept this email as official notice of my objection to the application for licence renewal for Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I know that an investigation into serious breaches at the club has allegedly demonstrated there is more sexualised activity occurring than is allowed under the licence parameters. I understand you yourselves are looking into this so should you find that it is so I would sincerely hope the Council does not grant the club a licence.

There are so many reasons to not licence Spearmint Rhino as it amounts, with or without breaches, to approved prostitution entirely for the entertainment of men. The common myth abounding amongst licencing bodies is that **licensing of these venues limits the risk of criminality, such as prostitution and human trafficking, and this is proven to be entirely the opposite.** Albeit from ten years ago, the Metropolitan Police reported increases in rapes and indecent assaults in boroughs where there were newly licenced sexual entertainment clubs (33% and 55% respectively). All research since has upheld these statistics. By way of anecdote, a recent case (2017) in Doncaster of a punter violently assaulting a dancer as she left the club for refusing sex, highlights the problem exactly.

I also understand that Sheffield City Council admitted it failed to prove it had met its duty to consider equality law in a recent out of court settlement following a scheduled Judicial Review, so as a regulator of your own licencing rules, you have acknowledged your lack of awareness in your decision-making. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to understand that the very existence of these venues promotes sexual availability of women to men and reinforces the notion of male sexual entitlement for which, in the twenty-first century, there should be no room. I would remind you of the ruling on gender inequality and ask that you refuse Spearmint Rhino their licence.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection

From:]

Sent: 15 May 2019 09:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

My main concerns are:

- It is totally inappropriate to have a sexual entertainment venue on a university campus. The young people contributing to the vibrant life of our city deserve better.
- allowing this venue to operate paints Sheffield in a poor light locally and nationally. Our city has a history of being forward thinking and making change for good. The presence of this seedy business is not aligned with the vision local residents want for our beloved city
- the council has an opportunity to show local residents that it cares more about our people and our city than about big business. We do not need to accept this poor quality business' demands when it contributes nothing to the culture of our city
- the club has a very bad reputation for treating dancers poorly as employees, and a terrible track record for owning up and taking responsibility for the customers that leave their club and go on to harass and molest people

Further I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches of the license. Under these circumstances I really cannot see how the Council could grant the licence.

Best regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

From:

Sent: 15 May 2019 09:08

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

To Whom it may concern,

I wish to object to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the licence.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than human beings and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

The council also needs to consider the proximity of the premises to Sheffield Hallam University's Students Union and the potential impact on the wellbeing of students and young people who live and study close by. Spearmint Rhino is an anomaly in the city's cultural quarter.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this licence application.

Yours faithfully

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 15 May 2019 12:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

I understand that Spearmint Rhino has applied to renew its licence in Sheffield. I would like to register my objection to this licence renewal.

--
PLEASE NOTE MY NEW EMAIL ADDRESS -

Freelance writer in biopharma, healthcare, business and more

Recd by post 15 May 2019
acknowledged by email 16 May 2019

11 May 2019.

Renewal of Licence for Spearmint Rhine - SHEFFIELD

I object to this establishment on the following grounds

- * It encourages customers to think of young attractive women as "available" for their sexual desires
- * This attitude of customers will spill out onto the surrounding streets, where the general public walk
- * Very close by is the Showroom Cinema trip, which I regularly visit
- * Very close by is the SHU Union bar - busy frequented by young women at all hours
- * Very close by is Sheffield Bus Station - single women travelling through or waiting, at all hours of early morning through to late night
- * Very close by is Sheffield Railway Station - hazard & risk as above

On these grounds I object, based on the security & safety of myself & all other women using the neighbourhood.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Renewal Application for Licence

From:

Sent: 15 May 2019 22:40

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Renewal Application for Licence

15 May 2019

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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 and I call for the council to refuse it.

What follows is a standard letter. I am not in the practice of sending such letters, but this letter expresses perfectly my concerns about this application. My personal experience is this: This venue is next to the Students' Union. Whilst it is true that University students are of the age of majority, many are only just. Whilst legally we treat the age of 18 as a binary cut-off point, in reality we must accept that many are by definition young, inexperienced and are just learning to get to grips with the world. I have attended a few gigs and evening events at the SU. Walking past the Applicant's open premises on my own made me feel anxious, nervous, vulnerable, unsafe. I am 44 years old, and not usually easily cowed. It put me off from attending the venue. I cannot imagine how I would have felt at 18 years old, new to the City, having to walk past that to get to my Students' Union every day – and night. It would have hampered my ability to socialise, to make new friends, to be independent and attend and leave the Union on my own. Arguably, as well as the Council's statutory duties, this is engaging issues about the Union's ability to provide genuinely discrimination free services to it's members. This is also relevant to the nearby colleges nearby

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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and

not “gender”) ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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."[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"* (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I strongly urge you to refuse the application from the Applicant.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 13:35

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Dear Licensing

Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

I object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and call for its license to be refused on the grounds of Unsuitable Location, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license shouldn't just be refused it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons for objecting to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been and, as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a university; close to a college for children aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with special needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils *not* to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable. There is no ground for legal challenge. And strip club operators that have tried to challenge a refusal on these grounds have always failed.

What is more, there does not even need to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any evidence of harm (even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm, see below) for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always 'look with fresh eyes' at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of strip club licensing law.

Find out more about the law and strip club licensing here: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripLegal

Unfit License holder

Independent investigators recently provided **hard evidence of extreme sexual contact and sex acts at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield**. This included performers masturbating themselves, punters and each other; oral sex between dancers; women inserting their fingers into their own vaginas and other women's; women putting their mouths around punters' genitals; women giving out their phone number; women having sex with each other (oral and masturbation): www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs
 Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

Women who had previously worked at this club exposed the abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management at the club's license hearing last year. They were ignored by the Council and painted as liars by club management.

The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a very long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who used to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable sources of information about this club, this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny *except* from private lap dances it is also clear that every woman in the club *must* provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

Clearly, all attempts to regulate the club are failing and are being actively circumvented. And have been for years.

This means that all Council spot checks and all CCTV supplied to the Council – which always show the club as fully compliant with its licensing conditions – are meaningless. It means that every, and all, other measure to 'protect performers' and 'prevent rule breaches' – security guards, house mums, dancer codes of conduct, dancer training etc – are meaningless.

It means that all testimonies by management and staff, given over years, that there is no sexual contact by anyone in the club, ever, are meaningless. This further means that anything now said by anyone involved in the club, or indeed wider industry, clearly cannot possibly be taken at face value either.

In other words, every single current regulatory measure and all statements from those involved with the club are meaningless.

'Improved Regulation' is Meaningless

There is also now hard evidence that whatever 'improved regulation' the council seeks to put in place will also be circumvented. More CCTV, 'panic buttons', 'better training', more 'codes of conduct', 'improved security'? All of this is meaningless.

We know this because similar independent investigation exposed sexual contact as standard in **Manchester's strip clubs**, despite their being equipped with 'panic buttons': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs

We know this because sexual contact was also exposed as standard in **Spearmint Rhino's 'flagship' club in Camden**. This has to be the world's most regulated strip club, boasting no fewer than 63 CCTV Cameras – whose footage is always full compliant with club licensing conditions. Likewise, 'secret' spot checks by Camden Council had always suggested the club is fully compliant. Yet, when genuinely secret visits were made by independent investigators they found lap dancers touching punter's genitals; strippers touching and masturbating themselves; lap dancers straddling and grinding on punters: women putting their breasts in punter's mouths: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs

Camden Spearmint Rhino is the most regulated strip club in the country. If licensing conditions are being broken there as a matter of course, they clearly can be broken – and undoubtedly *are* being broken – in every strip club in the UK. **And there is no way to prevent this.**

We know regulation is meaningless, because similar undercover investigations in 2018 exposed sexual contact in the world's most famous strip club, **The Windmill Theatre, and in Ealing's long standing LA Confidential**. The breaches here were far less significant than at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Both clubs had their licenses rescinded.

We know all regulation is meaningless because there are now nearly **100 recorded incidences in over 70 strip clubs** of sexual contact and more – representing well over 1/3 of the entire UK strip trade. Breaching licensing terms isn't just endemic in the strip industry, *it is how the strip industry operates*: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/Publications#Press

If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what 'regulation' you put in place. Indeed, you could be seen to be knowingly license a *de facto* brothel.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost of £130,000 of tax payers' money.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless), outside of it (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue) or in wider society.

I urge you *not* to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

030 PI

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 13:50

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection spearmint rhino

Dear Licensing

Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

I object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and call for its license to be refused on the grounds of Unsuitable Location, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license shouldn't just be refused it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons for objecting to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been and, as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a university; close to a college for children aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with special needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils *not* to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable. There is no ground for legal challenge. And strip club operators that have tried to challenge a refusal on these grounds have always failed. What is more, there does not even need to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any evidence of harm (even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm, see below) for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always 'look with fresh eyes' at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of strip club licensing law.

Find out more about the law and strip club licensing here: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripLegal

Unfit License holder

Independent investigators recently provided **hard evidence of extreme sexual contact and sex acts at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield.** This included performers masturbating themselves, punters and each other; oral sex between dancers; women inserting their fingers into their own vaginas and other women's; women putting their mouths around punters' genitals; women giving out their phone number; women having sex with each other (oral and masturbation): www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs
Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

Women who had previously worked at this club exposed the abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management at the club's license hearing last year. They were ignored by the Council and painted as liars by club management.

The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a very long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who used to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable sources of information about this club, this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny *except* from private lap dances it is also clear that every woman in the club *must* provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

Clearly, all attempts to regulate the club are failing and are being actively circumvented. And have been for years.

This means that all Council spot checks and all CCTV supplied to the Council – which always show the club as fully compliant with its licensing conditions – are meaningless. It means that every, and all, other measure to 'protect performers' and 'prevent rule breaches' – security guards, house mums, dancer codes of conduct, dancer training etc – are meaningless.

It means that all testimonies by management and staff, given over years, that there is no sexual contact by anyone in the club, ever, are meaningless. This further means that anything now said by anyone involved in the club, or indeed wider industry, clearly cannot possibly be taken at face value either.

In other words, every single current regulatory measure and all statements from those involved with the club are meaningless.

'Improved Regulation' is Meaningless

There is also now hard evidence that whatever 'improved regulation' the council seeks to put in place will also be circumvented. More CCTV, 'panic buttons', 'better training', more 'codes of conduct', 'improved security'? All of this is meaningless.

We know this because similar independent investigation exposed sexual contact as standard in **Manchester's strip clubs**, despite their being equipped with 'panic buttons': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs

We know this because sexual contact was also exposed as standard in **Spearmint Rhino's 'flagship' club in Camden**. This has to be the world's most regulated strip club, boasting no fewer than 63 CCTV Cameras – whose footage is always full compliant with club licensing conditions. Likewise, 'secret' spot checks by Camden Council had always suggested the club is fully compliant. Yet, when genuinely secret visits were made by independent investigators they found lap dancers touching punter's genitals; strippers touching and masturbating themselves; lap dancers straddling and grinding on punters: women putting their breasts in punter's mouths: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs

Camden Spearmint Rhino is the most regulated strip club in the country. If licensing conditions are being broken there as a matter of course, they clearly can be broken – and undoubtedly *are* being broken – in every strip club in the UK. **And there is no way to prevent this.**

We know regulation is meaningless, because similar undercover investigations in 2018 exposed sexual contact in the world's most famous strip club, **The Windmill Theatre, and in Ealing's long standing LA Confidential**. The breaches here were far less significant than at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Both clubs had their licenses rescinded.

We know all regulation is meaningless because there are now nearly **100 recorded incidences in over 70 strip clubs** of sexual contact and more – representing well over 1/3 of the entire UK strip trade. Breaching licensing terms isn't just endemic in the strip industry, *it is how the strip industry*

operates: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/Publications#Press

If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what 'regulation' you put in place. Indeed, you could be seen to be knowingly license a *de facto* brothel.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost of £130,000 of tax payers' money.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless), outside of it (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue) or in wider society.

I urge you *not* to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

Yours Sincerely,

ent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

From:**Sent:** 16 May 2019 14:47**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Dear Licensing

I object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and call for its license to be refused on the grounds of Unsuitable Location, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license shouldn't just be refused it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons for objecting to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been and, as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a university; close to a college for children aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with special needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils not to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable. There is no ground for legal challenge. And strip club operators that have tried to challenge a refusal on these grounds have always failed.

What is more, there does not even need to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any evidence of harm (even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm, see below) for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always 'look with fresh eyes' at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of strip club licensing law.

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Unfit License holder

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Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

Women who had previously worked at this club exposed the abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management at the club's license hearing last year. They were ignored by the Council and painted as liars by club management.

The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a very long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who used to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable source of information in relation to how this club is really run, this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny except from private lap dances it is also clear that every woman in the club must provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

Clearly, all attempts to regulate the club are failing and are being actively circumvented. And have been for years.

This means that all Council spot checks and all CCTV supplied to the Council – which always show the club as fully compliant with its licensing conditions – are meaningless. It means that every, and all, other measure to 'protect performers' and 'prevent rule breaches' - security guards, house mums, dancer codes of conduct, dancer training etc - are meaningless.

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There is also now hard evidence that whatever 'improved regulation' the council seeks to put in place will also be circumvented. More CCTV, 'panic buttons', 'better training', more 'codes of conduct', 'improved security'? All of this is meaningless.

We know this because similar independent investigation exposed sexual contact as standard in Manchester's strip clubs, despite their being equipped with 'panic buttons': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs

We know this because sexual contact was also exposed as standard in Spearmint Rhino's 'flagship' club in Camden. This has to be the world's most regulated strip club, boasting no fewer than 63 CCTV Cameras – whose footage is always full compliant with club licensing conditions.

Likewise, 'secret' spot checks by Camden Council had always suggested the club is fully compliant. Yet, when genuinely secret visits were made by independent investigators they found lap dancers touching punter's genitals; strippers touching and masturbating themselves; lap dancers straddling and grinding on punters: women putting their breasts in punter's mouths: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs

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We know all regulation is meaningless because there are now nearly 100 recorded incidences in over 70 strip clubs of sexual contact and more – representing well over 1/3 of the entire UK strip trade. Breaching licensing terms isn't just endemic in the strip industry, it is how the strip industry operates:

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If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what 'regulation' you put in place. Indeed, you could be seen to be knowingly license a de facto brothel.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost of £130,000 of tax payers' money.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless), outside of it (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue) or in wider society.

I urge you not to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Ex Sheffield Student Against Strip Clubs

From:
Sent: 16 May 2019 15:39
To: licensingservice
Subject: Ex Sheffield Student Against Strip Clubs

Dear Licensing

I appreciate councils need money at the moment, but income for public bodies must be ethical and not from activities that put anyone at risk. Strip clubs exploit women and girls and put other women and girls at risk because of the behaviour and attitudes they foster among men. If the clubs put other groups of people at risk they would be stopped, but because it remains acceptable and normal to put women and girls at risk, authorities fail to do the right thing and ban them. Be brave and apply the same rules you would to racism, ban the clubs and treat everyone with respect.

Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

I object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and call for its license to be refused on the grounds of Unsuitable Location, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license shouldn't just be refused it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons for objecting to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been and, as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a university; close to a college for children aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with special needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils *not* to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable. There is no ground for legal challenge. And strip club operators that have tried to challenge a refusal on these grounds have always failed.

What is more, there does not even need to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any evidence of harm (even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm, see below) for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always 'look with fresh

eyes' at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of strip club licensing law.

Find out more about the law and strip club licensing here: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripLegal

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Independent investigators recently provided **hard evidence of extreme sexual contact and sex acts at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield**. This included performers masturbating themselves, punters and each other; oral sex between dancers; women inserting their fingers into their own vaginas and other women's; women putting their mouths around punters' genitals; women giving out their phone number; women having sex with each other (oral and masturbation): www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs

Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

Women who had previously worked at this club exposed the abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management at the club's license hearing last year. They were ignored by the Council and painted as liars by club management.

The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a very long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who used to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable sources of information about this club, this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny *except* from private lap dances it is also clear that every woman in the club *must* provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

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If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what 'regulation' you put in place. Indeed, you could be seen to be knowingly license a *de facto* brothel.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost of £130,000 of tax payers' money.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless), outside of it (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue) or in wider society.

I urge you *not* to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

Best Wishes

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

From:
Sent: 16 May 2019 18:08
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Dear Licensing

Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

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I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons for objecting to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been and, as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a university; close to a college for children aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with special needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own policy.

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Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

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The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a very long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

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If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless), outside of it (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue) or in wider society.

I urge you *not* to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

Yours faithfully,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: For whom it my concern

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 08:15

To: licensingservice

Subject: For whom it my concern

17th May 2019

Dear one

Objection to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield license renewal.

Please accept this letter as my objection to the Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield license application.

It has come to my attention that there is an ongoing investigation that involves activities at the Spearmint Rhino in our city of Sheffield that, if proven, constitute serious breaches of their license.

Can I understand that if this is indeed the case that you will not be granting a renewal of their license?

I eagerly await your response.

Kind regard

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Rhino club

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 09:51

To: licensingservice

Subject: Rhino club

Please stop licensing this club. You are colluding with the exploitation of vulnerable women and encouraging underage sex and trafficking.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: OBJECTION to re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

From:
Sent: 17 May 2019 15:20
To: licensingservice
Subject: OBJECTION to re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Dear Sir/Madam

I object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and call for its license to be refused on the grounds of Unsuitable Location, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license should not just be refused; it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been, and as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a University, close to a College for CHILDREN aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with Special Needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own Policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils NOT to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable. There is no ground for legal challenge. Any strip club operators that have tried to challenge a refusal on these grounds has always failed.

What is more, there does not even need to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any evidence of harm – even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm, see below – for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always "look with fresh eyes" at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of strip club licensing law.

Unfit License Holder

Independent investigators recently provided hard evidence of extreme sexual contact and sex acts at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield. This included performers masturbating themselves, punters and each other; oral sex between dances; women inserting their fingers into their own vaginas and other women's, women putting their mouths around punters' genitals; women giving out their phone numbers; women having sex with each other (oral and masturbation): www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs

Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

Women who had previously worked at this club exposed the abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management at the club's license hearing last year. They were ignored by the Council and painted as liars by club management.

The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who used to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable sources of information about this club, this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one-offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny EXCEPT from private lap dances, it is also clear that every woman in the club MUST provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

Clearly, all attempts to regulate the club are failing and are being actively circumvented. And have been for years. This means that all Council spot checks and all CCTV supplied to the Council – which always show the club as fully compliant with its licensing conditions – are meaningless. It means that every, and all, other measure to “protect performers” and “prevent rule breaches” – security guards, house mums, dancer codes of conduct, dancer training, etc. – are meaningless.

It means that all testimonies by management and staff, given over years that there is no sexual contact by anyone in the club, ever, are meaningless. This further means that anything now said by anyone involved in the club, or indeed wider industry, clearly cannot possibly be taken at face value either.

In other words, every single current regulatory measure and all statements from those involved with the club are meaningless.

‘Improved Regulation’ is Meaningless

There is also now hard evidence that whatever ‘improved regulation’ the council seeks to put in place will also be circumvented. More CCTV, ‘panic buttons’, ‘better training’, more ‘codes of conduct’, ‘improved security’? All of this is meaningless.

We know this because similar independent investigation exposed sexual contact as standard in Manchester’s strip clubs, despite their being equipped with ‘panic buttons’; www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs

We know this because sexual contact was also exposed as standard in Spearmint Rhino’s ‘flagship’ club in Camden. This has to be the world’s most regulated strip club, boasting no fewer than 63 CCTV Cameras – whose footage is always fully compliant with club licensing conditions. Likewise, ‘secret’ spot checks by Camden Council had always suggested the club is fully compliant. Yet, when genuinely secret visits were made by independent investigators, they found lap dancers touching punter’s genitals; strippers touching and masturbating themselves; lap dancers straddling and grinding on punters; women putting their breasts in punter’s mouths:

www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs

Camden Spearmint Rhino is the most regulated strip club in the country. If licensing conditions are being broken there as a matter of course, they clearly can be broken – and undoubtedly are being broken – in every strip club in the UK. And there is no way to prevent this.

We know regulation is meaningless, because similar undercover investigations in 2018 exposed sexual contact in the world’s most famous strip club, The Windmill Theatre, and in Ealing’s longstanding LA Confidential. The breaches here were far less significant than at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield. Both clubs had their licenses rescinded.

We know all regulation is meaningless because there are now nearly 100 recorded incidences in over 70 strip clubs of sexual contact and more – representing well over 1/3 of the entire UK strip trade. Breaching licensing terms isn’t just endemic in the strip industry, it is how the strip industry operates: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/Publications#Press
If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what ‘regulation’ you put in place. Indeed, you could be seen to be knowingly licensing a de facto brothel.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost of £130,000 of tax payers’ money.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it, (as ‘regulation’, no matter how ‘stringent’, is meaningless), outside of it, (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue), or in wider society.

I urge you NOT to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

Yours faithfully

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: OBJECTION to Relicensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 15:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: OBJECTION to Relicensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Dear Sir/Madam

I object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and call for its license to be refused on the grounds of Unsuitable Location, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license should not just be refused; it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been, and as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a University, close to a College for CHILDREN aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with Special Needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own Policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils NOT to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable. There is no ground for legal challenge. Any strip club operators that have tried to challenge a refusal on these grounds has always failed.

What is more, there does not even need to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any evidence of harm – even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm, see below – for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always “look with fresh eyes” at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of strip club licensing law.

Unfit License Holder

Independent investigators recently provided hard evidence of extreme sexual contact and sex acts at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield. This included performers masturbating themselves, punters and each other; oral sex between dances; women inserting their fingers into their own vaginas and other women's, women putting their mouths around punters' genitals; women giving out their phone numbers; women having sex with each other (oral and masturbation): www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs

Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

Women who had previously worked at this club exposed the abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management at the club's license hearing last year. They were ignored by the Council and painted as liars by club management.

The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who used to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable sources of information about this club, this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one-offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny EXCEPT from private lap dances, it is also clear that every woman in the club MUST provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

Clearly, all attempts to regulate the club are failing and are being actively circumvented. And have been for years.

This means that all Council spot checks and all CCTV supplied to the Council – which always show the club as fully compliant with its licensing conditions – are meaningless. It means that every, and all, other measure to "protect performers" and "prevent rule breaches" – security guards, house mums, dancer codes of conduct, dancer training, etc. – are meaningless.

It means that all testimonies by management and staff, given over years that there is no sexual contact by anyone in the club, ever, are meaningless. This further means that anything now said by anyone involved in the club, or indeed wider industry, clearly cannot possibly be taken at face value either.

In other words, every single current regulatory measure and all statements from those involved with the club are meaningless.

'Improved Regulation' is Meaningless

There is also now hard evidence that whatever 'improved regulation' the council seeks to put in place will also be circumvented. More CCTV, 'panic buttons', 'better training', more 'codes of conduct', 'improved security'? All of this is meaningless.

We know this because similar independent investigation exposed sexual contact as standard in Manchester's strip clubs, despite their being equipped with 'panic buttons': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs

We know this because sexual contact was also exposed as standard in Spearmint Rhino's 'flagship' club in Camden. This has to be the world's most regulated strip club, boasting no fewer than 63 CCTV Cameras – whose footage is always fully compliant with club licensing conditions. Likewise, 'secret' spot checks by Camden Council had always suggested the club is fully compliant. Yet, when genuinely secret visits were made by independent investigators, they found lap dancers touching punter's genitals; strippers touching and masturbating themselves; lap dancers straddling and grinding on punters; women putting their breasts in punter's mouths: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs

Camden Spearmint Rhino is the most regulated strip club in the country. If licensing conditions are being broken there as a matter of course, they clearly can be broken – and undoubtedly are being broken – in every strip club in the UK. And there is no way to prevent this.

We know regulation is meaningless, because similar undercover investigations in 2018 exposed sexual contact in the world's most famous strip club, The Windmill Theatre, and in Ealing's longstanding LA Confidential. The breaches here were far less significant than at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield. Both clubs had their licenses rescinded.

We know all regulation is meaningless because there are now nearly 100 recorded incidences in over 70 strip clubs of sexual contact and more – representing well over 1/3 of the entire UK strip trade. Breaching licensing terms isn't just endemic in the strip industry, it is how the strip industry operates: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/Publications#Press

If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what 'regulation' you put in place. Indeed, you could be seen to be knowingly licensing a de facto brothel.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost of £130,000 of tax payers' money.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it, (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless), outside of it, (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue), or in wider society.

I urge you NOT to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

Yours faithfully

028 P1

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection

From:
Sent: 17 May 2019 19:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection

Dear Licensing

Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

I object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and call for its license to be refused on the grounds of UnsuitableLocation, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license shouldn't just be refused it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

I urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club to ensure they can find safe, alternative employment.

I detail my reasons for objecting to the club more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been and, as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a university; close to a college for children aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with special needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural hub of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils *not* to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is irrefutable. There is no ground for legal challenge. And strip club operators that have tried to challenge a refusal on these grounds have always failed.

What is more, there does not even need to have been any change in the area, any material change in circumstances or any evidence of harm (even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm, see below) for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always 'look with fresh eyes' at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of strip club licensing law.

Find out more about the law and strip club licensing here: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripLegal

Unfit License holder

Independent investigators recently provided **hard evidence of extreme sexual contact and sex acts at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield.** This included performers masturbating themselves, punters and each other; oral sex between dancers; women inserting their fingers into their own vaginas and other women's; women putting their mouths around punters' genitals; women giving out their phone number; women having sex with each other (oral and masturbation): www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs

Since this, the police have also had cause to visit the club.

Women who had previously worked at this club exposed the abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management at the club's license hearing last year. They were ignored by the Council and painted as liars by club management.

The club has been under the same management for years and has clearly been operating in this manner for a very long time. The license holder is clearly unfit and not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who used to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable source of information in relation to how this club is really run, this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny *except* from private lap dances it is also clear that every woman in the club *must* provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

Clearly, all attempts to regulate the club are failing and are being actively circumvented. And have been for years.

This means that all Council spot checks and all CCTV supplied to the Council – which always show the club as fully compliant with its licensing conditions – are meaningless. It means that every, and all, other measure to 'protect performers' and 'prevent rule breaches' - security guards, house mums, dancer codes of conduct, dancer training etc - are meaningless.

It means that all testimonies by management and staff, given over years, that there is no sexual contact by anyone in the club, ever, are meaningless. This further means that anything now said by anyone involved in the club, or indeed wider industry, clearly cannot possibly be taken at face value either.

In other words, every single current regulatory measure and all statements from those involved with the club are meaningless.

'Improved Regulation' is Meaningless

There is also now hard evidence that whatever 'improved regulation' the council seeks to put in place will also be circumvented. More CCTV, 'panic buttons', 'better training', more 'codes of conduct', 'improved security'? All of this is meaningless.

We know this because similar independent investigation exposed sexual contact as standard in **Manchester's strip clubs**, despite their being equipped with 'panic buttons': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs

We know this because sexual contact was also exposed as standard in **Spearmint Rhino's 'flagship' club in Camden**. This has to be the world's most regulated strip club, boasting no fewer than 63 CCTV Cameras – whose footage is always full compliant with club licensing conditions. Likewise, 'secret' spot checks by Camden Council had always suggested the club is fully compliant. Yet, when genuinely secret visits were made by independent investigators they found lap dancers touching punter's genitals; strippers

touching and masturbating themselves; lap dancers straddling and grinding on punters: women putting their breasts in punter's mouths: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs
Camden Spearmint Rhino is the most regulated strip club in the country. If licensing conditions are being broken there as a matter of course, they clearly can be broken - and undoubtedly *are* being broken - in every strip club in the UK. **And there is no way to prevent this.**

We know regulation is meaningless, because similar undercover investigations in 2018 exposed sexual contact in the world's most famous strip club, **The Windmill Theatre, and in Ealing's long standing LA Confidential**. The breaches here were far less significant than at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Both clubs had their licenses rescinded.

We know all regulation is meaningless because there are now nearly **100 recorded incidences in over 70 strip clubs** of sexual contact and more – representing well over 1/3 of the entire UK strip trade. Breaching licensing terms isn't just endemic in the strip industry, *it is how the strip industry operates*: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/Publications#Press

If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what 'regulation' you put in place. Indeed, you could be seen to be knowingly license a *de facto* brothel.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost of £130,000 of tax payers' money.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be licensing a quasi-brothel: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate its harm for the women in it (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless), outside of it (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of this venue) or in wider society.

I urge you *not* to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shutdown.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: objection of license for Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 17:16

To: licensingservice

Subject: objection of license for Spearmint Rhino

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

My friend, who is a vulnerable adult receive's services in the location of Spearmint Rhino. She any every other person should be able to feel safe and they are regularly heckled by the clientele who use the facility

I know that there is an allegation of sexual activity in Spearmint Rhino way beyond that of stripping. I hear that this is being investigated. Surely no license can be granted until this investigation in concluded. I know that other Spearmint Rhino venues are being investigated in similar ways, which suggests that the company itself is unable to control what happens in its venues

For these reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application.

Regards

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection - License application for Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 18:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection - License application for Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield

Dear Licensing Service,

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

The strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women that sees women as a financial commodity rather than as human beings. It creates a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. This is especially troubling at the Spearmint Rhino location, which is in the heart of Sheffield and on the edge of the Sheffield Hallam University Campus, where young men are forming their patterns of behaviour for their future adulthood.

Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

In addition to the reasons above, I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen, the Council will not grant the license.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, to make a statement that it treats its responsibility for Public Sector Equality seriously. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored. The recent loss of Labour seats in the local elections are proof that ignoring constituents cannot go on indefinitely. This is a wake-up call for Sheffield Labour to start listening to the people they represent and this is an opportunity to do so, which a majority of Sheffielders will support.

For all of these reasons given above I urge the Council to refuse this license application.

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino License

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 09:35

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino License

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

○ 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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’”(emphasis added) [7]

○ Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th

2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

1

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 20 May 2019 08:48

Subject: Spearmint Rhino License

To:

Cc:

Hi [REDACTED]

One of our members has asked we share the below information with you all. Sheffield Spearmint Rhino's licence is up for renewal and there are a number of women's groups that oppose this.

If this would be something you're interested in supporting from a personal perspective then please read on 😊

Below is a suggested template to send to the licensing service licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

The closing date for objections is Monday 27th May.

If you wanted personalise this with anecdotal evidence or experience that would be great.

Thank you,

[REDACTED] xxx

please delete all of the above before forwarding this on

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an ‘extraordinary campaign’, he called ‘the working of democracy’.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’”(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year. 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.

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to Re-Licensing of Spearmint Rhino Brown Street Sheffield

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 10:52

To: licensingservice

Cc:

Subject: Objection to Re-Licensing of Spearmint Rhino Brown Street Sheffield

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name

Address

Date 20 May 2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object, for the fourth successive year, to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino club in Sheffield. Strip and lap dancing clubs are a throwback to twentieth century ideas and sexual politics and are antithetical to fostering equality of opportunity and good relations between the sexes. Importantly here, they are also incompatible with the Council's legal obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Furthermore, writing as one of the commissioners and now a Fairness Champion, they obstruct the implementation of the recommendations of the 2013 Sheffield Fairness Commission, approved by Council.

We felt that the Council should be there to pursue fairness as social justice, as an agent and facilitator for fairness and equality in our city. The continued presence of Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield further exasperates that aim as well as the good functioning of the Council's own Equality Hubs Network, established to support the local implementation of the Equality Act 2010. Overarching all this, a simple reading of the Council's current SEV policy cannot support any relicensing on several grounds.

Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location, is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families, and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the Council's SEV Policy the license can be declined. It is a hindrance to the expansion too of Sheffield Hallam University, a huge economic resource for the city, as carefully argued by representatives of that university at last year's hearing.

Additionally, the fact that the Council has been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs, as part of its Public Sector Equality Duty is conveniently ignored. On both occasions it has lost those reviews. Strip clubs, such as Spearmint Rhino promote a (toxic) message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies, for sexual gratification (otherwise termed

objectification), thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety, their perceived role in a modern democratic society and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. That I would argue is a restriction of a greater number of women's personal liberty than those 'performers at the club. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearment Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and their equality with men. Indeed, some argue that it condones such objectification and inequality between the sexes.

Those that support this application argue that women have a right to such employment, which actually at Spearment Rhino is self-employment under contracts that are disadvantageous to the women. Yet the clear and categorical evidence is that it is not safe employment. It is exploitative and psychologically harmful. The Council have a legislative duty to ensure that their citizens do not face potential harm in their employment. The Council act to undertake to do so in other sectors of employment in the city, yet ignore this. The impact of working in such establishments, including evidence from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff suggests that this is rife. I am also aware of information from local publicity, and verbally given to full Council in April 2019, which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearment Rhino, Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the Council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearment Rhino, Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation. I am hopeful that this evidence will be both presented by others and thereby become admissible. I am deeply suspicious that the current review and investigation of this material is purposively being delayed until after any licensing hearing. I ask for a reassurance that it both can and will be presented, since it is entirely pertinent to the current round of licensing application made by Spearment Rhino Sheffield.

Given all this I can see no reason for Spearment Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs (SEV's) within its area, I would urge the refusal of a further license for this club. Importantly, I urge the Licensing Committee and Council to work closely with the current self-employed 'performers' in providing support services for those who may be affected by such a decision.

Thus my objections are based upon a fair interpretation of the Council's current policy, is wholly in support of a policy of establishing equality of treatment between the sexes, and against harmful working practices based upon current legislation.

A copy of this message is attached as a MSWord document

I look forward to receiving my invitation to any hearing.

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name

Address

Date 20 May 2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD
email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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both women's sense of safety, their perceived role in a modern democratic society and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. That I would argue is a restriction of a greater number of women's personal liberty than those 'performers at the club. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and their equality with men. Indeed, some argue that it condones such objectification and inequality between the sexes.

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Given all this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs (SEV's) within its area, I would urge the refusal of a further license for this club. Importantly, I urge the Licensing Committee and Council to work closely with the current self-employed 'performers' in providing support services for those who may be affected by such a decision.

Thus my objections are based upon a fair interpretation of the Council's current policy, is wholly in support of a policy of establishing equality of treatment between the sexes, and against harmful working practices based upon current legislation.

I look forward to receiving my invitation to any hearing.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: OBJECTION to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

From:**Sent:** 20 May 2019 11:23**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** OBJECTION to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

Dear Sir/ Madam

XXXXXXXXXX XXXX XXX XXXXXXX XXXXX XXXXXXX wishes to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino. Brown Street, Sheffield. This has been discussed by our Board of Trustees and agreed as an organisation.

As a service supporting vulnerable clients – the vast majority of whom are women who have been sexually abused, assaulted or raped, we are dismayed that a venue based on the objectification and de-humanisation of women is located within 500 yards of our Centre. Sheffield City Centre is being transformed into a modern, vibrant and safe space for everyone and Spearmint Rhino is completely at odds with the positive environment being created.

We understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: OBJECTION to Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

From:
Sent: 20 May 2019 11:48
To: licensingservice
Subject: OBJECTION to Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

Dear Sir/ Madam

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

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Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

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For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application.

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 12:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

Dear Sheffield City Council,

I wish to object to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I would like Sheffield to maintain and improve its reputation as a safe and respectful place to live and work, and to be a city that is known for upholding equality legislation. Clubs like Spearmint Rhino do not support a respectful view of women. Recent investigations into these sorts of premises nationally demonstrate infringement of regulations designed to protect the women performers from exploitation and harassment.

Although promoters of sexual entertainment venues like to claim that the activities are 'banter', we know that encouraging a view of women as commodities that can be purchased has an impact on how women are respected more broadly, and is a contributor to rape culture: which 'validates men as sexual pursuers' and views 'women as sexual conquests by which manhood is legitimized and women are objectified'.

I hope you will consider seriously the strong objections to the continued licensing of Spearmint Rhino and understand how much better it will be for the City's reputation to uphold it's duty under equality legislation to foster good relations between men and women.

Yours faithfully,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licence Opposition: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 13:03

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licence Opposition: Spearmint Rhino

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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

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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 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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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

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“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: **‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’**” (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

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Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 13:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License

Dear Licensing Committee

I wish to object to the granting of a licence to Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield, on the following grounds:

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Lap dancing clubs normalise the representation of women as sexual objects who are always sexually available. They make sexual harassment seem normal. The behaviour that takes place within the four walls of a lap dancing club would be considered harassment in any other context.

The 2016 YouGov UK poll found that:

- 85% of 16-24 year old women have faced sexual harassment in public places
- 45% have experienced unwanted sexual touching

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 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, it is about ensuring that Sheffield City Council abides by its legal requirement to promote equality between women and men.

The Equality Act (2010) places every public authority under a duty that, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

How does granting a license to Spearmint Rhino fit with this legal ability. Sheffield City Council has the authority to refuse the license and in doing so demonstrate that they are listening and responding to the people of Sheffield who strongly object to the presence of a lap dancing club in their city.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino SEV Licence Renewal

From:
Sent: 20 May 2019 15:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino SEV Licence Renewal

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

20 May 2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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."[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an ‘extraordinary campaign’, he called ‘the working of democracy’.”

It is further reported:

*“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: **‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’**”*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: ‘Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision’ July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 21:36

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield

To Licensing Service

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the license.

Notwithstanding the possible breaches that may have happened, the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a financial commodity rather than a human being and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I urge the Council to refuse this license application and rather be an advocate for the removal of such institutions which not only harm society but exploit women and drive behaviour which has no benefit.

I trust that you will seriously consider the request and adhere to the commitment and social responsibility that Sheffield City Council makes to its residents.

Many thanks

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 06:55

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Strip Club - Spearmint Rhino License Application

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 08:58

To: licensingservice

Subject: Strip Club - Spearmint Rhino License Application

Dear Sir/Madame

The proposed SEV licence for Spearmint Rhino should be refused because this causes violent and demeaning stereotypes of women to perpetuate and makes it unsafe for women in Sheffield to carry out their daily lives. For example it makes it difficult for the general public, eg families with children, young people and in particular women and girls to visit normal leisure activities in the surrounding area and travel on public transport particularly in the winter months and after dark.

There is also the problem of the women with few options, eg impoverished students, who might be funnelled down the route to working in this demeaning type of employment through desperate circumstances. It would also be likely to stoke the market for the sex trade generally in Sheffield, and could perpetuate the abuse of women due to the misogyny and objectification of women Spearmint Rhino promotes.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: SR Objection Letter template 2019

From:
Sent: 21 May 2019 11:42
To: licensingservice
Subject: SR Objection Letter template 2019

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

21/05/2019

Dear Licensing Service

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 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

Sheffield City Council has 'statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender' [NB: the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is 'sex' and not 'gender'], ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. Sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women and girls, which in turn contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both a cause and an effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, overwhelmingly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all... this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

It should not be necessary to 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.

I have been made aware of information from local publicity which indicates that undercover investigations in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, have revealed significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the councils' own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. **I understand that evidence of unlawful sexual activity at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is currently under investigation.**

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for refusal

The Council is also 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should

be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to Relicense of Spearmint Rhino Strip Club

From:
Sent: 21 May 2019 11:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Relicense of Spearmint Rhino Strip Club

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Thanks

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 12:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to the closure of Spearmint Rhino, and in support and solidarity with the workers of this establishment. I support the continued existence of Spearmint Rhino, as I believe it provides a safe, flexible and consistent workplace to women, some of whom have worked within the establishment for over 15 years. The closure would likely lead previous employees into precarious and volatile working environments, with many having to venture further afield and away from the security of their homes and families.

I vehemently regret the stress and uncertainty that this has caused the workers of Spearmint Rhino, none of whom were consulted or informed that they were being filmed, nor spoken to about the intentions of the protest group.

I believe the workers of Spearmint Rhino are those best informed to discuss their working conditions, and the safety and stability of the establishment they have chosen to work within.

Yours Sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 13:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Letter of objection

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 14:49

To: licensingservice

Subject: Letter of objection

Please find attached a letter of objection

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

21.5.19

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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."[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"*

(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 15:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 18:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 18:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 20:55

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy; it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Yours faithfully,

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061 A1

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 21:25

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name:

Address:

Date: 21 May 2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C,

Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino. Strip and Lap-dancing clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. This is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city. Its current location is particularly problematic, being next to Sheffield Hallam University Student's Union, opposite the Site Gallery and the Showroom Cinema - both used by children and families - and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. It is just over the road from my Workshop, which is within Yorkshire Artspace's building Persistence Works at 21 Brown Street, S1 2BS. I can see Spearmint Rhino from my workshop window and find its presence distasteful to say the least. I understand that, on grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy, the license can be declined.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of

an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license. Also to consider providing support services for women who may be affected, and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women in order to inform future policy making.

Yours faithfully,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Objection

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 22:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Objection

To whom it may concern,

Please find enclosed my objection to the Spearmint Rhino Licence. I have a niece studying in Sheffield.

Regards

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

21st May 2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’”
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: ‘Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision’ July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 22:20

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 21 May 2019 22:39
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal OBJECTION

From:**Sent:** 21 May 2019 23:44**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal OBJECTION

To whom it may concern

We are writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people.

On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost.

Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing.

Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

We are also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this we can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, we would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

We are also aware of a significant number of young women who share our views but are scared to say so publicly such is the pressure to be seen to support the sex industry. Many are even too scared to submit objections despite reassurances that their details will be redacted.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 21 May 2019 23:48**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

WOMEN deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and this is anything but.

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus.

Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 00:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

My daughter is supposed to be taking her place at Sheffield University this Autumn. I am horrified at this proposal and if it succeeds I sincerely hope that she decides to go elsewhere – some other university town that doesn't give official approval to the denigration and abuse of vulnerable women. What message would it send to young women at the University? Would you be happy for YOUR daughters to take up so-called 'lap dancing' as a career?

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 01:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPad

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing application for Spearmint Rhino SEV**From:****Sent:** 22 May 2019 01:55**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Licensing application for Spearmint Rhino SEV

INSERT YOUR ADDRESS (This will be redacted from the public reports pack)

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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." [6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: 'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'" (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019

<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015

<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the licence application from Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 10:08

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the licence application from Spearmint Rhino

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am writing to object to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

I am a member of the Women's Equality Party and chief among our aims is ending all forms of violence against women and girls. As part of this we are campaigning for local authorities to adopt a policy to limit the number of sexual entertainment venues to nil because many of them offer little or no employment protections for the women who work in them.

Research by Eaves Housing into the effects of licensing, as updated by the Metropolitan police, found that in the three years after four sexual entertainment venues opened in one local authority, incidents of rape increased by 33% and sexual assaults by 55%. They also found increased levels of harassment of women in the surrounding area. In the age of #MeToo, where we understand more and more the extent of sexual violence and harassment women experience on a day to day basis, granting licenses to sexual entertainment venues is not only unjustifiable, it contravenes local authorities' Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

I understand that there is an ongoing investigation into alleged serious breaches at the Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield. I trust that, if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did take place, the Council will not grant the requested licence.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of your discussions.

Yours,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 11:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: RE: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 11:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 12:02**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged. University study is a key time in our children's lives, when they can also be vulnerable to negative experiences that can have significant impacts on their lives. We already know that there are growing numbers of students dropping out of University study due to poor mental health and this will make that situation worse.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

At what point is your burden of proof established? You need to be weighing up how many breaches and allegations there have been to determine if they are fit and proper to run risky establishments like this or you are not doing your duty.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

074

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:31

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

076

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Get Outlook for Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 12:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

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If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 12:48
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 14:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD

From:

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined. This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality. Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women

performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Yours faithfully

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 14:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licence Objection - Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 15:31

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licence Objection - Spearmint Rhino

Hi,

The locality is unsuitable, and as a woman I feel at risk when I have to pass sexual entertainment venues. Men who think it acceptable to buy the sexual attention of women inside such clubs don't suddenly start respecting us when we leave. The atmosphere that is created is one of hostile sexism.

Spearmint Rhino are not suitable licence holders, with a history of illegal activity in their venues. Should a licence be granted Sheffield Council risk opening themselves up to the threat of legal action as they will have failed in their duty to uphold the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Kind regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 16:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Yours faithfully

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 16:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 22 May 2019 16:56**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to Spearmint Rhino

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

22 May
2019

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino. This is because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing, Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Thank you for your time,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 17:24

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 17:25**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 17:27**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 17:49
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.
Such clubs (actually brothels) are an insult to the dignity of All women and girls. Stop licensing the covert selling of women!

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 17:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

There is ample research to show that men who consume products and engage in activities that objectify women – like lap/pole dancing, strip clubs, pornography, use of prostitution and trafficking have higher levels of tolerance for rape myths and are more aligned with misogynistic attitudes as well as having a higher than average likelihood of involvement in other crime and deviant behaviour (Farley, Malarek).

There is some evidence to suggest that levels of sexual harassment and sexual assault of women increases in and around sex entertainment venues increasing the lack of safety and right to public space for women.

Measures, policies and decisions which challenge objectification, challenge men's demand and provide interventions that can prevent women and girls entering the sex industry and can support them to exit and build viable alternatives will have a long term positive effects of increasing equality and respect between men and women and bringing cost savings through reducing violence and associated health care needs, reducing harm, reducing mental health issues, reducing problematic coping strategies, reducing children being taken into care

For all these reasons – we would argue in line with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Istanbul Convention that sex entertainment venues of this nature are discriminatory against women and girls and prejudicial to women's equality and to good relations between men and women.

Thank you

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 18:41

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of

inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 19:07**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 19:12

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

22/05/2019

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 19:16

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 19:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

094 P2

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 19:28

To: licensingservice

Subject Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 19:56**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From: Sent: 22 May 2019 19:59

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 20:31

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 20:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 21:04
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPad

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 21:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 21:27

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Kind regards,

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 21:28
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From: Sent: 22 May 2019 21:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Women deserve better than this.

Regards,

0103

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 21:45

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 21:47

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 21:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

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If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 22:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 22:12

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 22:12

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 22:19

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 22:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 22:58
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 23:05
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Yours

A concerned Sheffield voter

0113

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 23:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

0114

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 23:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 23:34**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 23:46

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Regards

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 23 May 2019 00:06**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 02:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 23 May 2019 04:30**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The club is on a University campus, over ten pimps on weekends wait around the vicinity of the club and it makes the area very unsafe for women especially. The pimps will often chat to security who do not tell them to move on.

Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

A report by Lilith project found that rape rose by 50% after 4 lapdancing clubs were opened and sexual assault rose by 57%.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From: Sent: 23 May 2019 04:46

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

This page is intentionally left blank

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 07:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

I object to any venue that increases demand for the sex trade. Women are people, not commodities.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 07:31

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 07:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

Dear Sir,

Please see attached letter. It refers to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

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

Kind regards,

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Thursday, 23 May 2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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."[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: 'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'"
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds
- [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>
- [6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90
- [7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 08:59

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 09:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a regular visitor to Sheffield for business and leisure and as a young woman that wishes to enjoy the night life, I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Yours faithfully

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection Letter

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 09:55

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection Letter

Dear Licencing Service,

Please see objection attached, on behalf of the staff and Trustees of Vida Sheffield.

Can we also clarify – if we list everyone’s names on the letter, will we be counted as separate objectors, or only one collective objection?

Regards,



formerly
Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum

Head of Licensing & Chief Licensing Officer
Block C
Staniforth Road
Sheffield S9 3HD
email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

21 May 2019

**Re: Application for Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence
by Spearmint Rhino**

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,

With reference 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 understand that evidence of unlawful sexual activity at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is currently under investigation, which would act as evidence of breaches of their existing SEV licence.

Regardless of this emerging evidence, we believe that the Council should in any case refuse the licence application 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 also has 'statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender' ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. [NB: the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is 'sex' and not 'gender']. We believe that a sexual entertainment venue directly discriminates against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women and girls, which contributes to their objectification in other areas of society. SEV's are both a cause and a consequence of inequality between the sexes.

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, and men, have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, overwhelmingly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all... this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

It should not be necessary to 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.

We have been made aware of information from local publicity which indicates that undercover investigations in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, have revealed significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the councils' own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. **We understand that evidence of unlawful sexual activity at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is currently under investigation, which would act as evidence of breaches of their existing SEV licence.**

Our other 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**. It is 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 Festival Square [just renamed Cultural Industries Quarter Square] and the SHU Students Union [a hub for young impressionable people, often away from home for the first time and very vulnerable]. Now that this whole area in front of the Showroom Cinema and Site Gallery is being pedestrianised, it means that **Spearmint Rhino will effectively become an 'on campus strip club'**;
- 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 it – 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 have their city leaders normalising and promoting 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 and**

girls, 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 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 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**.

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 consultations, **many Sheffield Councillors appear to agree that Sexual Entertainment Venues involve the objectification of women**. In allowing the licensing of even one SEV in the city, the City Council is effectively endorsing and facilitating the objectification of women and undermining 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.

Vida see the devastating impacts daily in our Eva Therapy Service for women and girls affected by different forms of male violence and abuse, and their resulting trauma [and costly physical and mental health symptoms] and we urge you to take women's objections seriously.

We would respectfully but strongly urge the Licencing Committee to refuse this licence application by Spearmint Rhino.

If the licence committee feel that they cannot make a refusal decision without further discussion, Vida would ask that another 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 the licence application.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,




on behalf of the Vida Sheffield Management Committee and staff team



McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection letter

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 10:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection letter

Please find attached an objection letter to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

Regards

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

23rd May 2019

Dear Licensing

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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 Venue 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" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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“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”.

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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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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.

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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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: I am sharing 'SR template objection letter copy 2019.docx' with you

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 10:24

To: licensingservice

Subject: I am sharing 'SR template objection letter copy 2019.docx' with you

Shared from Word for Android

<https://office.com/getword>

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

23/5/2019

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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 Venue 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" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

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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 of the Shelf and Doc Fest events, the latter is internationally renowned.

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Thank you

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: SPEARMINT RHINO. LICENCE OBJECTION

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 10:38

To: licensingservice

Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO. LICENCE OBJECTION

Please see below attached

Licensing Service

Block C, Staniforth Road Depot

Staniforth Road

Surrey Street

S9 3HD

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

23 may 2019

Dear Licensing

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 10:58

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

0131 P1

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spermint Rhino

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 11:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spermint Rhino

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name

Address

23/05/19

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 11:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection

Please find my objection to Spearmint Rhino license attached.

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

23/05/2019

To:

Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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Signed:

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 12:33

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

When you allow women's bodies to be sold to men for sex you are supporting slavery.

0124

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Relicensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 13:19
To: licensingservice
Subject: Relicensing of Spearmint Rhino

23/05/2019

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

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Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino licence application

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:28

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino licence application

Dear Licensing,

I would like to register my objection to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield. In my view, there is an important difference between private clubs which permit consensual sexual activity and clubs in which women display or 'sell' their bodies to men, reinforcing the objectification of women's bodies that is causing so much distress, including to girls and young women, in our society.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the Spearmint Rhino club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the licence.

Yours faithfully,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:59

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Please find attached a written objection received by us from a former lap dancer of the Spearmint Rhino chain to further testify to the 'rule breaching' and exploitation that we recently exposed and that goes hand-in-hand with how this club, this chain and the entire strip trade operates.

Thank you

Statement to Sheffield City Council May 2019

I am an ex 'dancer' and survivor of sex trafficking whereby Spearmint Rhino, along with other well-known strip clubs, alongside brothels perpetrated a culture not only that parallels one another but that is a variant of modern slavery itself by way of structure.

Recruitment by deception:

The predominant target for recruitment into the strip and sex industry is the young, often teenage girl. This is not only because she is more sellable and therefore a more profitable commodity in the eyes of the exploiters but also because the human brain does not fully develop or become cognitively mature until between the ages of 25-30 years old. (This is a widely accepted scientific fact). Young teenage girls are much more impressionable to the deployment of deceptive and aggressive tactics in recruitment. Lies of a life of riches and freedom from the oppression of low paid and unsustainable jobs, rent arrears, poverty and low self-esteem are often used. The false image that has been propagandised by media of an empowered, respected woman who is financially secure is in no way a reflection of the truth, which leads on to my next point.

Debt bondage:

From the moment a dancer starts her shift she is indebted to the club, amounts of monetary coercion varies from club to club on average between £80-150. This is a clear-cut method of trafficking perpetrators use and is the definition of modern slavery. "Often traffickers keep victims under their control by saying they will be free after they pay their debt. The 'Debt is supposedly incurred from their recruitment, upkeep, transportation or even their crude sale - thus sex trafficking may occur within debt bondage/bonded labour" (End Slavery Now). It is important to realise that the amounts of £80-150 are large sums for someone coming from a working class background, already struggling to make ends meet, which further destabilises and breaks moral boundaries because the need to pay back the debt and make a profit takes precedence as an act of self-preservation.

Family ties?

I find it abhorrent that a lot of clubs deliberately create a Stockholm syndrome type of trauma-bond between those exploited and the ones profiting from the exploitation by creating a false narrative and comparison to a family atmosphere. A lot of clubs make dancers call the women responsible for micro-managing them "house mums" This is not entirely dissimilar to run of the mill pimps making their girls call them "daddy" except this is more sophisticated as the female pronoun is perceived to be non-threatening and therefore not a form of emotional abuse and exploitation. Perhaps not all, but a vast majority of women working in these clubs come from a background of family trauma, this is not a judgement, I myself did. When there is no healthy blueprint of family dynamics and an unmet need of belonging stemming from childhood trauma, it is easy to replicate a dysfunctional family narrative. It is certainly not healthy or normal for a mother figure to encourage competition, back stabbing and sexual exploitation of her "girls".

Culture of abuse:

The women working in strip clubs are perceived as cash cows by those who profit from them. It is common practice in clubs for dancers to charge extra to allow a closer dance, sometimes inclusive of touching. We used to call this "naughty forties" because we charged £40 rather than the standard £20. It isn't a free choice, given the debt bondage and the number of dancers on the floor at one time (sometimes forty dancers to ten customers!) It is a matter of survival. The normalisation of this leads

not only to women feeling degraded therefore further entrenched and controlled by the club but also it enables customers to treat women with absolute lack of regard for their humanity. Sexual assault is a daily occurrence as is sexual harassment and propositions, a gateway for those more vulnerable into prostitution. It is not acceptable in any other workplace for workers to be subjected to regular and daily emotional abuse and harassment so why are you licencing and allowing this? On one occasion I was assaulted by a customer and scorned by the manageress for calling security as he was spending a lot on drink from the bar. I also witnessed assaults on other dancers by customers every shift, the rule of thumb was not to call security unless the customer wasn't paying any money to the club. Selective protection and duty of care unfortunately are club culture and it's the women who suffer.

Coercive control:

Dancers, although self employed by definition are made to sign a contract giving the club complete control over what they wear down to lengths of dresses, stockings or no stockings, which accessories are acceptable or not. The club also controls a dancer's time by keeping them on call the entirety of the shift as unpaid stage shows are on regular rotation. Going to take a breather after being sexually assaulted or spoken down to by a customer is not an option as you may be required on stage at any moment. This keeps women operating like robots and some turn to drink or drugs to maintain the shift and numb any feelings that may be arising from the maltreatment. Petty fines are regularly deployed to keep control over women, fines for things such as chewing gum or wearing the wrong colour thong under a dress. As you can imagine, this creates an uneven power dynamic and encourages bullying of certain woman by "house mums".

Unsanitary conditions:

Changing rooms are often tiny for the number of women on shift which creates an even more territorial and competitive atmosphere as well as problems with sanitation and cleanliness. It is an absolute mainstay for most clubs to have a faulty toilet (usually there is only one toilet for 20-40 women to share!) This leads to flooding as well as arguments between dancers.

Men seen as walking ATM machines:

It's not just the women that are exploited, the sex industry structure inverts its tactics on men too. Men are lied to and fed a false narrative that the women enjoy their company and are sexually attracted to them when this couldn't be further from the truth given the sterile and cold environment. I witnessed credit card fraud perpetrated against men regularly. The men were promised to be given some kind of sexual favour by entering the VIP suite or similar. Sometimes this promise was honoured, mostly it wasn't. When they went to pay, the waiter or waitress would type in a huge sum on the card machine which was not the amount the man was originally quoted, the screen would then be quickly progressed to a new one requiring the man enter his pin. Trusting a well-established club not to commit fraud the customers fall for the trick. They were often drunk when this happens and too ashamed to report to police.

Pimps using clubs to recruit:

Pimps often loiter outside clubs as well as enter them with a view to recruit more women. Often, they already have their own women working within the club hence why they loiter, awaiting their money at the end of the shift.

Overall the structure and culture of the strip industry is one and the same as brothel owners and human traffickers in how they keep women under control. I feel that strip clubs are nothing but a legalised and enabled shop front for the darker things within the industry.

I am absolutely pro-choice for women and am not of any kind of moral high ground stance when it comes to sexual promiscuity or freedom of expression, however I feel that this industry is the opposite of freedom. If money wasn't being exchanged, then I do not feel these acts would be carried out consensually therefore that in itself is an act of coercion when coupled with the leverage of financial hardship for the women trapped within this cycle.

There will be lots of opposition to what I am saying by women still within the industry. I feel that is because they are operating in survival mode. This is their livelihood yes and it is a fear-based responses, however I feel that a long term solution by way of exit strategies needs to be in place coupled with the refusal to re licence spearmint rhino.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino license

From: Sent: 23 May 2019 20:50

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino license

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 and I call for the council to refuse it.

The council has a duty under the Public Sector Equality Duty to promote equality between the sexes. Licensing this venue does the opposite. It actively works against equality by making it seem normal and acceptable for women's bodies to be used as entertainment devices.

There is no point in the Council trying to make any headway promoting equality in employment, education etc, if it is giving out this message.

Saying "but the women need jobs" is no excuse. Women, indeed all people, need access to their share of the bounteous wealth of this country. Expecting them to sell their bodies and their dignity to get it, is unacceptable. Why should they? You don't. You get food and a roof over your head without having to perform sexual acts on, or in front of, strangers for whom you feel no desire. Why inflict that on others?

The argument that women can sell sexual favours if they want to, also does not wash. We are not allowed to sell our kidneys, or our babies, and for good reason. The opportunity for exploitation is simply too high.

Sheffield does not need to encourage its citizens to exploit each other sexually for money. We can move beyond this.

Yours,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS
Attachments: Objection to Spearmin Rhino licence.docx

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 18:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

I trust you will weigh up all the objections to this degrading "entertainment" venue and revoke their licence, which many Sheffield citizens feel revulsion towards.

Best regards,

23rd May 2019

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Licensing Service,

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: 'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'"
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

0140 Pi

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino License objection
Attachments: Letter of Objection SR (DECSY) 2019.docx; ATT00001.htm

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 17:57
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino License objection

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached a letter of objection to the Spearmint Rhino License application.

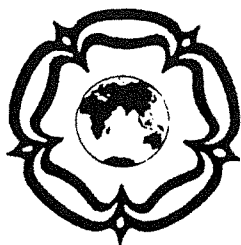
Kind regards

0140 P2

Development Education Centre

(South Yorkshire)

(Charitable Incorporated Organisation: 1153377)



Scotia Works,
Leadmill Road,
Sheffield S1 4SE
Tel: (0114) 241 2754
Fax: (0114) 2412752
email:
Web: www.decsy.org.uk

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

23rd May 2019

Dear Licensing Officers

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 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 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

1) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike. A high number of young students (18+) who walk close the entrance to the SEV on their way back to their flats at Leadmill Point. A further large complex of student flats has recently been completed on Suffolk Road. Many of these students are away from home for the very first time, and a very high number are from overseas and some may be vulnerable to misunderstanding the behaviour and intentions of SEV customers, or being drawn into the club themselves. Education students from SHU also come down Charles Street, Grinders Hill, Shoreham Street to Leadmill Road to take part in our activities, and those of CRESST at Scotia Works. I contend that an SEV in the CIQ area is turning a vibrant part of the city with a cinema and music venue frequented by young people, many under the age of 18, into something of a red light area particularly attractive to SEV customers and dancers, prospective dancers and potentially prostitutes and their customers. This impacts the character of the area and the quality of the environment and also potentially contravenes Unitary Development Plan, 1, LR2 by undermining 'the vitality and viability of the evening economy of the City Centre.'

(b) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The area is actively frequented by young people, many below the age of 18. I am aware that children from 14-18 years from the neighbouring UTC on Shoreham Street also pass close by to the entrance of the venue. This potentially unsupervised children passing the SEV on a daily basis.

As tenants of Scotia Works, also known as the Centre for Learning, Development and Citizenship, my organisation, along with others in the building, is committed to the education and well-being of young people. To this end we, and others at Scotia like 'CRESST' and 'Sheena Amos Youth Trust' hold periodic or regular events for young people (with or without family members or teachers present). Although our entrance is on Leadmill Road, a couple of streets away from the entrance of the SEV, our young people are still likely to encounter the SEV and everything it implies about the role of women in society. I believe this is unacceptable.

The Leadmill club organises regular (100 per year) evening youth (14+) events. Here is another inevitable opportunity for under 18 year olds to encounter SEV customers. This may carry even higher risks than for the school children because the time in the evening when The Leadmill events take place is more likely to coincide with SEV customers leaving the venue (who may be intoxicated with alcohol and whose behaviour may be influenced by their very recent experience of sexual entertainment). However tightly Spearmint Rhino seek to manage their activities inside the venue, they cannot control their customers (or dancers) once they leave the premises. I would argue that allowing an SEV to continue in this area is likely to contravene section 4 of The Licensing Act 2003 with regard failure in 'The protection of children from harm'. Heightened awareness of issues of child sexual exploitation locally, following the Jay Report, is likely to make those responsible for the well-being of children and young people particularly sensitive to the potential behaviour of adults around an SEV. Whilst in some cases this might reduce the risk to children, it will certainly impact on people's quality of life.

(c) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is 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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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.

The Showroom and Leadmill Road are part of the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) recognised by Core Strategy 17 as a key growth cluster for the creative and digital industries.

Core Strategy 20 recognises how much the two universities have invested in the public realm and have contributed to the knowledge economy, this is particularly the case for Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) in the CIQ area.

Core Strategy 54 aims to promote pedestrian routes and following the Heart of The City developments and the improved gateway into the city from the main railway station (five minutes

walk from the site of the SEV). As a result many visitors to the city will turn left at the top of the water cascades outside the station to visit the Showroom, Leadmill, other venues, and will encounter the SEV.

2) People's privacy

There are residential properties in the vicinity of the proposed SEV. In addition to the Unite Student accommodation at Leadmill Point, Columbia Works, which also faces Leadmill Road and Suffolk Road, has approximately 70 flats, Leadmill Court on Leadmill Street has over 80, Liberty Works and others add to this number. There a number of young families now living at Columbia Place and Leadmill Court. The nature of the activity at the SEV is particularly unsuited to the privacy of young families.

3) Employment, local economy

Although it is argued that the SEV supports employment, it is hard to see how it won't continue to affect the local economy, including other employment prospects elsewhere in the immediate locality. This could include UNITE and the owners of other accommodation or offices who lose tenants or profit and feel obliged to reduce staffing.

4) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is "a sticking plaster to a gaping wound" approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club's signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building's use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

6) The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

I am sure that I need not remind the Council of its duty under the Equality Act's requirement to pay due regard to foster good relations between men and women.

Further grounds for 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." [6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**" (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

In conclusion, I would argue that no amount of further conditions or restrictions on the opening hours etc on the SEV would alter the fact that this SEV continues to affect the character and impact the quality of life of the area, primarily because of the number of under 18 year olds who use it on a daily basis.

Yours sincerely



Education Adviser

Development Education Centre (South Yorkshire)
Centre for Learning, Development and Citizenship

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds
- [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>
- [6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90
- [7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015
<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

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0141 fi

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 08:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

24/05/19

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone.

Sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

As Founder of White Ribbon UK I have been formally working for respect and equality between men and women for the last 15 years, and the very existence of Spearmint Rhino is a denial of this.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’”(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th

2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: objection letter for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application by Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 10:20**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** objection letter for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application by Spearmint Rhino

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

By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

24th May 2019

Dear Licensing,

I am a 29yr old woman, who works as a young women's advocate, supporting 11-18yr old who have experienced or at risk of sexual violence. I am also a survivor of male violence and have previously been exploited by "women and girls empowerment for men's pleasure".

I mention these at the start of the letter to highlight my position, and my first hand knowledge of this degrading, exploitative nature of objectifying women and girls.

I believe normalising and supporting sexual entertainment venues upholds sex based oppression of women and girls, forcing females into a subordinate position under men; allowing our bodies, finances and our power to be controlled by males, for the male gaze. I believe if sexual entertainment licences are awarded, the council are supporting the idea that females are here to satisfy men's need and be objects for men to play with.

I recognise links between sexual abuse, broken norms of boundaries, self-esteem and the use of problematic substances. I also recognise and know the false feeling of "empowerment" of feeling like we, as women and girls are in control of who looks at our bodies, and what men do to our bodies.

Instead of supporting male domination, we have to look at the routes in and

out (potentially leading to on and off street prostitution and exploitation of females) of sexual entertainment venues for females.

I also recognise the importance of financial pushes into "sexual entertainment", instead of supporting the male desire, we should be supporting women into work that is not objectifying our bodies.

This is an objection letter for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application 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 Venue 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" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone.

I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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

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“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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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.

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When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an ‘extraordinary campaign’, he called ‘the working of democracy’.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’” (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I would be happy to speak further about this with you, and hope you recognise the degrading nature of sexual entertainment venues.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

1

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Action: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 15:45

To: licensingservice

Subject: Action: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir or Madam:

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Best regards,

0144 P1

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection letter to licence renewal for 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS
Attachments: Letter to SCC Licensing Service re 60 Brown Street application (24.05.19).pdf;
Appendix 1.pdf; Appendix 2.pdf

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 16:57
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection letter to licence renewal for 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

Dear Licensing Service,

Please find attached an objection in relation to the application for a renewal of a licence for 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS. Also attached are the two appendices mentioned in the letter.

Kind Regards

Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office
Sheffield Hallam University
Tel: [REDACTED]



WORKING TO REDUCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DO YOU NEED TO PRINT THIS EMAIL?

0144 P2



Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Sheffield Hallam University
City Campus
Howard Street
Sheffield S1 1WB

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

www.shu.ac.uk

Vice-Chancellor

[Redacted]

MA PhD PGCE

24 May 2019

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Re: Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS - Application for renewal of a licence under Part II and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

I am writing as the Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University to object in the strongest terms to the above application on the grounds outlined below.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in Schedule 3, paragraph 12 outlines the grounds on which a licence may be refused. Sheffield Hallam University is submitting this objection pursuant to Schedule 3, paragraph 12(3)(d), by maintaining that the renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to:

- i. the character of the relevant locality; and
- ii. the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put.

Section 7 of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy (the "Council's Policy") states that "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."

We submit that the premises are too close to (a), (b), (e) and (f), and in this letter we set out concerns relevant to each of those. Furthermore, our response will set out our contention that the presence of a sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield does not meet the City Council's Public Sector Equality Duty as introduced by the Equality Act 2010, and severely impedes upon our ability to do so as well.

A: The locality and nearby premises

1. 60 Brown Street is sited in what is now a residential area with student living accommodation located directly to the rear of the Spearmint Rhino's venue on Arundel

Lane. Furthermore, there are planned developments to provide private rental accommodation within the surrounding area (e.g. Allsop Fields and Furnival Square) which will vastly increase the number of residents living within a short distance of the establishment.

The route past Spearmint Rhino's venue is a high traffic area for students. The route for students to many of Sheffield Hallam University's buildings takes them directly past the venue at all hours of the day and night (note: Sheffield Hallam University's Learning Centre is open 24/7 and the core teaching hours are up to 9pm). Our students are entitled to, and need to, feel safe and secure during their studies at university. The central location of Spearmint Rhino's venue undermines the perception of safety, equality and diversity that Sheffield City Council and the two universities in the City are dedicating considerable resources to develop and ensure. The current location of the venue portrays the area in an anti-social light, which is not conducive with its setting in the City's Cultural Industries Quarter, and with the potential to create a perception of fear and crime rather than safety and vibrancy.

2. 60 Brown Street is a short distance from the University Technical College which is attended by pupils of the ages 14-19. The premises are also adjacent to Festival Square, a public open space used by members of the public including families with children and those under 18 years of age. Sheffield Hallam University has recently been working with the Site Gallery on improving the Festival Square and increasing the amount of cultural animation and activity around the square, both during the day and at night, with the aim to enhance its prominence as one of the City's key cultural hubs.

The continued presence of a sexual entertainment venue directly adjacent to a cultural area threatens to jeopardise the long-term plans for the area. The Council's Policy states that it will not licence premises that are within close proximity to educational or recreational premises or areas used by or for children under 16 years of age, and we assert that 60 Brown Street clearly meets this criteria.

3. 60 Brown Street is sited near to Sheffield Hallam University's Prayer Rooms and Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, which regularly attract a large number of students seeking a place of worship, spirituality, meditation or reflection. Also nearby are the Counselling and Wellbeing services available for staff and students of Sheffield Hallam University. These services provide specialist support, including for survivors of sexual assault and harassment. The route to these facilities takes visitors past Spearmint Rhino's venue. Female students and those students of particular faiths may feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino limits their enjoyment of the space and compromises their safety due to the clientele Spearmint Rhino attracts.

Sheffield Hallam University has made a significant commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and has committed to '*ensure an inclusive, accessible and open working and learning environment for all staff and students*'. It is our view that there should be no spaces which create an intimidating hostile, offensive or degrading environment for our students or staff. We owe a duty of care to our students and staff and need to ensure that in creating an inclusive, accessible and open environment we have appropriate safeguards in place. The Council's Policy states that it will not licence premises that are within close proximity to places of religious worship or premises that provide health and wellbeing support, and we assert that 60 Brown Street clearly meets this criteria.

4. 60 Brown Street is adjacent to the building of Sheffield Hallam Students' Union, "the HUBS", formerly the National Centre for Popular Music. This is an iconic building, a Sheffield City Landmark, and of cultural interest. 60 Brown Street is in an area of cultural interest, given that it is within the Cultural Industries Quarter. The premises are located on a main gateway from Sheffield Rail Station and the central transport interchange to and from the City Centre, just metres away from the designated by Sheffield City Council 'Gold Route'.

The presence of a sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the Cultural Industries Quarter is inappropriate. The focus for this area is arts, media and education, mixed with industrial heritage. The location of Spearmint Rhino's venue gives a negative impression of the City and Sheffield Hallam University, and undermines the considerable improvements that are planned for this part of the City Centre.

Spearmint Rhino's venue is also directly adjacent to the only designated Public Space in the Cultural Industries Quarter, which is not currently used to its full potential. The presence of a sexual entertainment venue in the immediate vicinity prevents the creation of a day and night active frontage onto the public space.

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*'. It is our assertion that Spearmint Rhino does not complement any of these attributes, and in fact works in total opposition to the above statements and is in no way cultural, artistic or educational.

The Council's Policy states that it will not licence premises that are within close proximity to the 'Cultural Hub of the City', a central gateway to the city, or other city landmark, and we assert that 60 Brown Street clearly meets this criterion.

5. Sheffield Hallam University has recently launched an ambitious vision and plan for its city campus to great acclaim both locally and nationally. Sheffield City Council has had significant involvement in the development of the plan and has been very supportive of the university's proposals.

Phase 1 of the plan, which will be implemented over the next five years, intensifies development in the Cultural Industries Quarter, and focuses on the establishment of a new gateway to the University and the City. This will commence with the demolition of the Science Park to make way for new developments on the site and on that of the Science Park Car Park. It will see the creation of a 'University Green' on Arundel Lane, immediately adjacent to the premises currently housing Spearmint Rhino. We draw your attention to Appendix 1 which shows the new buildings on the plan and the close proximity of 60 Brown Street to the prestigious new developments of Phase 1.

The Sheffield City Council's City Centre Plan 2018-2028 includes a section on its ambition to be a Knowledge City (section 4.3). An extract of this can be found in Appendix 2. It covers in great detail the importance of Sheffield's City Centre educational establishments, stating that '*the Council will continue to work closely with each institution to ensure full integration of the Campus Masterplans with the wider City Centre Plan*' and that they will '*work in partnership to implement high quality public realm and connectivity*'. If the Council renews the licence for this sexual entertainment venue located in such close proximity to our university's Phase 1 planned improvements, it will directly contravene what the university is trying to achieve and will prevent the accomplishment of a '*high quality public realm*'.

The planned development of the Knowledge Gateway by improving the street frontage on Brown Street in front of Spearmint Rhino's venue and along Paternoster Row demonstrates that Brown Street is a valued location for the Council's sustained cultural and economic development. We would like to highlight the significant conflict that the Council communicates through its continued decision to grant the licence for Spearmint Rhino in its current location. If the licencing department at the Council believes that the venue makes some cultural or educational contribution, then it is questioned as to why the venue is not highlighted throughout the City Centre Plan.

Having worked with stakeholders across the Cultural Industries Quarter and the City, including Sheffield City Council, in the development of the vision for our university's new campus, we believe that there are compelling reasons for the Council not to renew the licence to Spearmint Rhino. Indeed, if it were to be renewed, then we believe that the Council would be placing itself into conflict regarding its own plans for the development of the City Centre and jeopardising both the potential impact of the Knowledge Gateway investment and the proposed plans for a number of key stakeholders to obtain external funding and continue to develop this part of the City into a thriving cultural hub at the immediate gateway to the City Centre.

Again, we assert that 60 Brown Street is in close proximity to the 'Cultural Hub of the City' and on a central gateway to the City Centre, and therefore meets the criteria outlined in the Council's Policy for not qualifying for renewed licence.

B. Objection under the City Council's Public Sector Equality Duty

Sheffield Hallam University is subject to legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 as a provider of higher education, a service provider, and an employer. Therefore, alongside Sheffield City Council, the university must ensure that it is fulfilling the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate Discrimination, Harassment and Victimisation;
- Advance Equality of Opportunity; and
- Foster Good Relations.

It is our position that the licencing of Spearmint Rhino is not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty, that it impedes our university's ability to meet our objective to '*ensure an inclusive, accessible and open working and learning environment for all staff and students*' and also threatens our university's ability to fulfil our own Public Sector Equality Duty.

In 2016 Universities UK (UUK, the representative body for universities in the United Kingdom) published the '[Changing the culture](#)' report which examined violence against women, harassment and hate crime affecting university students. The investigation into this matter was at the request of the Minister for Universities and the report has been considered by the Women and Equalities Committee in Parliament, which has repeatedly cautioned universities that sexual harassment "*and other violence against women is blighting women's experiences of university*".

The UUK report stated that universities have a duty to ensure that all students are able '*to enjoy a safe and positive experience at university*' and that the potential impact of any sexual violence on a student may be so serious in nature that universities must be equipped to respond effectively and also to engage in prevention initiatives. A survey carried out by the End Violence Against Women coalition in 2016 found that 85 per cent of women aged 18-24 reported that they had experienced unwanted sexual attention in public places and 45% had experienced unwanted sexual touching. The role of universities in tackling these issues is therefore extremely important.

Since the release of this report, Sheffield Hallam University has responded proactively to the recommendations and made significant progress in developing reporting mechanisms; appointing specialist wellbeing practitioners to support reporting parties, setting up partnership working with the police, the Students' Union and local agencies; organising bystander initiatives and staff training, and raising general awareness. We are also proud of the positive and respectful culture that we are engendering within our community.

It is our position that the continued licencing of a sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield normalises sexist and misogynistic behaviour. Attitudes and behaviours that in any other workplace or public environment would be considered to be sexual harassment and gender

discrimination, are legitimised in sexual entertainment venues. It is naïve to believe that these attitudes and behaviours are not carried beyond the venue into society, and therefore we assert that the presence of a sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield City Centre does not eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, it does not advance equality of opportunity, and it does not foster good relations.

Sheffield Hallam University is committed to cultivating a tolerant, respectful environment for our staff and students, within which violence, harassment and hate crime of any kind has no place. We have an excellent working relationship with Sheffield City Council and have achieved so much for the regeneration of the City Centre together.

C. Conclusion

We hope that the Council will take into account the numerous objections that have been, and will continue to be, raised against the granting of a renewed licence for Spearmint Rhino, and will this time act decisively in a manner that supports the interests of the planned future development of the City to recognise that this venue does not adhere to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty and not renew the licence.

Yours sincerely,



Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University

The Council will continue to work closely with **each institution** to ensure **full** integration of the campus Master Plans with the wider City Centre Plan.

Major campus **enhancement** programmes are under way for both Universities supported by the City Council and City Region.

The University of Sheffield is investing significant sums in its Public **Realm** together with funding from SCR. These changes focus **on** the extension of the Gold Route axis of high quality public spaces from Devonshire Green through **Portobello, Leavygreave** and across Western Bank (completed) to the **Arts Tower** concourse and **Weston Park**. Key outcomes of these interventions are the creation of a high quality and well connected setting for the Faculty of Engineering, one of the highest rated in UK, the Arts Tower (the University's most well known landmark building) -- and a development platform for the new Faculty of Science at Hounsfield and **Leavygreave** West. The campus will also be served by a high quality **public** cycle and **pedestrian** route with significant improvements to **accessibility** and safety. Improved connections to and through the **North Campus** are also planned linking it to the major cluster of city centre student accommodation in the St Vincent's Quarter (see plan vii page 30).

For **SHU** a new extended **high** quality setting for investment and expansion will be commenced by the Knowledge Gateway Project again supported by the Council, the **City** Region and SHU. The project will create an enhanced and more cycle and pedestrian friendly corridor linking the core of the Cultural Industries Quarter at Paternoster Row and SHU's **Howard** St main buildings with further expansion sites and the new Sheffield Institute of Arts at Fitzalan Sq (see plan vi page 29).

The route will also improve connectivity to the Heart of the City via **Esperanto** Place/Norfolk St and to Digital Campus and **Park Hill** via Pond Hill. This is important as the Pond St area offers significant expansion room for both SHU and the Central **Business** District.

Wherever **possible** it will seek to co-ordinate improvements to the campus public realm with the Streets Ahead highway repair programme, as well as **improvements** to wayfinding, road safety and pedestrian connectivity.

With 60,000 students and 12,000 staff, many living in or close to the City Centre the education institutions have a very large impact on travel patterns to and from the City Centre. The City Council is working with them to encourage more walking, cycling and use of public transport and incorporating improvements to access for each of these modes in improvements to campuses identified **above**. (see also Transport Chapter).

Both universities are now significantly involved in the events calendar of the City Centre as exemplified by the Festival of the Mind, Sheffield Food Festival, Tramlines and Off the Shelf, in support for the City Centre Business Improvement District (see also Retail Chapter) and new areas of partnership have also been developed in applied research and city animation.

In recent years the potential to harness academic knowledge and research capacity to analysing and tackling the city's challenges in a more **systematic** way and over longer time has been seized in projects such as Renew Sheffield, the Castlegate Partnership, Grey to Green, Love Square and many others and this will continue and grow led by the respective Civic Engagement teams of both Universities.

EACH YEAR SHEFFIELD HOSTS AROUND

70,000

STUDENTS, MANY LIVING IN THE CITY CENTRE



University of Sheffield new Engineering Building – 'The Diamond'

SUMMARY OF KNOWLEDGE CITY PROPOSALS

- Support the implementation of Campus Master Plans for both universities and Sheffield College and work in partnership to implement higher quality public realm and connectivity
- Continue to encourage and support higher education involvement in the City Centre events calendar
- Work with the universities and colleges to promote sustainable, safe and healthy travel options
- Develop more focussed and long term urban research programmes in partnership with the higher education sector
- Encourage graduate retention and enterprise in the City Centre by providing a full attractive and distinctive offer of housing, leisure, cultural and retail provision

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Madam or Sir,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

--

Best wishes,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 17:13
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

On a personal level, I was affected by the misogynistic attitude and objectification this club endorses. I was walking to my workplace near the club in the early morning of late January last year. Two well-dressed young men were walking up from the strip club (it had just closed for the night) walked past me and one pointed at me, saying to his friend deliberately loudly enough for me to hear, 'she's rapeable'. I believe their attitude of seeing women as sexual objects had been heightened by the strip club, where they had been literally commodifying women, and they were in a giddy sort of misogyny buzz.

Please remove this license. When you say some women can be bought and sold, it ingrains the idea that all women are sex objects.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From: Sent: 24 May 2019 17:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Kind regards,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 16:42

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 16:33**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 15:51**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 15:09**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

As a frequent visitor to the city of Sheffield, and in particular to the general location concerned, I object strongly to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. It is an inappropriate and unsuitable location for this kind of establishment, raising concern for the safety and well being of students and others going legitimately about their work & studies. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few additional cameras are not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 14:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

0154

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 14:31

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely,

0155

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 12:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 10:25**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. This creates the possibility that men coming to ogle women will be brought in to contact with young women in the shape of female students. I am relieved that my daughters are not students in Sheffield!

As I believe you must be aware, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, I understand that recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

I also understand that The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. On the basis of this I don't believe a new manager or a few more cameras is going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit.

If this club is re-licensed it places the council in a position of knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and is also knowingly putting women at risk.

I therefore request Spearmint Rhino is not re-licensed.

Many thanks for taking my views into consideration.

0157

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 10:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

0158

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 11:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Please do not ignore the points being made. Women and girls safety relies on legislators understanding all the issues thoroughly. Strip clubs are a problem wherever they are located.

Many thanks

0159

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 11:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Licensing service,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:17

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

You are also undermining gender equality - i.e. women's equality by continuing to run thi skind of establishment.

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Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:57

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 10:15

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

In the 21st century, in the UK, why we even continue to have strip clubs is a question worth considering.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality. Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law. If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

With regards

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:24

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

0166

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:14

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality. Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law. If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Regards,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship **Spearmint Rhino** in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

0168

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 08:20
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 08:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 08:28

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 08:30**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

OP 2

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 17:20
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Please support the end of this abuse against women.

Best wishes,

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From: Li
Sent: 23 May 2019 17:22
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 17:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:24

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:26

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

0177.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 17:27
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:27

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:27

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sirs

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law if you license this club.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours,

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 23 May 2019 17:35**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Thank you for considering this email

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:43

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield County Council.

I am emailing to object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Many thanks for reading.

Regards,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 17:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:03

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:04**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

yours sincerely ,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:13**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear sir/madam,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 19:33

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From: [mailto:

Sent: 23 May 2019 19:50

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Thank you

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 22:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 19:03

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours faithfully

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 23:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 23:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sincerely

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 23:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 23:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Please do not be afraid if doing what you know us the right thing.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 23:40

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 01:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 06:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 06:50

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 17:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy. It is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENCE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

There is ample research to show that men who consume products and engage in activities that objectify women – like lap/pole dancing, strip clubs, pornography, use of prostitution and trafficking have higher levels of tolerance for rape myths and are more aligned with misogynistic attitudes as well as having a higher than average likelihood of involvement in other crime and deviant behaviour (Farley, Malarek).

There is some evidence to suggest that levels of sexual harassment and sexual assault of women increases in and around sex entertainment venues increasing the lack of safety and right to public space for women.

Measures, policies and decisions which challenge objectification, challenge men's demand and provide interventions that can prevent women and girls entering the sex industry and can support them to exit and build viable alternatives will have a long term positive effects of increasing equality and respect between men and women and bringing cost savings through reducing violence and associated health care needs, reducing harm, reducing mental health issues, reducing problematic coping strategies, reducing children being taken into care

For all these reasons – we would argue in line with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and the Istanbul Convention that sex entertainment venues of this nature are discriminatory against women and girls and prejudicial to women's equality and to good relations between men and women.

Thank you

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:39

To: licensingservice

Cc:

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
22/05/19

24 MAY 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino. The arguments against such an establishment being located in Sheffield City Centre have been set out cogently and, in my view, persuasively, elsewhere.

I would simply like to add my voice as a man who finds the presence of such an establishment in central Sheffield objectionable. Although I do not live in Sheffield I worked there for over 35 years and very much view it as my home city and I visit regularly. I have daughters and granddaughters.

Establishments like Spearmint Rhino objectify women, using their bodies as commodities to be sold, and as such they contribute to some of the attitudes and beliefs which underpin sexual and physical violence towards women and girls. Ideally, places like Spearmint Rhino, which sell sex and sexual titillation would not exist in at all. But at very least they should not be legitimised by being granted licence to operate in the heart of a modern city. I don't want my granddaughters to grow up in a world where a public body in the shape of the local authority seemingly sees no serious problem with the attitudes represented by this type of business.

Please make the right decision and refuse to renew Spearmint Rhino's licence.

Yours faithfully


[REDACTED]

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 18:01**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir or Madam

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours faithfully

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 19:29**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Kind Regards

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 21:28

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O210

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 21:19

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

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If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O211

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 19:57

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I am emailing to vehemently object to the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield. It is unconscionable that you are considering re-licensing the Spearmint Rhino strip club ON A UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, when it would be perfectly lawful to refuse on the grounds of unsuitable locality. Female students deserve to feel safe at the places they live and study. Strip club punters do NOT leave their attitudes of entitlement towards the female body and objectification and dehumanisation of women at the strip club exit door. Licensing sex encounter venues sends the message that all women are objects and instruments for the sexual use of men, with myriad negative repercussions for women's fight towards equality and safety on the streets. As sexual assault and rape rates continue to remain at unacceptably high rates across the UK, it is time to put women and girls ahead of men's 'right' to perv at exploited women, often half their age.

Yours Faithfully

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

0212

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 21:19

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern:

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O213

From:

Sent: 25 May 2019 12:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Hello

I wish to register my objection to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable according to the Council's own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club cannot legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk. I urge you to ensure Spearmint Rhino's licence is revoked.

Regards

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

25/5/19

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 and I call for the council to refuse it.

I am aware that after seeing a number of these template letters, you may no longer read the entirety of them and so I will be placing my own personal tangent on this matter at the start specifically for your attention.

Through my own history of sexual exploitation and the awareness I have of the roles establishments such as these played in not only my own sexual exploitation but in that others, I really must insist that the Council seriously considers the impact of such an establishment in the heart of our city (or in our city at all, frankly). Not far from Spearmint Rhino, a rape crisis centre works with survivors of the kinds of sexual exploitation rampant at Spearmint alongside those that have experienced similar exploitation. Does it really seem sensible to have such vulnerable women in such proximity to an establishment that encourages the same kind of sexual objectification and entitlement?

I am aware that you will be hearing many appeals in support of Spearmint Rhino, specifically stating that the women there are working under their own volition and that it would be oppressive to take away their right to such work. I would like to draw your attention to research provided by Farley et al (1998) which found that around 92% of women wanted to immediately exit sex related industries. While I am not doubting the veracity of the women working at Spearmint Rhino, I do urge you to consider whether the voices of 8% can really

override the majority that recognise the pain and exploitation in such industries and as such want exit immediately. Please do listen to the voices of Sheffield women; this is not something that we want. It is not a case of prudishness, it is a case of exploitation, objectification and entitlement to women's bodies and you have a duty to protect the women of this city.

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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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."[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>



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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

23rd May 2019

Dear Sheffield Licencing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal application

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a sex trade survivor: I was trafficked into prostitution at the age of 15. I spent 11 years entrenched in the violent world of prostitution and have since worked to raise awareness of the harm it causes to young people and their families.

I was a close friend and fellow campaigner of [REDACTED], the founder of PACE (formerly known as CROP), and was instrumental in the setting up of CROP in 1996, alongside her own organisation, EXIT, which was formed offer support to women exiting prostitution. I travelled the country with [REDACTED] campaigning, speaking about my own experiences, at conferences and on television, challenging the public and professional perception that young people involved in CSE were 'prostitutes,' who had chosen that 'lifestyle'. [REDACTED] sadly, died in [REDACTED] but I had the strength and commitment to carry on the fight, alone. This was at a time when CSE was not recognised as a child abuse issue, but I did not let this deter me.

I became involved in training professionals and working with young people at risk of, or being, sexually exploited. I can speak directly to young people, using the credibility given to me by my own personal experience.

I continue to campaign on the issue of violence against women and girls. I am a proponent of the Nordic model and is a member of SPACE International (Survivors of Prostitution Abuse Calling for Enlightenment).

I founded the 'Build a Girl Project', whose Board is located in Sheffield and am closely linked with this city, where [REDACTED] lived.

The Build A Girl Project is firmly based on a survivor led perspective and is deeply committed to supporting and empowering victims and survivors of sexual exploitation and abuse and challenging the normalisation of sexism and misogyny that girls and young women are often faced with and constrained by.

The Build A Girl Project provides a safe and therapeutic environment for girls and young women to empower them to build a unique self.



I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

I also draw your attention to the following from the Women and Equalities Committee Sexual harassment of women and girls in public places inquiry:

Jess Phillips: Has a public authority ever been taken to task for human rights for sexual harassment?

Karon Monaghan: I am aware of one case however long ago, under the gender duty—before the public sector equality duty—certainly well over 10 years, 15 years or thereabouts. I am aware of one and that is in the context of licensing a lap dancing club and the impact on women in the community. We have had lap dancing club cases insofar as employment is concerned—so lap dancers have brought claims—but what has been said in the lap dancing public sector equality duty case is that licensing lap dancing clubs, and sexual entertainment venues more generally, have an impact on the wider community because they promote the idea that sexual objectification of women and sexual harassment commonly in those environments is lawful and acceptable. But that is the only context I can think of. It is rarely used in that context and public authorities, in my experience, are rarely challenged for failing to meet that duty and context of sexual harassment.

(<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/sexual-harassment-public-places-17-19/>)



Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which alleges that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and the London branch, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

0216
P3144

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application by Spearmint Rhino

0216

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 21:45
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application by Spearmint Rhino

May 24th 2019

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated *“I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”*[5]

I am sure that I need not remind 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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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.

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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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

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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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an “extraordinary campaign”, he called “the working of democracy”.

It is further reported:

*“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: **‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’**”*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: ‘Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision’ July 18 th 2015
<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>



WOMEN OF STEEL RESISTERS

24th May 2019

Sent by email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Sheffield Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino's licence renewal application

We wish to object to object to Spearmint Rhino's licence renewal application on several grounds.

1 (a) the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;

1.1 Under "any other reason" we assert that given the alleged (at the time of writing) breaches witnessed by undercover officers in this club and the Camden branch render the applicant and management unsuitable. The applicant seems unable to monitor or enforce conditions of the licence in not one, not two, but three clubs in this chain, as it is also reported that breaches occurred at the Bournemouth club a few years ago (see 1.4 overleaf).

1.2 Some of our members were present at the April's Council meeting and whilst we are all too aware of the nature of the industry we oppose, we were not only shocked by the graphic nature of alleged breaches but shocked to see councillors walk out when it is they who have granted licence renewals year after year, despite hearing harrowing testimonies from ex-dancers of this club.

1.3 Details of alleged Spearmint Rhino Camden breaches are here: <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/newslondon/spearmint-rhino-strip-club-probe-after-%E2%80%98lap-dancers-breach-no->

[touch-rule%E2%80%99/ar-AABuGZg](https://www.eveningstandard.com/news/11471476/lap-dancing-club-investigated-after-dancers-allegedly-breach-no-touch-rules/)

EveningStandard.

Spearmint Rhino strip club probe after 'lap dancers breach no-touch rule'

Anthony France 17/05/2019



1.4 Details of breaches in Spearmint Rhino Bournemouth are here:

<https://www.bournemouthecho.co.uk/news/11471476.lap-dancing-club-investigated-after-dancers-allegedly-breach-no-touch-rules/>

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10th September 2014

Lap-dancing club investigated after dancers allegedly breach 'no touch' rules

By Melanie Voss



Most read **Commented**
1 "To have something like this"

1.5 This is compelling evidence that the applicant is unsuitable, even if the applicant argues that the Bournemouth breaches were several years ago, it attests to a pattern and not learning from previous mistakes.

1.6 Speaking of management, this from a current dancer on a review site:

Overview **Reviews** 28 Jobs 108 Salaries 13 Interview 8



"Good money if you work for it"



Current Employee - Stripper in Sheffield, England

- Recommends
- Positive Outlook

I have been working at Spearmint Rhino full-time for more than 2 years

Pros

Money, flexible hours and you can meet some amazing girls there.

Cons

managers are very seedy and sexual assault is prevalent from this line of work; from both the customers and managers. There is a hierarchy of girls and they will pick on the new girls if you don't bow down



2 Grounds with respect to location

2.1 (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;

2.2 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:-

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

2.3.1 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 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.

2.3.2 The Club is also in the centre of our developing and much vaunted Knowledge Gateway.

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

2.4.1 The recreational space Festival Square is adjacent to the club. This space is identified as a future events space in the Council's own City Centre Plan.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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

2.6.1 It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema which describes itself as an "independent cinema, café bar and creative workspace. Housed in a former 1930s' car showroom, we are a unique cultural hub situated in the heart of Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter."

2.6.2 It is also opposite the newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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.

2.6.3 There are young students not only studying in the surrounding 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about alleged breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

3 The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

3.1 Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. We believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

3.2 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.

3.3 Extraction of money under false pretext from drunk customers is unethical and antithetical to fostering good relations between men and women

0217
PS 5/14

5

Rhino - Sheffield, UK.
18 Sep 2016

1 star

Avoid the [redacted] girl. Complete scammer exploiting drunk men. If you pay by card she adds an extra £10 onto the bill calling it a "service charge". She also says you can touch her just to fool you into a dance. Does she heck. She doesn't even dance. She stands about 5 meters away and when you complain stating this isn't even a lap dance, she starts demanding more money and then "she will dance and let you touch her" if you pay her the same amount again. please sort her out management. Giving your club a bad name.



Chief
Local Guide · 21 reviews · 1 photo

★★★★★ a week ago

Got dragged in by a mate when I was drunk and a girl took advantage of me by getting me to pay for more expensive dances and for longer times every dance and that's all she's telling you throughout each dance and then telling me that we can do more (touch) in private which costs even more but you can't and they try to stop you from leaving by going in hand with you when you go to pay everytime and obviously trying to get you to get more dances as that's their job. 20% more on card also.

3.4 This reinforces extremely damaging and negative stereotypes about women being "manipulative", "money grabbing", "teases", and everything that is problematic with transactional sex.

3.5 Again, we refer to the Bournemouth Spearmint Rhino where this happened and it resulted in a legal challenge: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/11220689/Strip-club-Spearmint-Rhino-accused-of-grossly-exploiting-drunk-stag-party-reveller.html>

The Telegraph

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Spearmint Rhino strip club accused of 'grossly exploiting' drunk stag party reveller

Paid content

The man claims he spent a third of his salary in one night at Spearmint Rhino in Bournemouth because staff took advantage of his drunken state



3.6 There were also issues around taking payment from a vulnerable adult, detailed here:

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/councildemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteeMeetings/LicensingBoard/2014/12/02/Reports/Report-6---Spearmint-Rhino.pdf>

Re: The renewal of a license to the Spearmint Rhino Club Bournemouth

Owing to Press releases this week, I have become aware that the Spearmint Rhino Club in Bournemouth is due for renewal of their license. On behalf of my brother, I

would like to object to the renewal of their license unless they agree to change their practices with regard to explaining their charging and pricing. There is a lack of transparency in their charging and in addition to this there appears to be a common practice of taking advantage of vulnerable customers who are unable to understand what these charges entail. This is particularly offensive when it involves someone with a disability being targeted in this way, as happened with my brother.

My brother who is registered as mentally disabled, chose to take his annual holiday in Bournemouth, his nearest large town. He has a learning disability and he has a very low level of literacy, is partially deaf and wears two hearing aids and has limited understanding of **money/finance/number** value.

Whilst on holiday in Bournemouth, he was enticed, with the hope of adult entertainment into the Spearmint Rhino Gentleman's Club where he was given personal attention and was pestered into buying drinks for

4 Past failures to pay due regard to the PSED

4.1 This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews (to the cost of £130k) about its failure to consider the impacts on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has conceded its failure. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

5 Going underground?

5.1 The "going underground argument" is one frequently used for retaining the current licencing regime. We have yet to hear of this happening, however, we make the following points:

- Last year, the club's QC stated that the club has taken a hit since the removal of the signage during operating hours
- So, how will people find them therefore if they are underground?
- There are reports that fewer and fewer stag parties are going to strip clubs
- If underground clubs are found, then the police can arrest the operators and managers and possibly customers. We support the Nordic model which is similar to what we are proposing. The women, however, should NOT be criminalised as under the Nordic model.

- This list here of widespread breaches throughout the industry is a clear indication that it cannot be regulated, no matter how many conditions are imposed:
<https://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Strip%20Sleaze%20Recent.pdf> (attached as an appendix)

5.2 We assert that the removal of a sign during hours when not open does not mitigate against any of the above.

6 Empowered to refuse

6.1 The Sub-committee is reminded that when Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

6.2 It is further reported:

*“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: **‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’**” (emphasis added)*

6.3 Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread alleged breaches to conditions, which we urge you to do.

Yours

Women of Steel ReSisters

Appendix 1

In 2010, new laws meant local councils could license strip clubs/lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues (SEVs) rather than leisure venue (like a café or bar).

This is a compilation of illegal activities associated with strip clubs since the new licensing came into place (from 2011).

This is based simply on Google searches of press reports. As such, it is far from an exhaustive list.

This is a dynamic document that will be regularly updated.

If you have relevant information, we'd love to hear from you!

Please contact us at no@notbuyingit.org.uk

And, of course, please feel free to use the contents of this document and share widely.

First Created: Sep 2017

Last Updated: July 2018

Strip Sleaze New Rules. Same Old Rule Breaking

Not Buying It www.notbuyingit.o

This summarises press reports of serious illegal activity in strip clubs since new licensing came into effect in 2011. Some of these clubs were forced to close as a result. Shockingly, despite serious (and sometimes repeated) incidents, Councils also allowed many to remain open. Why?

Club Location Date of Incident

Various London 2018

The Windmill Westminster 2018

LA Confidential Ealing 2018

Eroticats Cheltenham 2018

Fantasy Nightclub Cheltenham 2018

Bing Bromwich 2017

Hanley's Staffordshire 2017

Jack of Diamonds

[formally Temptations]

Bristol 2017

Temptations Bristol 2013

Legs 11 Birmingham 2017

Bentley's Doncaster 2017

Diamond Dolls Glasgow 2017

Flirtz Skegness 2017

Angels Leicester 2016

Platinum's Stoke 2017

Silks Manchester 2017

Cleopatra's Lounge Huddersfield 2016

Villa Mercedes Harrogate 2015

X in the City Liverpool 2015

Charlie Brown's The City of London 2012

Red Velvet Durham 2013

Spearmint Rhino Bournemouth 2014

Spearmint Rhino

[All Chains]

Bournemouth 2003

Wiggle Bournemouth 2013

Halos Newquay 2011

Divas Newquay n/a

Summary - Illegal Activities since 2011

Notes

IN RED: These are Clubs in councils given a 'Gold Standard' award for the high standards of their strip club policies by a leading researcher and advocate for the industry:

<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Teela%20Sanders%20Gold%20Standards.pdf>

It is noteworthy that an argument frequently used by advocates of the industry is "these are not 'cowboy' clubs, if anything untoward was going on surely we would have heard of it by now".

In fact, these are the very words of Philip Kolvin, QC, legal representative for Spearmint Rhino Sheffield at its licensing renewal in 2018. However, the number of serious incidents puts paid to that assumption, not least at the club chain he was representing.

These are just press reports we have retrieved. There is no doubt this is just the tip of the iceberg as we have not located all reports and the press will only report on a small fraction of incidences, most of which club management will ensure are never exposed. This blog gives some insight into this: <https://sevlicensing.wordpress.com/2013/11/>

Just a quick Google search of press reports exposes the sheer scale of sexual harassment (including possible prostitution and trafficking) alongside other criminal activities (including organised crime) that is synonymous with strip clubs. This is despite tighter regulation introduced when lap

dancing became licensed as part of the sex industry rather than as leisure venues like a bar or cafe (around 2011). This report represents just the tip of the iceberg, merely representing easily accessible press reports.

Touching, Sexual Harassment, Prostitution, Trafficking:

London, Widespread 2018

Undercover journalist reveals widespread alcohol and drug abuse, sex acts, harassment and assaults (groping, biting) and intimidation of lap dancers in numerous London clubs all with management complicit:

<https://londonist.com/london/features/this-is-what-it-s-like-being-a-lap-dancer-in-london>

Westminster, The Windmill 2018

A Private Investigator found widespread rule breaching including touching and offers of sex which was confirmed by CCTV footage. The club still appears to be in operation. Westminster has a staggering 12 strip clubs and 25 sex venues in total:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/historic-soho-lapdancing-club-the-windmill-theatre-faces-closure-after-sting-finds-performers-flout-a3736546.html>

Ealing, LA Confidential 2018

Shut after undercover trading standards reveal performers touching punters and offering sex, in CCTV 'blind spots', with bribed security 'turning a blind eye'. Investigated after tip off from former dancer of poor conditions in clubs, including performers receiving fines of up to £300:

<https://www.ftbchambers.co.uk/news/ealing's-la-confidential-loses-its-sev-licence>

<https://metro.co.uk/2018/06/23/strip-club-shut-dancers-caught-offering-spend-night-clients-extracash-7653652/>

Eroticats, Cheltenham 2018

This is a totally unregulated yet legal 'pop up' strip club. This takes advantage of a loophole written into legislation which allows 'occasional' stripping without the need for a license. This has turned quiet towns like Cheltenham into 'walk through brothels' during race week.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/cheltenham-festival-hosts-royalty-by-day-galloping-sexism-by-night-v7lsmhl3h>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5507183/Church-leads-protests-pop-strip-clubs-Cheltenham.html>

Fantasy Nightclub, Cheltenham 2018

License revoked amidst fears of 'aroused men being let loose in the streets' and the potential for dancers being 'touched, manhandled and abused' during Cheltenham race week.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5507183/Church-leads-protests-pop-strip-clubs-Cheltenham.html>

Detailed – Illegal Activities since 2011

Bing, West Bromwich 2017

Shut down after a brawl led to GBH. Police also expressed grave concerns about prostitution, the use of possibly under age Romanian girls and the possibility that they may have been trafficked:

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/crime/2017/06/21/strip-club-has-sexual-entertainmentlicence-revoked/>

Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent 2017

Shut down after years of concerns over inappropriate touching, offers of prostitution, drugs and drink spiking <http://www.signal1.co.uk/news/local/hanley-lap-dancing-club-closed-down/>

Jack of Diamonds [formerly Temptations], Bristol 2017

Closed for inappropriate touching: <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/bristol-strip-clubclosed-down-34716>

Temptations, Bristol 2013

Extensive and repeated Sexual Contact in private booths. Club fined and allowed to continue

operating: <http://www.southwestbusiness.co.uk/news/22082013102851-bristol-club-t3-temptationsis-fined-after-its-lap-dancers-go-too-far/>

Legs 11, Birmingham 2017

License suspended for trafficking: <http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/city-lap-dance-clublicence-13282405>

Sexual contact observed and under cover trading officers offered 'sexual services' in VIP

rooms: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/07/27/lap-dancing-club-spiked-customers-drinksovercharged-dances/>

Both Legs 11 venues closed after slavery raid & Councillors viewing of CCTV footage:

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/two-birmingham-legs-11-venues-13343302A>

Spearmint Rhino, Bournemouth 2014

Performers routinely straddling and touching customers and other dancers and simulating sex acts.

Club remains open to this day with 'additional licensing conditions' in place.

http://www.suttonguardian.co.uk/news/11471476.Lap_dancing_club_investigated_after_dancers_allegedly_breach___no_touch___rules/

Wiggle, Bournemouth 2013

Sexual contact including dancers straddling punters, touching of customers and 'sexual stimulation'.

Despite objections from local residents, the police and the Council's own licensing department the club remained open after representation by Philip Kolvin, QC

http://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/10786993.Lap_dancing_club_could_lose_licence_after___staff_get_too_close_to_customers___/

<https://sevlicensing.wordpress.com/2013/11/06/bournemouth-wiggle-club-faces-opposition-at-sevrenewal/>

Licensing Board Agenda at which Licensing Committee are asked to consider whether license

holder is 'fit': <https://sevlicensing.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/agendaandreportspackage7november2013.pdf>

Halos, Newquay 2011

Closed after 3-foot rule consistently breached as witnessed on CCTV:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-15378800>

Divas, Newquay

Similarly closed: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-15378800>

Cornwall, Police Chief 2012

Police Inspector stresses link with strip clubs and local sex assaults and rape because of the

attitudes promoted by the industry: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-andorder/9284609/Lapdancing-clubs-encourage-rape-and-sexual-assaults-claims-police-chief.html>

A view shared by the general public:

○ The City of London, Charlie Brown's 2012

Closed for offering 'intimate and illegal sexual activity' and breaching the 'frequency exemption rule'

(this bizarrely allows for limited number of lap dancing events without any license whatsoever:

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/intimate-and-illegal-sexual-activity-sees-charlies-bar-thecitys-only-lap-dancing-club-shut-8009400.html>

Attacks on or Related to Performers:

Bentley's, Doncaster 2017

Performer assaulted outside after refusing sex with punter:

<http://www.thestar.co.uk/news/punter-attacks-stripper-outside-south-yorkshire-strip-club-after-sherefused-to-sleep-with-him-1-8508457/amp>

Diamonds Dolls, Glasgow 2017

○ License suspended immediately when a half dressed, drunk and unconscious dancer was dragged out of the club by management and dumped onto the street (performer in question refused to speak to police, presumably out of fear of retaliation by management):

http://www.ardrossanherald.com/news/15023857.Glasgow_kingpin_s_lap_dancing_club_shut_after_girl_dumped_on_street/

Cleopatra's Lounge, Huddersfield 2016

Man smashes club window when dancer refuses to 'meet up' with him outside of the club:

<http://www.examiner.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/man-smashed-lap-dance-club-11379793>

X in The City, Liverpool 2015

Punter attacks lap dancer and steals her purse after she refused to give oral sex in a private booth.

Punter: "I said 'are you going to suck my **** upstairs?' and she said 'yes'. Obviously, that was the whole purpose":

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/thug-attacked-liverpool-stripper-stole-9259574>

Other Criminal Activities:

Legs 11, Birmingham 2018

In addition to prostitution and trafficking, punters claim to have been served while intoxicated (a breach of the club's alcohol license) and having their drinks spiked:

https://www.vice.com/en_uk/article/bj5m8a/the-strip-club-accused-of-drugging-and-robbing-itscustomers

Flirtz, Skegness 2017

Drugs: <http://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/local-news/cocaine-regularly-being-taken-lap-351921>

Platinum's, Stoke 2017

Loses its license: 'Exploitation' of punters, including violence and drink spiking:

<https://www.ftbchambers.co.uk/news/stoke's-last-lap-dancing-club-loses-its-licences>

<http://www.signal1.co.uk/news/local/hanley-lap-dancing-club-closed-down/>

Silks, Manchester 2017

Several incidences of brawls and violent behaviour:

<http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/silks-lap-dance-clubmanchester-12877276>

Spearmint Rhino, Bournemouth 2014

Drunken customers exploited. It is illegal to sell alcohol to anyone inebriated. But the business model of strip clubs is to ensure customers are so drunk they will spend large sums of money:

<https://www.unlockthelaw.co.uk/News/man-claims-to-have-been-exploited-by-strip-club.html>

Red Velvet, Durham 2013

Surrenders strip club license after a drugs raid exposes Class A drugs on premises:

http://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/10175030.Strip_club_surrenders_its_sex_entertainment_licence/

Earlier Incidences

'Rule breaking', harassment and abuse is hardly a new phenomenon at strip clubs. It was wide spread before new legislation came into effect in and around 2011. Notorious strip chain, Spearmint

Rhino being a prime example of this.

Spearmint Rhino 2003

Undercover officers found touching and offers of sex in private rooms at club throughout the

Spearmint Rhino Chain. All branches continue to operate to this day:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/lap-dancing-club-offered-sex-to-undercover-police-dthnb5xhm7d>

Technical Notes

Right to CCTV Footage

It is important to note that it has been ruled in court that Local Authorities have rights to immediate access to CCTV footage. From our conversations with licensing officers, however CCTV is frequently 'accidentally wiped' or takes many weeks to be handed over:

<https://cornerstonebarristers.com/news/close-encounters-sexual-kind/>

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O218

From:

Sent: 25 May 2019 16:43

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours faithfully,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection

O219

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 08:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

To whom it may concern,

I wish to object to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

Sheffield City Council has a responsibility to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between the sexes under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Licensing Spearmint Rhino does not achieve this. The strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women. It creates a relationship in which women can be bought for the sexual entertainment of men. This does not in any way promote good or equal relations between the sexes.

Furthermore, I understand that there is currently an investigation into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the licence.

Yours faithfully,

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino's licence application

0220

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 08:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino's licence application

To whom it may concern,

I wish to object to the licence application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

Sheffield City Council has a responsibility to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between the sexes under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Licensing Spearmint Rhino goes against this duty. This is because the strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women. Women are treated as a financial commodity. As a result, men who go to strip clubs and pay for this type of 'entertainment' do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. This is not equality and in no way advances good relations between the sexes.

Furthermore, I understand that there is currently an investigation into serious breaches at the club. I trust that if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did happen then the Council will not grant the licence.

Yours faithfully,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O221

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 07:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O222

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 07:42

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O223

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 07:35

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

OBJECTION 0224 WITHDRAWN

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O225

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 03:14

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to re-license on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O226

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 01:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

We object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT appeal a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality, it would have to go to judicial review. However the Council has also lost two judicial reviews to a local resident.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

We hope that you turn down this licence.

Whether the women who work there love their job or not is not a consideration for licensing.

Subject: FW: Objection to re-licensing Spearmint Rhino

O227 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 00:14
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to re-licensing Spearmint Rhino

Hello

I object to the re-license of Spearmint Rhino for the following reasons:

1. I am aware that many of the objections to the renewal of Spearmint Rhino's licence have been raised on previous occasions, and they have been dismissed. But each year social and cultural expectations move on, and the committee should try to come to this year's hearing with fresh ears and a new regard for how Sheffield wishes to position itself culturally, how it is seen by competitor cities, and what has happened in the city during the last year. I hope you will therefore take the progressive and enlightened step of applying the policy differently this year and refuse the application to renew.

2. The Council's policy on the siting of Sexual Entertainment Venues is very clear. You will not licence premises in close proximity to the cultural hub of the city, therefore you will refuse to renew the premises licence because clearly the premises is in the cultural industries quarter. Your policy is that premises will not be licensed in close proximity to a major gateway to city - and clearly it is close to the railway station and the Charles Street pedestrian route to the city centre. You will also not licence premises in close proximity to a city landmark. Clearly the Site Gallery, the Showroom and the HUBS building are significant city landmarks - in fact the Site Gallery is now positioning itself as a major national and international contemporary art gallery. So renewing the licence fails the council's own licensing criteria regarding the siting of such venues in the city's cultural hub, by a major gateway and close to landmark buildings.

3. There are also a number of statutory provisions which apply to every action the Council takes as a public authority. These include:

- a. its duty to have regard to the interest of all Sheffield's tax payers;
- b. its Human Rights Act obligations;
- c. its duty to have due regard to the statutory obligations in relation to gender.

I would argue that under these provisions renewing the licence would mean that the council failed in its duty to treat everyone equally, with fairness, dignity and respect.

4. The licensing committee should make a decision which takes account of its own policy and statutory obligations and refuse renewal. While renewal again does not accord with the council's own policy, this year the committee's decision making process **must** take account of an evolving social environment and contemporary values. This year renewal would appear more retrogressive, more inappropriate, and potentially more questionable than last year. The renewal of the licence will create a strong negative impression that Sheffield's licensing committee encourages the view of women as a commodity to be bought. In light of this it is imperative that this year the committee is absolutely confident that renewal would not promote a cultural attitude that allows and feeds underage sexual exploitation of the vulnerable in our towns and cities, thereby contributing to violence and harm. SCC should be doing everything in its

power to reduce the influences in the city which may have contributed to the sexual exploitation of children and vulnerable people in Sheffield and adjacent towns.

5. Recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. It seems that the Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder appears to be unfit.

6. If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O228

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 00:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Promoting the dignity and equality
of every creature on the planet.
Care for our Common Home.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O229

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 25 May 2019 22:11

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield.

The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O230

From:

Sent: 25 May 2019 21:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

0231

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 09:08
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino - SEV licence application - Objection
Attachments: SR licence objection letter.docx

O232 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 08:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino - SEV licence application - Objection

Dear Licensing

In reference to the current application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS I herewith submit my letter of objection.
I urge the council to refuse the application on the grounds detailed in the attached letter.

Regards

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

26th May 2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: 'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'"
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards



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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds
- [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>
- [6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90
- [7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O233

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 09:45

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from Aye pad

N

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O234

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 09:53

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O235

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 10:12
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino - application to renew licence

O236

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 10:42

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino - application to renew licence

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield because

1. I work as a counsellor at Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre. I work with vulnerable people who have been traumatised by sexual violence. There are also several other charities in the immediate area who work with vulnerable women, men children and young adults. Many students live here too. It is not appropriate that the Council should licence a sexual entertainment venue in this area.
1. I have heard that there is an investigation into practices currently going on in the club that are not allowed under the current licence. I do expect that you would renew the licence if the investigation finds there has not been complete compliance to the current terms of the licence.
2. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes.
3. More and more local (including people like myself who work there and therefore have a vested interest in the area) people object to Spearmint Rhino being licenced in this area.

I therefore urge the Council to refuse this license application.

Yours sincerely



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino licensing objection - [REDACTED]
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino objection - [REDACTED] 2019.docx; Spearmint Rhino objection - [REDACTED] 2019.pdf

O237 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 11:25
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: Spearmint Rhino licensing objection - [REDACTED]

Please find attached my objection to the renewal of the license of Spearmint Rhino.

I look forward to hearing from you with confirmation of receipt and details of the hearing.

Yours sincerely

26th May 2019

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 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 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Grounds**i) Character of the relevant locality****(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;**

I refer you to much of my previous submission from 2018, which still applies in terms of the objections raised a year later:

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

This is evidenced by the following report from the Sheffield Star on 16th January 2018:

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

In particular, your attention is drawn to the following extracts:

*Speaking at a business conference at Cutlers' Hall on Thursday, **Edward Highfield, Sheffield City Council's Director of City Growth**, said the city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years.*

***Coun Mazher Iqbal**, the council's cabinet member of business and investment, said increasing the number of people living in the city centre was "very important" to the council.*

He said: "It's good to see the number of people living in the city centre is on the rise but I hope we can double it... There is a really good mix in the city centre. We have got students, young professionals and now we have got families too... The city centre is about people that come and visit it, visitors who come and see our attractions, people who work in the city centre and then those who live in the city centre. It's the same as any other neighbourhood - we have to get the mix right."

*Sheffield Central **MP Paul Blomfield** said: "I think it's hugely important and very positive that we have more people choosing to live in the city centre. It means we have to rethink the modern city centre - balancing out the need to live, work, shop and indeed study and that's a radical change for the city centre compared to the one that I knew when I was kid in Sheffield."*

Further evidence is provided by the following article from the Sheffield Telegraph regarding the development of the CIQ through an increase in residential and commercial properties -

<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/lifestyle/property/new-build-to-revitalise-steel-city-s-ci-q-1-8881810>

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

These include the following:

Showroom Cinema – home of the Children's Media Festival, Sheffield Adventure Film Festival, DocFest and various other events

- The Work Station
 - A regular fun fair at the train station
 - Festival Square
 - Sheena Amos Youth Trust
 - Sheffield Hallam University and Student Union
 - The Leadmill
 - Red Tape Central
 - Sheffield Train Station
 - Sheffield Bus Station
 - The Site Gallery
 - Ofo bike docking station
 - Sheffield University Technical College
 - The Great Escape Game
-

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

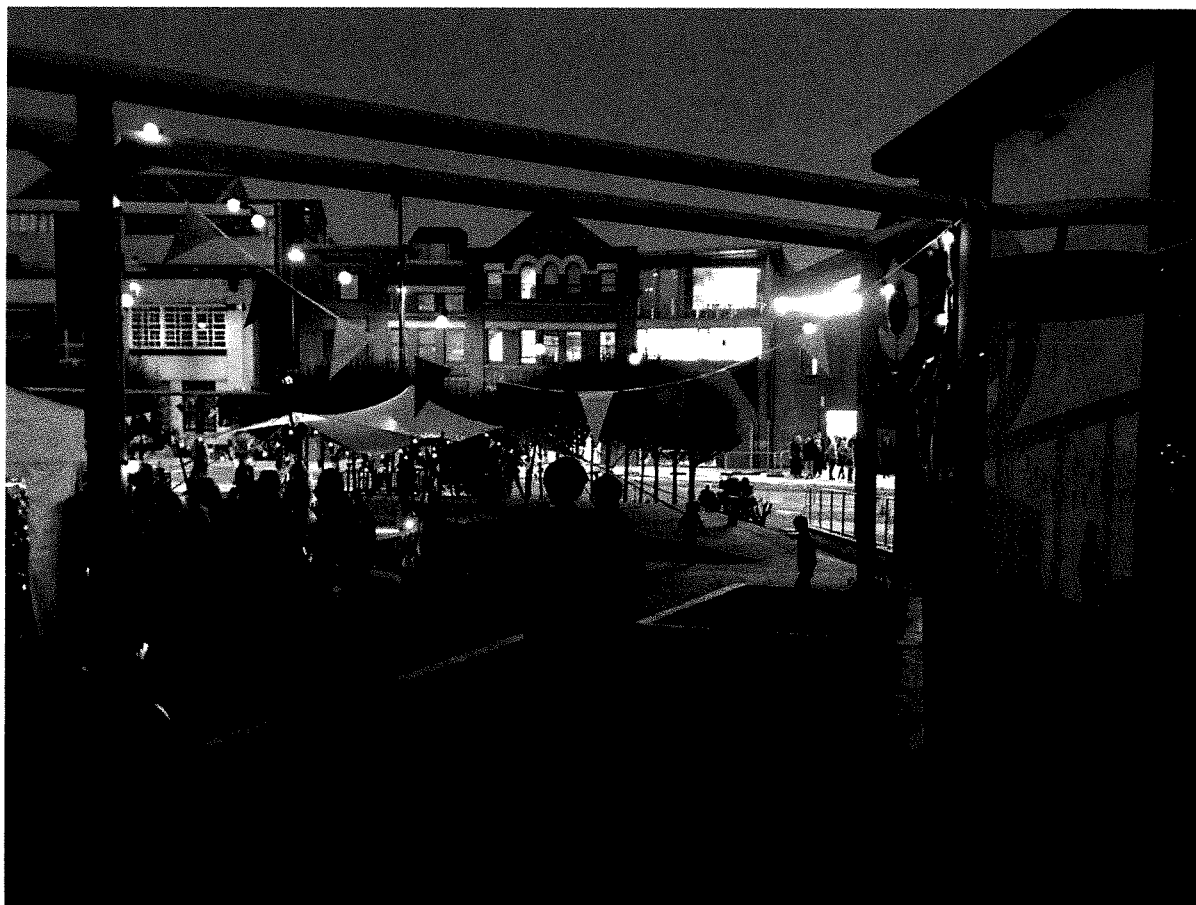
These include the following:

- Showroom Cinema
- Yorkshire Art Space
- Rutland Arms pub
- The Hubs
- Steelworks Studios
- Sheffield City Archives
- Millennium Galleries
- The entire CIQ
- APG Works

Following the renewal of the license for Spearmint Rhino last year, **the Site Gallery**, situated directly opposite, announced full details of its reopening programme following a £1.7million development by architects DRDH –

<http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/visit/news/2018/aug/30/site-gallery-announces-reopening-following-a-1-7million-development>

A weekend of celebrations took place in Festival Square/Pinball Park at the end of September 2018. The party and events over the course of the weekend were well attended, including by children, as you can see in the photo below, whilst being situated directly next to the Spearmint Rhino building.



Part of the re-launch included work undertaken by the landscape, art and architecture practice, Wayward, to develop a strategic vision for the future of The Square (Pinball Park) in the heart of Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter.

With funding from Arts Council's Ambition for Excellence fund and Sheffield City Council, Wayward invite the local community to join in, show support and have a voice in **developing a shared vision for Sheffield's public realm** with a view to connecting communities of interest in the CIQ. Wayward described their work as follows:

*“Through regular talk night Site Sessions, the commission of new public artworks and collaborating with city planners, contractors and architects, we aim to **energise** and build the **viability, visibility and visit-ability** of the area.”*

A recent walk through the area, where Spearmint Rhino is situated on Friday 17th May 2019, revealed huge developments in keeping with the Council-sponsored plans for the Knowledge Gateway that are due to be completed in June 2019. In particular, the Showroom Cinema now has a stylish outdoor terrace, which adds to the appeal and status of this establishment as an icon in our city as described by the Star:

*“The place occupies one of the **best and most prominent spots** in Sheffield. Elevated halfway up a hill, the art deco building is **one of the first things people see** when leaving the railway station – a **cultural beacon** that brings audiences the latest films across four screens, from mainstream movies to foreign pictures, as well as educational classes, talks and seasons dedicated to critically-acclaimed directors.*

*But that’s only part of the offering. There is also a popular café bar, **recently extended with a stylish outside terrace**, while next door sits the Workstation, which is part of the same complex and provides space for businesses, primarily those in the creative and digital industries.”*

Full article here -

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/whats-on/ian-wild-the-showroom-cinemas-chief-executive-we-screen-films-that-wouldnt-be-seen-in-sheffield-otherwise-40283>

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age

These include the following:

- The Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC
- Freeman College
- Showroom Cinema
- The Workstation

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

These include the following:

- Festival Square now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square
- Porter Brook Pocket Park
- Also see (e) under (i)

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

These include the following:

- Sheffield Rape Crisis
- Sheena Amos Youth Trust
- Addaction Sheffield
- Together Women Project

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i)

(e) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. Nalin Seneviratne, Director for City Centre Development at Sheffield City Council submitted an objection along similar lines in 2018.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- *promote equality of opportunity;*
- *eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;*
- *promote good relations".*

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality.

You will be aware that the entire Council is required to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and this is exemplified by the role of the DACT and other partners in supporting the 'Know the Line' campaign against sexual harassment, which launched in Sheffield in November 2017.

<https://sheffieldsdact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/uncategorized/know-the-line-campaign-against-sexual-harassment-launches-in-sheffield/>

With support from the SYPCC, local MPs and Superintendent to make Sheffield a safer place for everyone, and recognising how misogyny, sexual harassment and sexual objectification of women relates to that, I would urge the Licensing Sub-Committee to refuse the license renewal for Spearmint Rhino on the grounds that it does not fulfil any of the following requirements of the PSED:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations

The Council has, in recent times, twice lost judicial reviews into its application of the Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality in relation to Sexual Entertainment Venues.

Breaches of the license

Through my role as a Senior Caseworker to a local MP, I have anecdotal evidence that lapdancers who work at Spearmint Rhino are expected to provide "extras to punters".

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. The conditions of the license have clearly been breached and should therefore be revoked, as per the same considerations given to other licensed establishments that breach their license conditions to such an extent.

Yours sincerely

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection
Attachments: ObjectionSRLicenceRenewal 2019.docx

O238 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 12:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

Good afternoon

Please find attached my objection to Spearmint Rhino's licence renewal.

Please ensure my name and address are fully redacted as objectors are getting a lot of abuse and harassment.

Many thanks and best wishes

26th May

Dear Licensing

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

As a mother of two, one of whom is in his first year at university and one who is completing her A levels, I am horrified that a club of this nature, with alleged sexual activity as part of its "entertainment" is in the middle of a student campus and next to a student accommodation block. Having worked at SHU and through my experiences with my own children, I know how vulnerable first year students are when many are away from home for the first time.

I also know how many women, of all ages, fear being near the club at the night. The reports of the alleged breaches do nothing to allay those fears, in fact, they exacerbate them.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

The publicity surrounding this club's ongoing controversial presence indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, breaches of the licensing conditions of a sexual nature, which have not been picked up by the councils' own inspections, are

widespread across the industry. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O239

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 13:25

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.



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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O240

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 13:28

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O241

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 13:39

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O242

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 13:49

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Kind Regards

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O243

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 14:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O244

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 14:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to spearmint rhino

O245

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 14:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to spearmint rhino

In this day and age and in a forward thinking city like Sheffield there is no place for such a club which degrades women and perpetuates outdated, misogynistic oppressive ideals. Particularly as it's in the cultural quarter - a backstreet in attercliffe would be more suitable next to a massage parlour and the swingers club la chambre! Which incidentally turns my stomach. Although I think they should not be allowed a licence anywhere in Sheffield. We should be moving forwards not backwards.

 Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O246

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 14:32
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O247

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 14:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

As a Trustee of Women's Centre where we see 5,000 women a year, the majority dealing with domestic abuse and sexual violence we see the effects of the perceived availability and passivity of the women in these clubs .

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O248

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 15:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Given the amount of evidence now gathered to show these clubs, including the branch in my home city of Sheffield, are persistently flouting their own rules and any regulations, I am alarmed that Sheffield's licensing committee has continually renewed the licence. If this continues, Sheffield city council and the responsible officers are condoning the abuse and exploitation of women.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection 2019
Attachments: Licensing Service My Objection.docx

O249 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 15:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: RE: Spearmint Rhino Objection 2019

To Sheffield's Licensing Service,

Enclosed in this email is my objection to Spearmint Rhino.

Kind regards,

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

26/05/19

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino (“the club”), 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 2018 Sex Establishment Policy (“the Policy”) on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 yearsⁱ with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, “the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink” and “. . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London”ⁱⁱ for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children’s Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

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.”

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone 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 aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 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 at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."ⁱⁱⁱ

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

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) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

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

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^{iv}

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 sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^v

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"^{vi}

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"^{vii}.

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."^{viii}

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^{ix}

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^x.

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^{xi} 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 many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^{xii}

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club 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 Committee 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.”^{xiii}

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.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^{xiv}. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

ⁱ Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

ⁱⁱ Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^{iv} Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

^v *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>

^{vi} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{vii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

^{viii} 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.

^{ix} Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.

^x Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>

^{xi} Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds

^{xii} Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>

^{xiii} Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90

^{xiv} 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Subject: FW: Objection: Sheffield Spearmint Rhino - Sonfield Developments Limited

O250 P1

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 16:24

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection: Sheffield Spearmint Rhino - Sonfield Developments Limited

I am writing to object to the renewal application of Sonfield Development for an SEV licence for their premises "Spearmint Rhino".

I ask members of the committee to ask themselves what they consider their duty is to pay "due regard" to equality between the sexes. I work advising local and national governments and other bodies on policy and practice to promote gender equality and to prevent violence against women and girls.

I am sure the Licensing Committee must agree that the premises have run out of 'second chances'.

The ground of unsuitability of the applicant must be applied given the flagrant, serious and unlawful acts that have been recorded in the independent investigation into the premises. Otherwise the ground is surely effectively meaningless?

Your other grounds for refusing this licence are numerous and include the obvious unsuitability of the locality under licensing law, at which you are entitled to 'take a fresh look' - as has been made clear in case law. I encourage you to do so, and to check how many of the grounds for unsuitability are directly engaged given the location of these premises which could so easily be repurposed to serve the local community and provide local jobs in a contribution that would be positive to the city and its economy. I understand that you have previously been misinformed by representatives that in other cities, centrally-located SEVs are not considered a problem. I believe Bristol was cited to you. Bristol is my home city and please be assured that centrally located SEVs are definitely considered a problem in Bristol - the local authority has refused applications for three city centre clubs in the last 10 years alone, and strong representations are being made for the two remaining clubs in city centre locations to be refused re-licencing, a move that police / the local Police and Crime Commissioner also support.

I hope that members of the committee will determine that awarding a licence would be an unacceptable failure to meet the duty to advance equality, eliminate unlawful conduct and foster good relations between men/boys and women/girls under the Equality Act 2010. The evidence from decades of research into the causes and consequences of gender inequality, sexism and violence towards women is clear.

These premises by their nature (promoting and selling sexual encounters) directly support and promote attitudes which constitute and foster discriminatory behaviour by men and boys towards women and girls, and which are the major causes of men's violence against women and girls.

The licensed availability of sex for sale on the high street encourages people with sexist views to think that their views are 'normal', acceptable and shared by others.

Spearmint Rhino is not simply an 'oasis of sexism' bad as that is, but it fosters the sexism and culture of violence and entitlement (from unequal pay to domestic abuse) present in the everyday lives of people who have developed harmful attitudes, that you as a public body with responsibility for the public health of your citizens are directly tasked with preventing and eliminating.

Please refuse this application.

Sincerely

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

O251

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 16:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sirs

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O252

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 16:39

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk. By licensing this club you are not only disregarding violence against women but promoting it.

You must not relicense this club.

(Please remove my personal contact details if you are providing this to the applicant because these places have a link to organised crime



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O253

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 16:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O254

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 17:15

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I can't believe that yet again we are having to fight this battle! Each year we object to the existence of this disgraceful and degrading club and the renewal of its licence, as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality. Yet it is still there, flouting all the rules about contact between the clients and the girls, live sex shows enacted by the girls, the club apparently records making no profit but continues to flourish, due to the illicit activities paid for as extras and private shows and encounters. You know this goes on, yet the club is allowed to continue. Stop this shabby business and its shady operators! Who needs such a low life entertainment venue in a smart modern cultural quarter, opposite and in view of the stylish recently refurbished Showroom outside deck area?

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk. I am a resident and Council Tax payer in this city and I want to see licensing laws enforced properly against these sleazy premises! I don't want to have to explain the presence of this club to children or visitors to our city!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O255

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:04
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPad

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O256

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 18:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

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Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O257

From:]
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:07
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

0258

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 18:35

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O259

From:**Sent:** 26 May 2019 18:43**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality. Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law. If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my Huawei phone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: Screenshot_20190404-221730_Facebook.jpg; Screenshot_20190404-211120_Chrome.jpg; 20190526_184115.png

O260 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:52
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Further to our earlier email, please find attached 2 screencaps from Spearmint Rhino's website link which appears in the Twitter bio for UK clubs. Even though these are American promotions, they are easily arrived at via their link and the school girl one is listed on its events listings.

How this is even allowed in the States beggars belief. However, this is part of the global branding of this chain and in our view, speaks volumes in everything these images convey with the infamous logo.

The 3rd screencap is of a photo from Spearmint Rhino's Instageam site looks like an attempt to copy the American "School girls" advert.

We once argued vehemently that Lancome's promotion of skin whitening cream in Mexico and India was racist despite the different facial creams promoted in the UK. This is no different. In terms of value, ethos and optics, this is appalling.

Please could you include these in our objection.

Many thanks.

On Sun, 26 May 2019, 01:52

wrote:

We object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT appeal a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality, it would have to go to judicial review. However the Council has also lost two judicial reviews to a local resident.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

We hope that you turn down this licence.

Whether the women who work there love their job or not is not a consideration for licensing.



Alison Simona added a new photo.

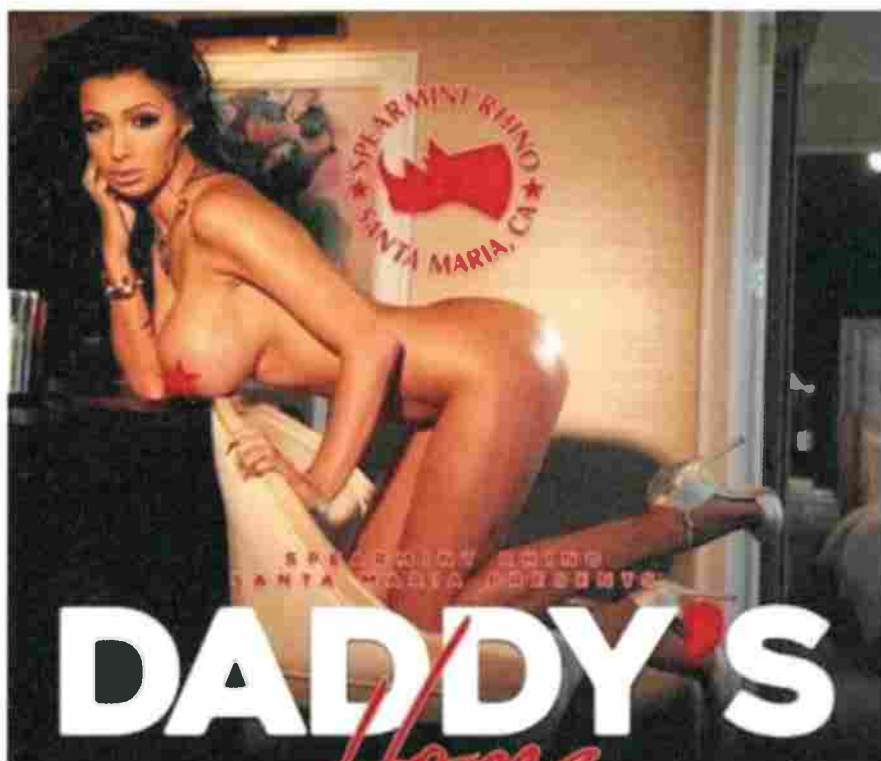


1 min. • 👤



SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

Santa Maria, CA



\$110 15 MIN. VIPS • \$30 VOUCHER SPECIAL: ENTRY, DRINK AND \$20 TOPLESS LAP DANCE VOUCHER

WED



Tap to tag friends

454 (805) 349-9535 18+ W/ID
T-SATURDAY 8:30PM-3AM

#SANTAMARIAGENTS #SPEARMINTRHINO #SANTAMARIA #SPEARMINTRHINO



SPEARMINT RHINO
GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS



Carter Lake, IA

NAUGHTY SCHOOL GIRL



SPEARMINT RHINO
CARTER LAKE PRESENTS

NAUGHTY SCHOOL GIRL PARTY

4.18.19 7:30PM - 5AM

SPECIALS

2 FOR 1 DANCE SPECIALS!!
\$4 U CALL ITS - \$3 PBR TALLBOYS
\$5 APPETIZERS

2449 ABBOT DRIVE CARTER LAKE
IA 51510 (805) 1712 847-0178 21+ W/ID

0260 P4

am_ua_m_ua

4 NOVEMBER 2017



Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield, UK



97 likes



Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

O261 P1

From: Women's Equality Sheffield [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: 27 May 2019 10:14
To: licensingservice
Cc: Bower Claire
Subject: Re: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

Dear Licensing,

Apologies I should have made it clear that I expect the previous email to be kept confidential and only the objection document to be published.

I would also ask that this year those who have objected and are in publicly elected positions, such as MPs or Councillors, do not have their names redacted from their objections as clearly it should be made publicly clear that these people have made an objection.

Many thanks

On Sun, 26 May 2019 at 18:55, Women's Equality Sheffield [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Licensing Service,

Please see attached our objection to Spearmint Rhino's latest license application.
Please confirm receipt.

I look forward to hearing from you.



FINAL SR 2019 Objection.docx

Regards,

Branch Leader



Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

O261 P1

From: Women's Equality Sheffield (mailto: [REDACTED])
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:55
To: licensingservice
Cc: Bower Claire
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

Dear Licensing Service,

Please see attached our objection to Spearmint Rhino's latest license application.
Please confirm receipt.

I would also appreciate it if you could confirm the date of the hearing as 11th June as soon as possible, as there has been some indication from those campaigning for Spearmint Rhino that the hearing is not going ahead on this day. As in the past we have not been informed about the result of the application at the same time as the club when we were assured we would all be informed at the same time, I have a concern that yet again they are being kept more up to date than us. If the hearing is not to go ahead on this day obviously we will need to re-arrange everything, including our legal support, so I trust that the plan is still for it to happen on 11th, and that it will only be in exceptional circumstances that this will not be the case.

I also bring to your attention that there has been false information circulated by a group campaigning for the continuation of the club that they, dancers, are being threatened with the release of footage. I can assure you that this is not the case, and in fact the Women's Equality Party do not even hold a copy of either the footage or the report. We have endured other false allegations from them, which they have taken to the press, who fortunately have decided not published after being told by us that the allegations are entirely false.

I felt that it was appropriate to let you know about this.

I look forward to hearing from you.



FINAL SR 2019 Objection.docx

Regards,

Branch Leader





**OBJECTION TO APPLICATION FOR
SPEARMINT RHINO'S SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE 2019
From The Women's Equality Party, Sheffield Branch**

Public Sector Equality Duty

1. The council has a general duty to consider its responsibilities pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 and 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.
2. Last year the High Court overturned Sheffield City Councils 'no limit' policy on Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs). In its ruling the Court endorsed the principle that this duty is a central obligation. It should therefore be treated as a primary consideration in the licensing decisions about application by SEVs.
3. There are clear and measurable inequalities (following the latest round of Gender Pay Gap reporting) experienced by women in the UK, and in Sheffield. The national and local pay gaps are both close to 20%. There is an urgent need to address the inequalities that underlie these pay gaps.
4. Studies have shown that objectification of women and sexual harassment are contributors to the gender pay gap, and impediments to women competing with men on a level playing field in the work place. See inter alia submission of 'Close the Gap' to Women and Equalities Commission inquiry into sexual harassment in the work place – March 2018.
5. A study by Plan International last year found that two thirds of young women aged between 14-21 have been sexually harassed in a public place in the UK.
6. There is also a recognized connection between domestic violence

and a culture where men are encouraged to see women as sexual, submissive objects. Women's Aid for instance describe domestic violence as "deeply rooted in issues of power, control and inequality."

7. Spearmint Rhino occupies a unique position in the city. It is a high profile and controversial so called 'gentleman's club', run by a global organization with seemingly unlimited resources. It is not to be compared with other venues in this region. No other business in the city promotes extreme sexual objectification of women to the same extent as Spearmint Rhino. It is the essence of the business and at the core of its glossy promotional publicity, as evidenced by photographs from the company's website and promotional twitter posts.
8. The imagery and publicity of this organisation, particularly online, promotes misogyny and sexism, and celebrates demeaning attitudes to women. The continued relicensing of its activities by Sheffield City Council runs contrary to the council's legal obligation to promote equality.
9. There is a common misconception that what goes on in lap dancing clubs is harmless fun, the modern incarnation of an old fashioned bawdy 'seaside postcard'. The reality of this industry is very different. It is hard to imagine visitors to these clubs returning to their place of work without having reinforced ideas of women as submissive sex objects, who as a consequence are much more likely to be the victims of sexual harassment on the street and in the work place.
10. Spearmint Rhino's policy is for the women who work as dancers to be self-employed rather than permanent employees. They therefore have less employment protection and no contribution to their state pension. Neither are the dancers entitled to statutory sick pay or holiday pay pursuant to the Working Time Directive.
11. While no touching of the dancers is allowed, some dancers in the industry have raised concerns about the pressure to offer more than merely a dance, including intimate sexual contact, in order to 'please the punter'. A recent investigation alleged serious breaches of the licensing conditions. We understand this is being investigated by the licensing committee and clearly, if substantiated, underlines our concerns about the risks involved with granting a licence to this club.
12. The Women's Equality Party has raised concerns in previous hearings about the unequal working conditions at the club and in our 2018 submission suggested the following:

"While we object to any renewal of the SEV license, in our

submission it is of paramount importance, if the club is allowed to continue, that the dancers are provided with full contracts of employment. This will make their relationship with the club transparent and their tax affairs can be openly regularized with HMRC under the PAYE system. It will also avoid discrimination between the dancers and those employed by the club such as managers and other staff.

The very purpose of current SEV licensing is to give City Councils greater control and discretion over this problematic industry which has higher risks of exploitation. At the last hearing Spearmint Rhino's counsel informed the committee that a number of conditions could be imposed on the club to meet public concerns. In our submission this should include a direction that dancers must be put on the payroll to give them proper employment protection."

13. Spearmint Rhino has so far been resistant to bringing dancers on to the pay-roll. If they were employees, the company would be liable for what could be substantial VAT payments chargeable on the 'services' supplied by them to the customers. It would also result in greater tax oversight. Accounts filed with Companies House suggest that Spearmint Rhino pays minimal taxes compared with its overall turnover. The last accounts filed for Spearmint Rhino Venture (UK) Ltd as of the 31st December 2017 indicate that the company paid £19,781 from a turnover of £5,246,693.
14. In previous applications this general lack of transparency has been effectively sanctioned by the licensing committee, which has failed to engage with the real working conditions in the club
15. Sheffield City Council licensing committee has a direct responsibility to address the issues raised above when making decisions about the future of the club and a failure to do so would amount to a significant breach of its responsibilities when having regard to its Public Sector Equality Duty.

Locality and use of buildings

16. There continue to be significant changes in the character of the relevant locality known as the 'Knowledge Corridor' and the uses to which premises in the vicinity are put. When Spearmint Rhino first occupied its current location the area was significantly under-developed. That is no longer the case.
17. Spearmint Rhino have conceded that as the plans for the area develop there may need to be a reconsideration of the presence of a lap-dancing club in that locality, namely Brown Street.
18. Sheffield Hallam University has repeatedly objected to the

application to renew the SEV licence at 60 Brown Street. In the light of the University's £220m development plans for the area it would be unreasonable for the Licensing Committee to continue disregarding the views of this major city developer any longer.

Sheffield Hallam University (SHU)

19. The Master Plan for the extended development of the locality was revealed last year. The proposals are significant, ambitious and will transform not just the University but the city as well.
20. In the light of these projects the continued presence of Spearmint Rhino within the campus and close to student accommodation is untenable and wholly out of step with the combined plans of the University and the Council.

Site Gallery, Showroom and Yorkshire Arts Space

21. 60 Brown Street faces the 'Site Gallery', and is located near 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.
22. It is illogical to allow a club like Spearmint Rhino to operate from a location such as Brown Street, which is quiet and well away from the general night-time economy of Sheffield in the West Street and Devonshire Green area.
23. It also contradicts the Council's plans for the area which are being developed in tandem with Sheffield City Region.
24. Sheffield City Region (SCR) 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.'

25. 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 undermined by their proximity to a Sexual Entertainment Venue.
26. Sheffield Chamber of Commerce has also promoted a number of projects on its website to develop new accommodation sites in the Cultural Industries Quarter. It should be noted that developers describe the vicinity as part of Sheffield Hallam University campus when promoting its attractions.
27. 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:

'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'.

Conclusion

28. There remain compelling reasons why the licensing committee should prevent Spearmint Rhino from continuing to operate at 60 Brown Street. Sheffield City Council should not be promoting lap dancing as a viable and fulfilling job opportunity for women, but should use the developments in the area and creation of jobs to ensure the women currently working in the club have alternative and better options.

Women's Equality Party
Sheffield Branch
21st May 2019

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O262

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 19:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable with regards to current planning policy and as has been shown by recent surveys, clubs such as these lead to an increase in levels of violence and degrading treatment to all women in the locality not just the women who are subject to inhumane and degrading treatment in the clubs. As such if you grant permission to this club you leave yourself open to legal challenges regarding breaking the Equality Act 2010 which states that women have the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of their sex.

I would question how in terms of your own existing zoning planning policy you can justify placing a strip club on a University campus.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

O263 P1

From: Sent: 26 May 2019 20:03
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

26th May 2019

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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

I work as a maths tutor in and around the Sheffield area. The presence of clubs such as Spearmint Rhino in our city centres sends out a message starkly contradictory to the one we should be sending to our young people.

At a time when we are encouraging more young women to enter STEM related careers permitting Spearmint Rhino to continue doing business next door to a university with an excellent record of increasing participation is shockingly inappropriate.

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational

establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

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."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone 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 aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 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 at the epicentre of the designated "Knowledge Gateway" and located on Sheffield Hallam University's city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes "new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students' Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate."⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

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) is directly adjacent to the club and the club's presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto "cultural hub" given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club's opening hours.

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

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading “The Equality Act 2010”:

“This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations”.

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women’s equality:

“Thus, in objectifying media women’s role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals.”^[iv]

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 sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

“Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area”.

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and “running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women.” (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[v]

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”^[vi]

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”^[vii].

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.”^[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls’ perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xi] 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 many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club 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 Committee 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.”^[xiii]

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.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

- ^[1] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ^[1] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ^[1] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^[1] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^[1] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^[1] 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.
- ^[1] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^[1] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^[1] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^[1] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^[1] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>
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- ^[ii] Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>
- ^[iii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>
- ^[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>
- ^[iv] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men's Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*
- ^[v] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- ^[vi] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- ^[vii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87

- ^[viii] 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.
- ^[ix] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- ^[x] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- ^[xi] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- ^[xii] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- ^[xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- ^[xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O264

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O265

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 20:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O266

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Licensing Service

I am writing to advise that I strongly object to this licence for Spearmint Rhino.

Its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - and appalling that it's a University campus.

As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

I therefore ask that you seriously consider this case and prevent further harm being done to the community.

Regards

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to SR license
Attachments: [REDACTED] SR Objection.pdf

O267 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:39
To: licensingservice; licensingservice
Subject: Objection to SR license

Dear colleague

Please find attached my objection letter to Spearmint Rhino License Renewal.

Thanks.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

[REDACTED]
Sheffield
[REDACTED]

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

25th May 2019

Dear Madam/Sir

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS. In a personal capacity I wish to make an objection to the application and ask that it is refused by members of the committee.

I am concerned to hear of widespread alleged breaches by the club of licensing conditions.

As a local resident who lives very close to the venue, I believe that the committee 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:

Location

The current policy 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;

The location of the club is now inappropriate.

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". It would be wrong for the club to continue to operate.

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. This is a place for children to play both in the day and early evenings, particularly on summer evenings. SITE Gallery frequently use the space for family friendly events, where children can be seen playing whilst the club is in operation. This is inappropriate.

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

There are a variety of organisations in the area supporting vulnerable children and adults, one of which operates directly at the rear of the club. .

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about alleged breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

In view of what I have stated and in light of the alleged widespread breaches to conditions of its license, recently reported in the local press, I trust that you will consider using all powers available to you in order to reject this application.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O268

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sincerely

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O269

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O270

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:07
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection

O271

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

26th May 2019

Licencing Services
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD
licensing_service@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino sexual entertainment venue.

Firstly, as someone who has worked with men convicted of sexual offences and violent offences against women, I am strongly of the view that poor attitudes to women is the essential risk factor underlying almost all these offences. These include attitudes of entitlement, of the objectification of women and the trivialising of consent. SIVs serve to perpetuate these myths and therefore increase the likelihood of offences being committed.

The current location is unsuitable being in very close proximity to Sheffield Hallam University, the Showroom Cinema and other cultural and family destinations. This type of outmoded 'entertainment' is an affront to the image of Sheffield the council seeks to portray as a forward thinking, safe environment where institutions are serious about promoting equality.

I understand that those in favour of the licencing suggest that the women who work at such venues will be made more unsafe as they would move to work at unlicensed premises should Spearmint Rhino be closed. However I am also aware there is strong evidence of practices contrary to the current licence have been occurring under the current arrangements and not picked up by the council's current licencing check. Therefore it is wrong to suggest that the licencing of such venues keep women safe and the negative impact of legitimising of such a venue by the council and it being placed in the city centre vastly outweighs this argument.

I ask Sheffield council to take the bold step of refusing to renew this licence in order to protect the women who currently work at Sheffield Spearmint Rhino and the wider community from sexual, physical and psychological harm.

Yours Faithfully

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection
Attachments: NBIS SR 2019.docx; NBIS SR 2019 Appendix.pdf

O272 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

Dear Licensing

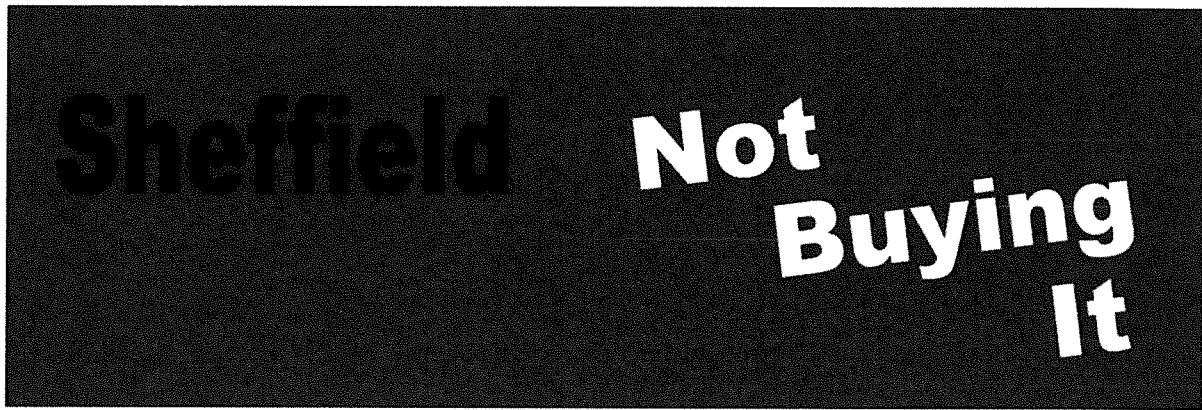
Please find attached our objection letter to Spearmint Rhino and its appendix.

Please could you confirm receipt of both documents?

Could you also please confirm when the hearing date is? We have heard via Twitter that it may be put back to September and a journalist who contacted Not Buying It had been informed of this by some of the dancers.

I do hope that security will be in place on the day of the hearing and that objectors will be able to speak without being intimidated by the club's supporters. The atmosphere is very febrile and things have been very unpleasant on Twitter.

Many thanks



25th May 2019

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino Licence renewal

This objection is not about individual dancers nor is it personal. There appears to be a lot of conflation between a critique of the dancers, their choices and the industry. It goes without saying that of course we respect the women, including those who have been quite abusive towards us. There is no doubt that the feats of performing on the pole are impressive.

However, this is not about jobs and we are not aware of any other licensing situation where job losses are considered by the Sub-committee. Was there a public outcry when Randy's closed, over job losses for staff? Randy's and Spearmint Rhino are on the same continuum of the objectification of women, both promoting harmful messages which feed into a culture conducive to violence against women.

The fact that we have been called "old hags" by a female member of staff at the club somewhat proves our point that women's worth and value relies on whether or not she passes the "patriarchal fuckability test" which is precisely what *we seek to challenge*.

Women and Equalities Committee

We draw the Sub-committee's attention to this excerpt from the Women and Equalities Committee Report of October 2018 on Sexual harassment of women and girls in public places:

Licensing of sexual entertainment venues

135. When licensing lap-dancing clubs and other sexual entertainment venues (SEVs), local authorities can decide to have a policy on licensing SEVs, including on the number of venues to license. The policy needs to reflect the basis on which a license application can be refused. Policies on sexual entertainment venues have been the focus of activity in some local areas because, as Karon Monaghan QC told us, such venues "have an impact on the wider community because they promote the idea that sexual objectification of women and sexual harassment commonly in those environments is lawful and acceptable." Ms Monaghan continued: "How are we doing that in the 21st century? **We are not going to get rid of sexual violence if we**

mandate the sexual objectification of women in licensed venues.”²²⁶ (emphasis added)

136. Some local areas already take account of women's safety when deciding their cap on sexual entertainment venues (SEVs). Avon and Somerset Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner's office support a policy of having no SEVs in Bristol to advance women's equality. Martin Rowland, Bristol's City Centre Neighbourhood Manager for Avon and Somerset Police expressed the view that the industry exemplifies men's objectification and entitlement of women. **He told us that: “The licensing of sex entertainment venues, and in particular lap dancing clubs, sends a clear message that authorities support and license activities that encourage these anachronistic attitudes.”**²²⁷ (emphasis added)

137. Sheffield City Council has been subject to two legal challenges under the Public Sector Equality Duty by a group of local campaigners for failing to consider the impact on gender equality in the community when it licensed a branch of the Spearmint Rhino strip club and subsequently when it published a new policy on SEVs. The Council was forced to settle both cases on the basis that they had failed to comply with the PSED and is now consulting afresh on their policy. The case has potential ramifications for other local authorities who fail to consider these issues when licensing SEVs. Karon Monaghan QC told us: The power to take action lies in the hands of individuals. One can issue what is called judicial review proceedings in the High Court and say, 'My local authority has failed to have regard to the need to eliminate harassment when it licensed this club' or licensed a pub that is known to sexually harass customers, and so on.²²⁸ However, it should not be up to local campaigners to force local authorities to make decisions that properly take account of women's safety and gender equality. The licensing regime in Scotland requires local authorities who adopt the relevant legislation on SEVs to consider the impact specifically with regard to the objective of reducing violence against women when preparing an SEV policy statement. They are also required to consult appropriate bodies, such as women's organisations or experts in prevention of violence against women.²²⁹

138. Ensuring that women and girls have the freedom to enjoy being out at night, to go to bars and clubs and travel home safely without being sexually harassed or assaulted is the responsibility of everybody including central government, the police, local authorities, bars and venues and transport agencies.

A full copy of this report has already been provided to Licensing last year.

Culture of fear

Obviously, we have no idea how many objections there will be this year but we want the Sub-committee to be aware of the following. We know from speaking to young women, especially students, how they are frightened to vocalise any views that do not align with supporting the sex industry. We know from speaking to them that they agree with objecting but are too scared to. We know from speaking to them how they do not feel safe in the presence of the club. Year on year, some women have shared these views and they have been dismissed or minimalised. The #metoo movement gave permission to a far greater number of women to speak out, but we still have a long way to go. We also know from ex-dancers how terrified they are to share their opposition to the industry. This whole issue engenders fear and it silences many many women.

Public Sector Equality Duty

The objection to Spearmint Rhino, and more broadly the industry, has in the past been argued is a moral position and therefore, not to be considered. This is about equality; equality between the sexes. As the judge in the first of the thus far, two judicial reviews observed when granting permission:

"There is a tenable basis for the Claimant's inference that the Defendant has wrongly ignored objections based on the potential impact on gender equality, treating them as moral objections and irrelevant."

As the Sub-committee is aware, it must consider the public sector equality duty (PSED) set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This means that you must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination against and harassment of women;
- Advance equality of opportunity for women;
- Foster good relations between women and men (including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding).

We believe that strip clubs are incompatible with these aims. They directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of us. This contributes to our sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society and reinforces a culture where we receive unwanted male attention ranging from street harassment, to sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape.

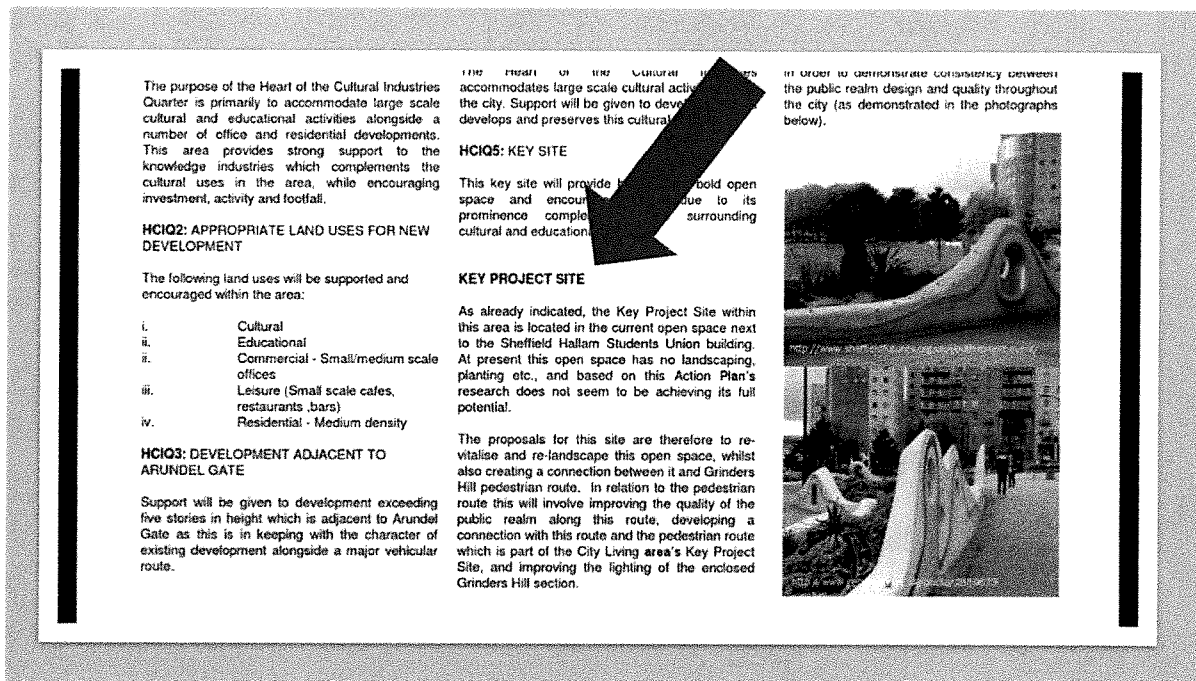
Nor do they foster good relations between men and women, tackle prejudice or promote understanding. They reinforce damaging stereotypes that reduce women to sexual objects and men as predatory walking wallets. Given the nature of the alleged breaches, they also fuel notion that female same-sex sexual acts are for male sexual gratification.

Location

We welcome the *This is Sheffield* Plan for our city and its aims and vision. We do not believe that the ongoing existence of Spearmint Rhino is compatible with any of it, in particular, the following:

The city centre is a safe place throughout, where walking or cycling is often the first choice, but well connected by all transport modes (p.8)

Festival Square has been identified as a key project site since 2013. We maintain that the club is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential. Circular arguments such as "no one uses this space" vs "the club's presence is impacting on this space's use and holding back its full development potential" have resulted in an impasse. However, as far back as 2013 it was acknowledged that this space was not used to its full potential in the following action plan:



Yet, it remains underused and undeveloped.

The *This is Sheffield* (the Plan) states that Festival Square was highlighted as part of its future aspirations in the city's 2010/11 consultation. (p.53) We hope that we will not reach the end of the plan's term to see the same.

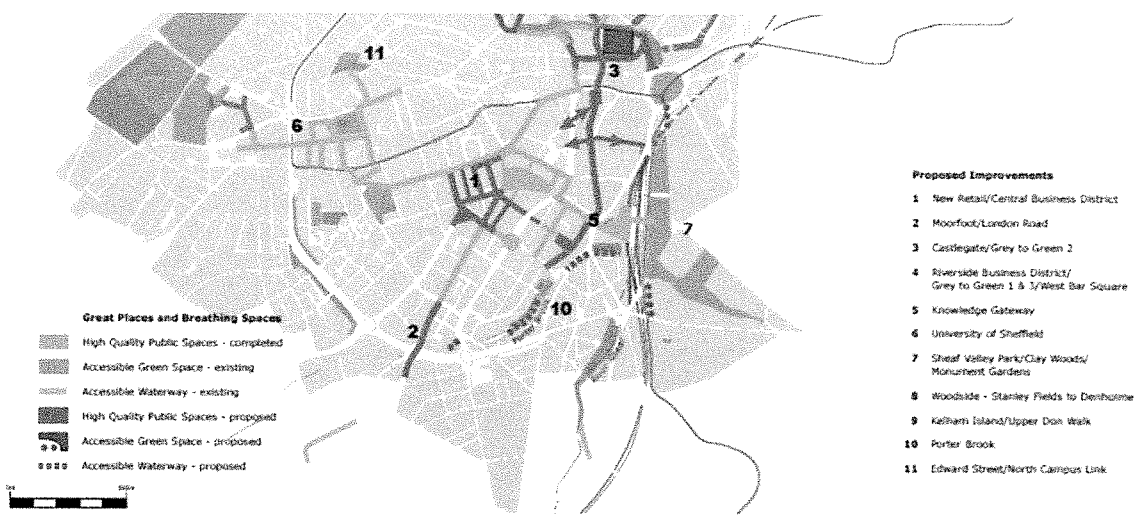
The Plan's vision is to enhance and develop the CIQ and states:

"For SHU's new extended high quality setting for investment and expansion will be commenced by the Knowledge Gateway Project again supported by the Council, the City region and SHU. The project will create an enhanced and more cycle and pedestrian friendly corridor linking the core of the Cultural Industries Quarter at Paternoster Row and SHU's Howard St main buildings with further expansion sites and the new Sheffield Institute of Arts at Fitzalan Sq (p 28)

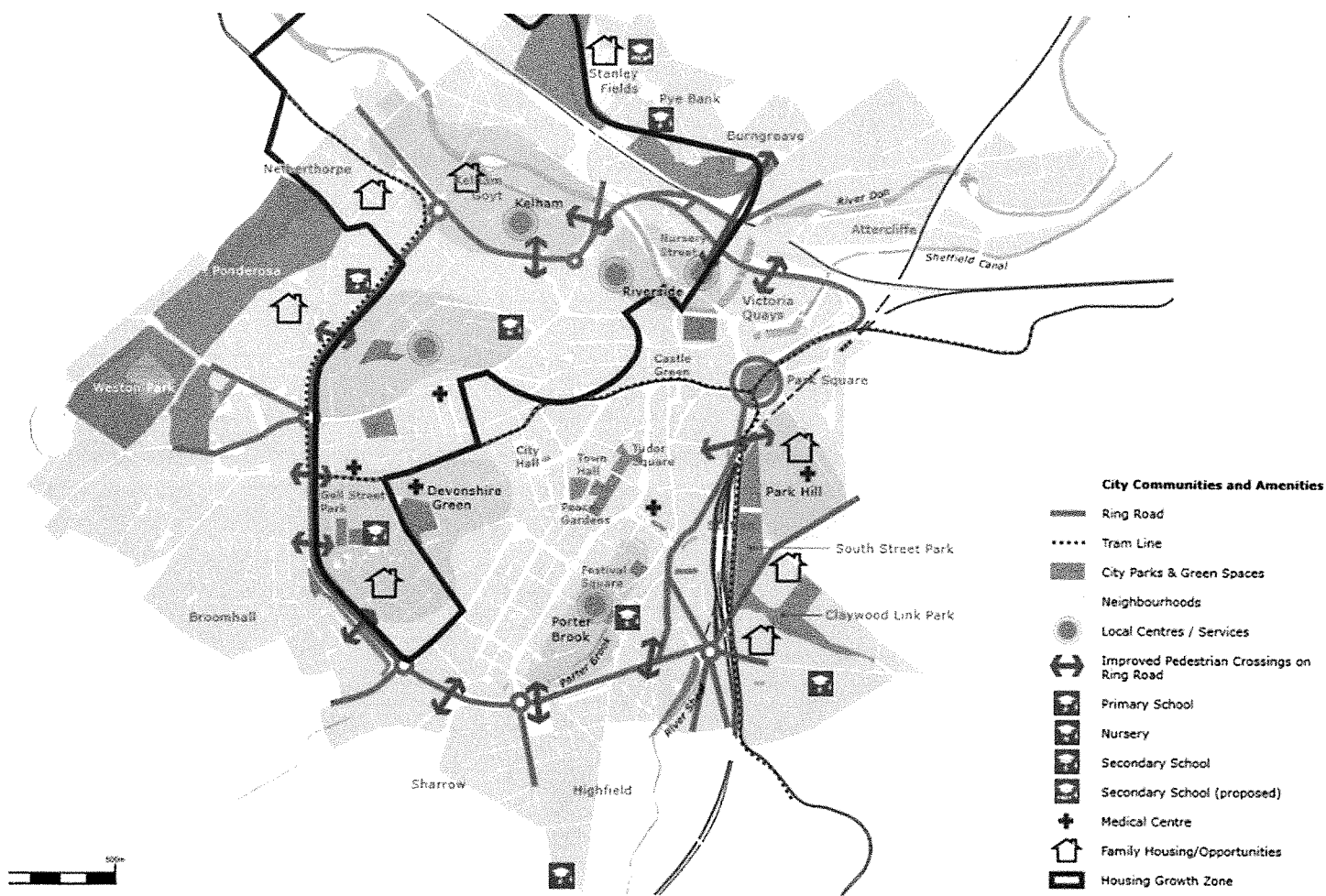
Under the heading *Knowledge Gateway*, the Plan states

Paternoster Row/Brown St. Working with Site Gallery, Hallam University, The Workstation, Showroom Cinema among others, the area will be traffic-calmed and upgraded to create a series of pedestrian priority streets and spaces which can form an attractive 'main street' of the CIQ accommodating outdoor seating, art installation events (p 52)

Thus, further changing the character of the immediate vicinity and according to the Plan's programme, listed for completion in 2018-19 (p.87)



The club is in the vicinity of schools, which the map below from The Plan shows, alongside the local centres/services, marked as the orange circle symbol, and the area highlighted in orange as “neighbourhoods”; a medical centre in very close proximity and Festival Square greyed out as “city parks and green spaces.”



Furthermore, despite repeated assertions on an annual basis that Howard Street is the main thoroughfare/gateway, below is a direct quote taken from the Plan and it is described as “the main street” in the CIQ with plans to pedestrianise it.

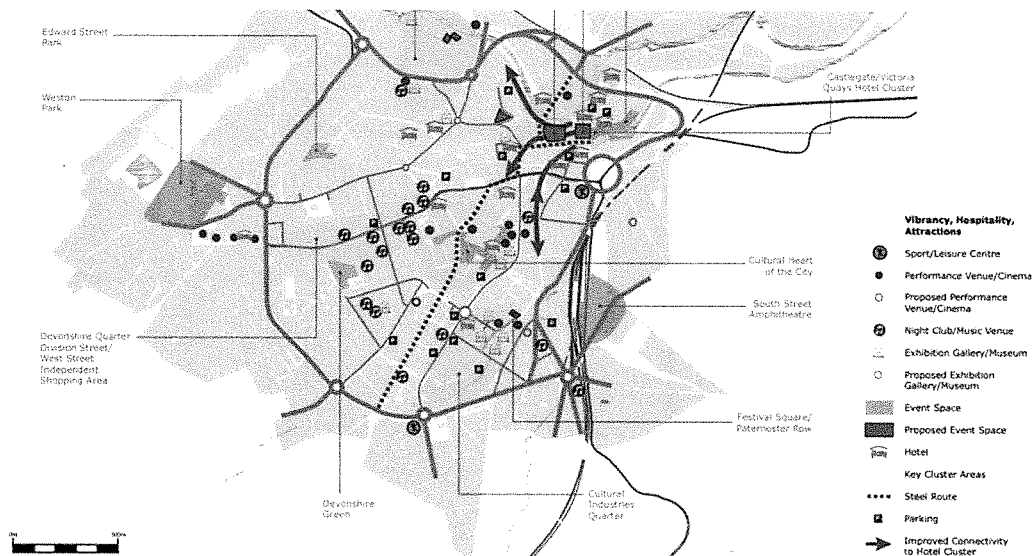
Under the heading *THE CULTURAL INDUSTRIES QUARTER (CIQ)*, it is stated:

Sheffield's CIQ came into being over 25 years ago and was among the first examples of the successful proactive clustering of the new creative and digital industries around small workspaces in repurposed former industrial buildings. The CIQ remains the regional hub of this sector, but the stock of cheap, available buildings and sites has almost run out due to the expansion of Hallam University and competition from residential development particularly around Sidney St/Mary St. Although the redevelopment of the Council's Matilda St site and other sites on Sidney St should continue to provide further new ground floor creative business spaces there is limited further scope, for low cost space. Whilst the public realm of Arundel St has been transformed, helping to make it a lively and pedestrian-friendly street, the 'main street' of CIQ, Paternoster Row/Brown St is of poor quality, is dominated by speeding traffic and does not provide an appropriate setting or spill-out space for its main attractions such as the Showroom, Workstation, Site Gallery, Hubs Building or Persistence Works. Therefore the plan proposes a major improvement to the pedestrian realm of Brown St/Paternoster Row as part of the Knowledge Gateway project. (see plan vi and section 4.6)

It goes onto state:

SPACE FOR THE MAKERS “WITH THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF CITY CENTRE HOUSING, THE SECTOR IN S1 WILL FACE PROBLEMS OVER THE YEARS AHEAD AND MAY NEED TO SPREAD BEYOND ITS ESTABLISHED BASE. DEMAND FOR STUDIOS REMAINS HIGH” - ARTS REPORT (p.57)

This map shows a proposed exhibition gallery/museum and the proposed event space of Festival Square (p 59):



In light of incompatibility with the club's location in the area as it is currently, we maintain that future developments render the location even more incompatible.

The Sub-committee's attention is drawn to this summary:

The Court of Appeal has dismissed an appeal brought by the operators of a lap dancing venue.

In 2011, Oxford City Council granted a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence for a lap dancing club called the Lodge. The following year the Council refused to renew the same licence in the same location which led to the decision being challenged by way of Judicial Review to the High Court in 2013.

At that time Mr Justice Haddon-Cave ruling confirmed that, with reference to renewal applications, local authorities *"are entitled to take "a fresh look" at the matter and accordingly, it is open to a local authority to refuse to renew a licence even where no change in the character of the relevant locality or in the use to which any premises in the locality are put"*. [para. 57]

Further, in relation to taking into account the future character of the area as opposed to the current at the time the application was made Mr Justice Haddon-Cave stated *"...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 licences which were to be granted for 12 months in the future. Prospective licences 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."* [para 68]

The Court of Appeal has now dismissed the Appeal brought by the operators of the club and held that is lawful for a Council to take account of the character of the area in terms of the suitability of the grant of a licence with regard to future developments in that area.

Lord Justice Lloyd Jones held that *"Under Schedule 3, LG(MP)A 1982, a Council is given a wide discretion in the assessment of whether the grant or renewal of a licence would be appropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality. It seems to me that in making that assessment it should be permitted, at least, to have regard to an imminent development of which it is aware, even if there can be no certainty that it will be completed and operational within the period of the licence"*. [para 49]

However, the ruling does distinguish this further by stating: *"Nevertheless, the ability to take account in this context of forthcoming developments cannot be open-ended. The fact that SEV licences can be granted for very short periods which may not, in any event, exceed twelve months has an important bearing on this. Accordingly, I would suggest that it would not be open to a Council to rely, in refusing to grant an SEV licence, on a Development Plan which contemplated development say some five years in the future"*. [para 50]

The Judgment also ruled that there was no breach of the Licensing Authority's obligations under the EU Services Directive with Lord Justice Lloyd Jones stating *"I can see nothing in the statutory scheme for SEV licences, the approach of the Sub-Committee or in its 2012 decision which conflicts in any way with the Services Directive (2006/123 EC) which is implemented in the United Kingdom by the Provision of Services Regulations (SI 2009/2999). In particular the nature of the*

activities licensed is such that there are compelling justifications for limiting the period of authorisation and for granting to local authorities a wide discretion on applications to renew. [para 45] <https://www.john-gaunt.co.uk/news/renewal-of-sev-s-r-alistair-thompson-v-oxford-city-council-2014-ewca-civ94>

We reiterate that according to the Plan's programme, this "main street" is listed for completion in 2018-19 and is therefore an imminent development (p.87)

The Sub-committee is also asked to note that we are aware of two former clubs which once re-purposed have transformed local areas. LA Confidential Ealing was closed after breaches were found following an undercover visit, is now a thriving restaurant with a much larger customer base than a strip club. A former Bristol strip club is now a thriving tapas bar. We would welcome a more inclusive amenity or facility here which would also contribute to the City's Alive After Five initiative and would be more conducive to developing a thriving leisure community within the CIQ.

As one poster on a Reddit thread regarding last year's hearing thread stated:

"What is more important to the city now? The desires of a huge university [SHU] that represents a significant amount of the city's economic activity, or that of a small club/bar that employs a few underpaid strippers and barstaff, and whose profits go out of town to the corporate headquarters anyway?"

We have also been assured by the club's QC, when questioned about employment rights and protections, that the dancers are "peripatetic workers" so have the option to work elsewhere.

The applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason

Clearly, there is not an issue here regarding previous convictions, however, we believe there are compelling other reasons with regards to how this chain been managed in the past.

In 2015, when attending the hearing, we gave presentation and showed the following screencap from Sheffield Forum discussing Sheffield's Spearmint Rhino.

**helhol**

Posted March 7, 2014

#30

edsballs said:

This type of place is the last bastian
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

<https://www.sheffieldforum.co.uk/topic/384980-spearmint-rhino-in-town/?page=3>

And the response was, "that is Leicester" as if it were irrelevant.

Obviously, we don't know the nature of these "goings on" but suffice to say, however, it points to a wider picture of issues and breaches across the chain and the applicant and management's ability to manage these clubs within the terms under which they are licenced.

Last year we posited that both the club's and chain's advertising were incongruent with the club's own rules by way of presentation of the images (see Appendix). Given the alleged breaches that have taken place in the clubs in Sheffield and London, it appears that these adverts are indeed congruent. Note that none of these breaches came to light through regular council inspections which makes it questionable as to how effective these inspections are, even unannounced ones.

Similar breaches of not only a sexual nature but of exploiting a drunk customer were also found to have occurred in the Bournemouth branch a few years ago; these are in the public domain.

Last year, the Sub-committee had before it the following reviews from the site below, which seems to have been taken offline:



Strip clubs → Europe → England → Sheffield → Spearmint Rhino



Spearmint Rhino

★★★★☆ 4 reviews

Add review

+44 (0)1142 798 092

60 Brown Street

Prices and features

Club type: Nude Dancers

Dancers Ethnicity : White

Features: Beer and Wine, Full Bar, Bikini Dancers Only, Topless Dancers, Nude Dancers, Bikini Lap Dances

Dance price: 20

Drink price: 3

Daytime cover: 10

Atmosphere: 3

Dancers: 3

Value: 3

Overall: 3

Comments and reviews

Atmosphere: ★★★★★
 Dancers: ★★★★★
 Value: ★★★★★
 Overall: ★★★★★

Joined us on Jan 2017

I went on the tuesday, as it is a student night, meaning free entry with a student card!

10 pounds all night for dances were also really good value, and I ended up spending about 90 pounds, all in all it was very worth it and the girls were very attractive. You also get sambucca and tequila shots for a pound each which is great if you are looking to get a bit merry.

The club is a very good environment, and is as non-sleazy as a strip club could possibly be, and the girls are actually interested, and dont look bored out of their faces like most places ive been.

I have had a private dance before, and the girl was very good and naughty ;) Would definitely recommend spending some extra cash!



anonfig

2014-05-12

Visit Day: Tuesday

Visit Time: After

0

This implies that the reviewer had more than a dance.

Atmosphere:
★★★★☆

Dancers:
★★★★☆

Value:
★★★★☆

Overall:
★★★★☆

Joined us on Jan 2017

Another visit to Spearmint Rhino sheffield, this time a little bit better than the last. Ventured in on a monday a little bit before 10pm and it was v. quiet as I expected. However, there were certainly more girls on this time than my sadly lacking previous visit. The prices are always very reasonable here, the £40 for 15 minutes is certainly one of the best deals around as the VIP rooms where you get taken are very plush, private and the girls are straight into the action. However, sometimes I feel 15 minutes without a break is a bit too long and my mind tends to wander, although it soon comes back again when some of these girls pummel there behinds into your groin. I swear it was almost painful a few times!!! In general the girls are pretty good looking but not stunning, they are pleasant enough and won't rush you and as usual for Spearmint Rhino the club is managed pretty well.



kally71

2005-10-13

Visit Day: Unknown

Visit Time:

0 0 0

The Sub-committee is asked to note that "some of these girls pummel their behinds into your groin" which again breaks the club's own no contact rules.

Atmosphere:
★★★★☆

Dancers:
★★★★☆

Value:
★★★★☆

Overall:
★★★★☆

Joined us on Jan 2017

Fantastic looking club (as usual for SR) but in completely the wrong place - student hell! Went there on a wednesday about 11pm and it was dead. There were only six girls on (I spoke to the manager who said there should have been 12!) so it was really difficult to get dances - do they not want my money! Had three dances and at £40 for 15 minutes they were pretty good value by UK standards. I'm told the place is buzzing at weekends and on tuesday night (student night) but I'm not sure how sustainable the club is. Having said that if you want a relaxing low pressure time, I would recommend it.



kally71

2004-11-20

Visit Day: Unknown

Visit Time:

0 0 0

Even this reviewer agrees that the club is in the wrong location.

This reviewer states that extra cash gave him the opportunity to "lick" the dancer's "tit." This was sent to Licensing and objectors were informed that Licensing officers had visited the club and there was no cause for concern.

4 Mar 2016

peoffrey

peoffrey said:

A big mucky night out in a different place (Sheffield for me) and a accompanied by a trusted friend did the trick. I'd come in to some money and ended up blowing a wad in Spearmint Rhino. One bigger boobed Jessica Ennis lookalike earned some decent wage waving her Jack and Danny in my face too. I began dating again some six months later. There's been no girl like it since but I remain the eternal optimist.

I've just remembered that I tipped her extra and she let me lick her tit.

4 Mar 2016

These acts and the messages they convey are extremely damaging. Given that consent is the most contested issue in rape cases, what are we teaching men? That "no" does not really mean "no"?

In conclusion

In the past, we have been told that there were "no legal reasons" to refuse the licence. We reiterate, you do not need a legal reason. There is a clear precedent for taking a "fresh look" and as outlined below when Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of a strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**" (emphasis added)*

We submit that there have been significant changes with the Site Gallery refurbishment and expansion, the new outdoor seating area outside the Showroom and there are development plans in progress for the CIQ and SHU's city campus Master Plan.

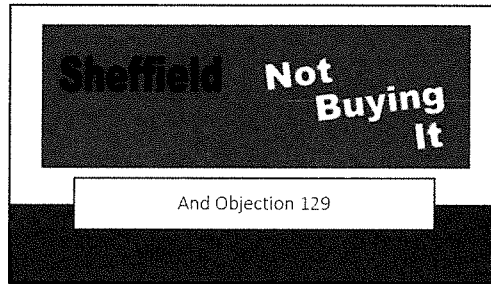
Please note that the aforementioned Chester Platinum Lounge's strip club licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

Yours sincerely

Sheffield Not Buying It

Appendix

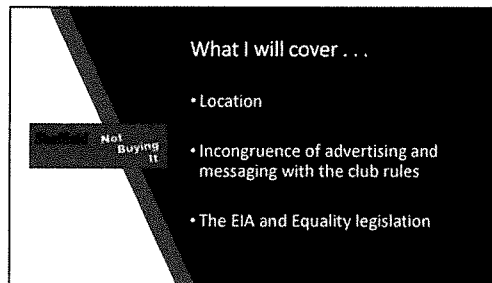
Slide 1



Firstly, thank you to the Subcommittee and also thank you to licensing for providing us with the applicant's witness statement as requested, it has been really helpful. The Council has been really receptive to objectors' suggestions about the hearing process.

I am speaking on behalf of Sheffield Not Buying It (which is objection number 102, p 503 onwards) and objection 129.

Slide 2



What I will cover has been set out in greater detail in the 2 submissions I am talking to, however, I will touch on . . .

Slide 3

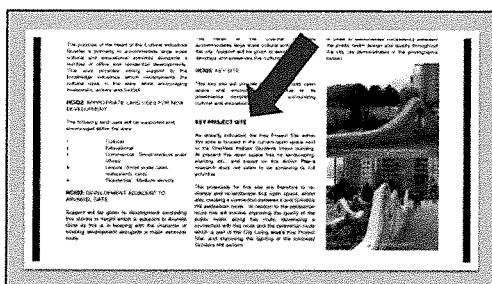


Firstly, let us look at some of our proud history . . . The journey of . . . And more recently, our city commemorated women steel workers from the 2 world wars with the women of steel statue. Let's continue that proud history in this year, the centenary of the Representation of the People Act where some women got the vote instead of negative publicity such as

Slide 4

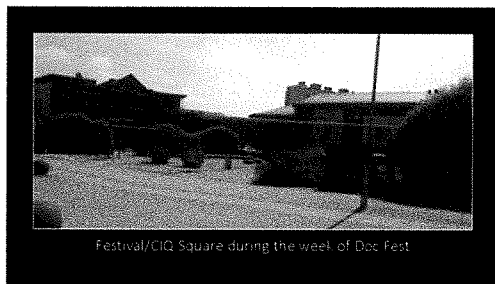


Slide 5



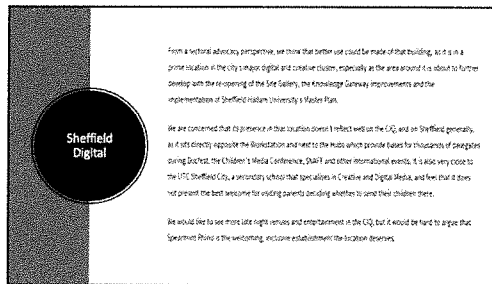
Firstly, the club's location. This is taken from the 2013 Cultural Industries Quarter Action Plan and I note that the Landlord and Developer of the Heart of the City II scheme has also objected on behalf of the City Centre Developer Team (objection no number 53). Key project site . . . "not achieving its full potential" . . . "should be based on the style of Devonshire Green"

Slide 6



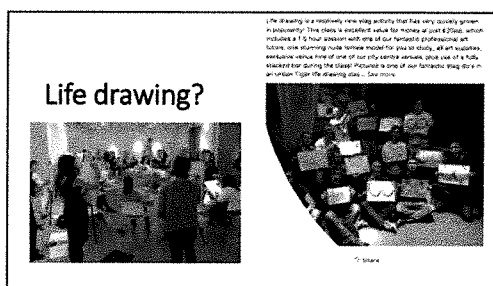
Well, I think we can all agree that this is far cry from that vision and many of us contend that it is Spearmint Rhino holding back this space from being used to its full potential. And whilst there is graffiti on that photo and elsewhere, which seems to be a concern of the applicant given the number of times it is referred to in the witness statement, urban street art is far more in keeping with the CIQ than a strip club.

Slide 7



Continuing with the matter of the club's location, this is from Sheffield Digital's website, we totally agree with the statement that the building could and should be put to better use

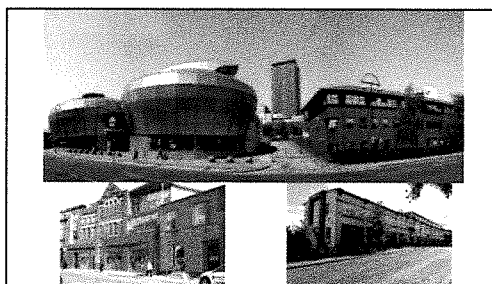
Slide 8



Rather than continue to operate as a strip club. Last year it was suggested to the Sub Committee that it could consider ways to integrate the premises into day time use giving as an example a strip club in Bristol which hosts life drawing classes.

Sincerely hope that the Sub-committee does not consider this.

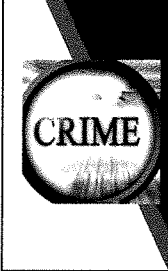
Slide 9



Furthermore, if prospective students and residents are viewing the university and properties during the daytime, they should be able to make an informed decision about whether to study and or live somewhere with a strip club on the doorstep.

Would also like to add that it is irrelevant if the Student Union offers pole dancing classes


Slide 10



LOCATION – proximity to areas with high levels of crime

- Arundel Gate reported as 10th in the city's top 10 areas of crime
- Includes "assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women."


Slide 11



LOCATION - ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

- Approximately 1 in 4 of the population will experience mental health issues each year
- Approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped in England and Wales alone every year; that's roughly 11 rapes (of adults alone) every hour. These figures include assaults by penetration and attempts.
- Nearly half a million adults are sexually assaulted in England and Wales each year
- 1 in 5 women aged 16 - 59 has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 16

Slide 12



← Tweet

Spearmint Rhino
@RhinoSheffield

Have you checked out

Spearmint Rhino
spearmintrhino.com

3:54 pm · 12 May 18

Club rules vs advertising

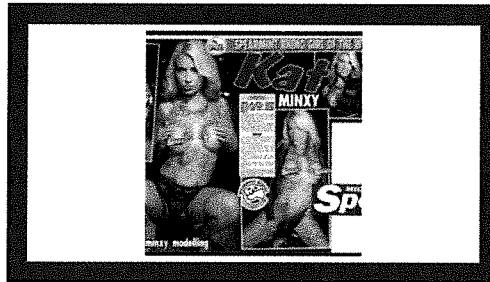
Continuing the suffrage theme and the Suffragette call to arms Deeds not Words . . . There appears to be a conflict between the deeds portrayed in the promotional literature and the words stating the club rules

Slide 13



According to the Club's rules and the witness statement, it is not permitted for dancers to touch their breasts. Whether or not this is on the US website, the link in many tweets on the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino Twitter accounts takes you to this image, I have recordings on my phone to prove this should the Subcommittee wish to see. It is frankly amazing given this that the club's management insist there is never any trouble.

Slide 14



Regardless of whether there is no control of these images and publishing thereof, they nonetheless feature the SR brand. How are readers supposed to know that this is not permitted in the clubs when there is an absence of club rules in any promotional materials?

Slide 15



Similarly, the videos on this website

Slide 16



Feature women caressing their breasts, which in the witness statement Licensing provided, is acknowledged that this is not permitted

Slide 17



Slide 18

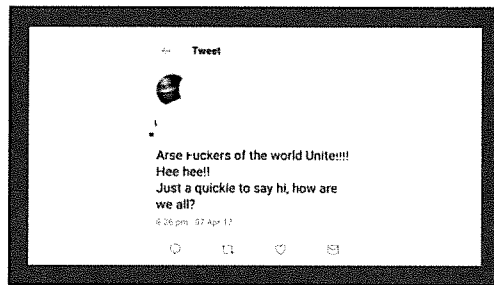


Other advertising also more than hints at sex

Slide 19



Slide 20




Slide 21

Statutory equality objectives

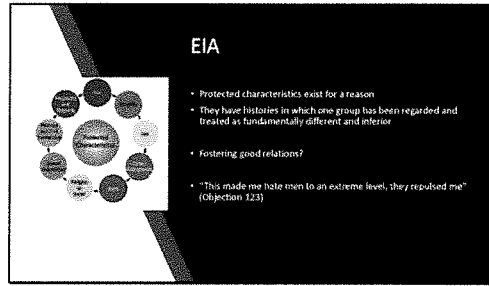
- EIA states "sexual entertainment venues are open to all sexes" – which begs the question as to why they are called "Gentleman's Clubs"
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation;
- Advance equality of opportunity;
- Foster good relations.

The EIA does not address impacts on **all** women



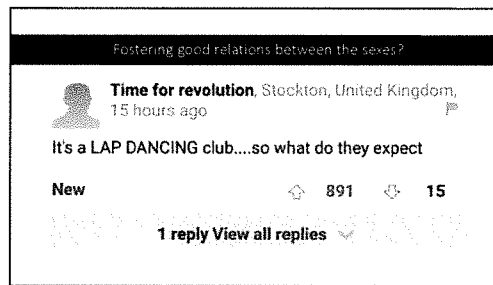
Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 enacts the PSED. A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

Slide 22

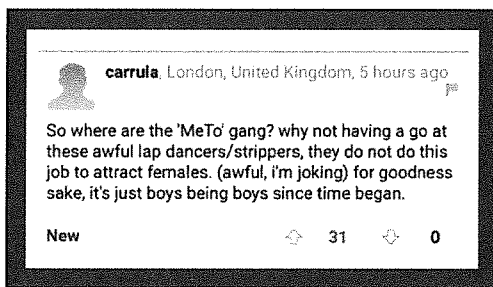


Which includes race. The witness statement refers to two events featuring male strippers. I assume this refers to The Chocolate Men? This reinforces racial stereotypes about well endowed sexually aggressive black men, is offensive in the extreme and does not promote equality nor makes lap dancing more acceptable. Again it is a power imbalance based on the white gaze and if the photos in the witness statement are anything to go by, cannot see any women of colour queuing up. Besides, several complaints appeared on FB and there were attempts by SR to distance itself from the issues raised and I understand that future Chocolate Men events have been cancelled at Sheffield SR

Slide 23



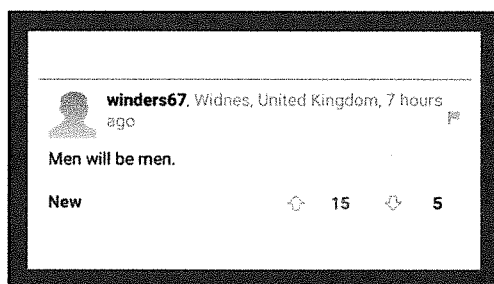
Slide 24



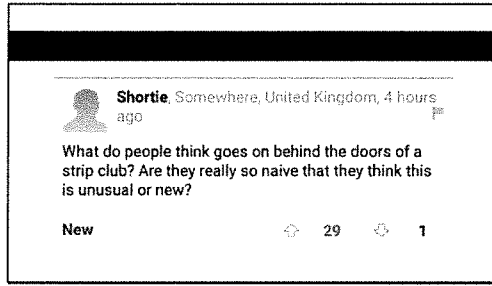
Slide 25



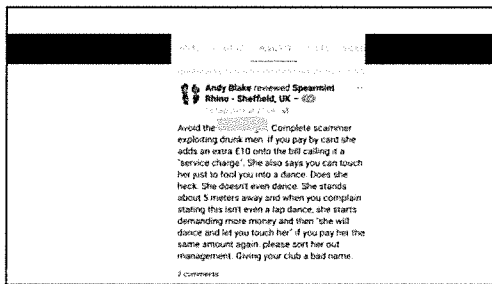
Slide 26



Slide 27

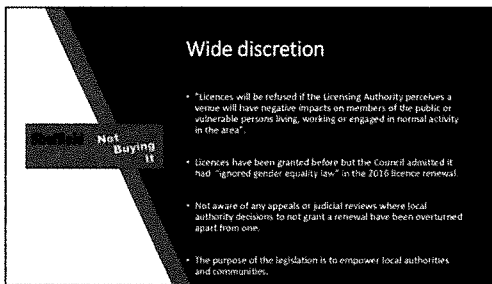


Slide 28



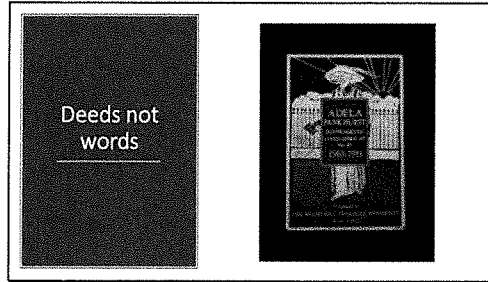
Customers not only expecting sexual contact but referring to the dancers as “scammers” and “exploiting drunk men” because how else will they make any money? Sammy will talk more about this. However, how does this foster good relations between the sexes? And the witness statement states this was posted by someone outside the club, precisely – the club’s bread and butter, a customer! This is the beauty of social media.

Slide 29



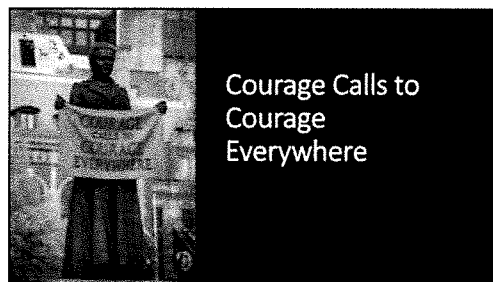
Which is at odds with the EIA which does not address wider impacts but focuses on staff and customers. You have heard year on year about how the club’s presence impacts on mostly women wanting to access facilities in the area, some women with more than one protected characteristic.

Slide 30



We want deeds not words – the Suffragette motto – and you are probably wondering why there is a plaque of the Suffragette, Adela Pankhurst, this is another part of our history as she lived here for a year. We are not interested in conditions, further judicial reviews and annual hearings at great cost. We appeal to the Sub-Committee to decline the licence which it has a wide discretion to do so. There are almost 150 objectors; that's 50% more than last year. There is one letter of support and less supporting letters from those who work in the club than last year, 4 of which are dated February 2017. This is not an issue of loss of livelihood, as Mr Kolvin told us last year, the dancers are peripatetic and will work one night in Sheffield and he gave Wakefield as an example as to where they would work another night. I have heard from a former dancer how they work all over the country as did she.

Slide 31



will end with another statue, that of Suffragist Millicent Fawcett and another Votes for Women quote "Courage Calls to Courage Everywhere." It takes courage to speak out, courage to depart from previous decisions and it will be a bold move to turn down the licence but a welcome and necessary one which will be widely supported in the #Metoo era.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O273

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:17
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

O274

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield licensing,

I object to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sincerely,

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O275

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 22:47

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPad

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O276

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 23:12

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Kind regards

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O277

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 23:28
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from Samsung Mobile on O2

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O278

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 23:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino SEV licence application

0279 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 23:50
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino SEV licence application

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

26/5/2019

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 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 Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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] Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5] 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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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." [6] 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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: 'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'" (emphasis added) [7] Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O280

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 00:06

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

As a member of a Cross Party Group concerned with Commercial Sexual Exploitation, I would like to raise an objection to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable. Your own policy would not deem a university campus as a suitable location.

More concerning, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs.

It would therefore seem that a new manager or extra cameras would not make any difference in Sheffield. The licence holder appears to be unfit for the position, being unable to prevent crime and disorder. If this club is licensed, women will be at risk. Therefore I ask that public concerns are recognised and women's safety taken into consideration as paramount, not secondary.

Yours

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection
Attachments: SR template objection letter 2019.docx

O281 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 03:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

As a student myself, I feel it would be innapropriate to have a strip club on the university campus, it would send a bad message to students

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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

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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 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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for refusal

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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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

It is further reported:

*“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: **‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’**”*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Urgent: Objections to Spearmint Rhino licence by 24 May
Attachments: winmail.dat

O282

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 08:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: Urgent: Objections to Spearmint Rhino licence by 24 May

To whom it may concern,

I am a member of the Know the Line group because I have first hand experience of the implications of living in a place where men's needs are put before women's. Mens freedom is more important than women's basic physical safety and ongoing self esteem and mental wellbeing.

Know the Line is an independent group which campaigns against street sexual harassment and we object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street Sheffield.

We believe that everybody has the right to feel safe as they go about their lives, whether at work, in school or in a public place.

A University of Kent study concluded that sexually objectifying a woman can lead to aggression towards women and to the harmful perception that women are solely to be seen as sexual objects.

If not challenged, casual misogyny and sexual harassment create a cultural environment that normalises inappropriate behaviours, and can lead to problematic, abusive and/or violent behaviour towards women and girls.

The strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a 'commodity' and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them.

Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which they have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. This duty can not be upheld by granting a license to a strip club.

Councillors have the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas, and yet despite the fact that more and more people object every year, these voices continue to be ignored.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Licensing Committee to refuse this license application.
Chair of Know the Line campaign group

Please make the correct decision for all Sheffield citizens.

Yours sincerely

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O283

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 08:36

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O284

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 08:43

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O285

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 09:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Sr objection
Attachments: Objection to Licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019.docx

O286 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 09:30
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: Sr objection

Objection to Licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019

To: Licensing Services Sheffield

Dear Licensing,

This is a personal objection to the application for license renewal above.

- I am aware of objection submissions from Not Buying it Sheffield and of signatories to a submission produced by Zero Option and the Women's Equality Party and many other eloquent individual submissions and do not propose to reiterate those details/arguments.
- I have objected to renewal of the licence previously and am concerned that the previous re - licensing decisions have not given due weight to the concerns of local people. Nor taken proper account of the Public Sector Equality Duty as regards sex inequality. Nor understood their legal powers to decline or take a fresh look.
- At the time of this licensing proposal I am also concerned that information about potentially serious breaches which has been presented appropriately to the council is still subject to an ongoing investigation which is not resolved at the point of this submission.
- By way of preamble, as a woman in this city I have no wish to diminish the experiences of women who have found reason to be working at Spearmint Rhino, with whom there is likely to be common ground in terms of life experience, care responsibilities, financial struggles personal experience, experience of abuse and violence. Nor do I think any less of

- those women and have publicly stated as such including in licensing hearings.
- It is regrettable that some of the public discourse has characterised those of us concerned about the impact of sexual entertainment venues and the impact on all women, as anti-women. It is regrettable that we have been characterised as “Old Hags” in public tweet. Old hags can be body positive and sex positive too(though this club would probably discriminate against women of my age.)
- I take a position not on “so called” moral grounds or because of ambivalence or anxiety about sexual activity. A previous legal judgement against the council reflects that objection on the grounds of equality arguments have been wrongly been dismissed as moral. Inequality and the safety of all women are the critical issues here.
- I note one objector who describes Spearmint Rhino as a haven of sexism. Indeed one woman posting on social media described the working environment as hard work before going on to warn of sexism, bullying and sexual assault.
- It is naïve to imagine that it could be any other; or that it is unusual or that it does not happen in similar establishments. Not Buying It research suggests an endemic and systemic pattern. The breaches under investigation locally are about sexual contact /sexual activity which is against the clubs own rules.
- We have to ask why this happens and understand that for most ordinary members of the public, even those who may be ambivalent about the operation of Spearmint Rhino the overwhelming view is that if rules are broken it should be shut.
- This industry requires, however that women be treated as objects, as Spearmint Rhinos promotional material and social media attest. There is a wealth of evidence about the links

between objectification of women, harassment and violence and a pretence of consent and mutuality does not mitigate that.

- I recently spoke with a professional working in student wellbeing; not specifically about Spearmint Rhino. However that worker referred to experience of working in an office near to the club and feeling uncomfortable; a discomfort exacerbated by realising that some students needed support when “they ran out of money and had to think of going into sex work”. Such choices do not exist in vacuum and if a driver for sex work is austerity, in whatever it’s manifestations, we cannot simply throw up our hands in horror and say that individual choice will sort out the underpinnings of inequality.
- There is also much evidence, clinical and otherwise about the specific impacts of working in the sex trade and since Spearmint Rhino promotes a narrow heterosexist/ hetero normative view of human sexual conduct in which men set the terms and women perform or second guess what men want, whether or not individual women argue that it is empowering it is arguable that overall the maintenance of stereotypes which may not be so sexually liberating and which also help to maintain unhelpful attitudes and beliefs
- Recently in a public arena and during the course of an otherwise informed discussion one woman suggested (a view which is not unusual in the context of these discussions) that it was better that men go into Spearmint Rhino rather than be out on the streets raping women. Setting aside the fact that most rape/ sexual assault is committed in the domestic sphere this is a shocking statement about perceptions of male entitlement and women’s role as servicers of uncontrollable men in the prevention of rape.

- Sexual harassment and violence against women and girls remains endemic. And there is no research which supports the argument that using strip clubs prevents rape. Indeed it might even be an influencing factor. As stated by Karen Monaghan QC “We are not going to get rid of sexual violence if we mandate the sexual objectification of women in licensed premises”.
- It is well within the power of this licensing hearing to refuse this licence and to look at the situation with fresh eyes. To re licence would be a dereliction of obligations in relation to the PSED, and in the absence, despite requests for such of any thorough, critical, substantiated cost benefit analysis of what Spearmint Rhino brings to this city both economically and in terms of the city commitment to equality and fairness, I urge that this opportunity for a Spearmint Rhino free Sheffield be seized. There are implications of this and I support Zero Options recommendations to address those implications proactively.
-

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: I am sharing 'objection.pdf' with you
Attachments: objection.pdf

O287 P1

From:]
Sent: 27 May 2019 09:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: I am sharing 'objection.pdf' with you

Shared from Word for Android
<https://office.com/getword>

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 27.05.2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE 27.05.2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’”
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: ‘Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision’ July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O288

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 09:57

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

BiI object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O289

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 09:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Kind Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to SR licensing renewal
Attachments: SR Objection 2019 .docx

O290 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 10:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to SR licensing renewal

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached my objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino SEV license.

Kind Regards,

27th May 2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

O291 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 10:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino ("the club"), 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 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

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."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone 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 aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 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 at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”^[iii]

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

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) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

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

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^[iv]

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 sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[v]

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"^[vi]

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"^[vii].

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."^[viii]

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xi] 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 many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club 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 Committee 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.”^[xiii]

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.

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

.....

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^[i]Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

^[ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

^[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^[iv] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

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- [v] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- [vi] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [vii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [viii] 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.
- [ix] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- [x] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- [xi] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- [xii] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- [xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- [xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Subject: FW: spearmint rhino objeciton

O292 P1

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:00

To: licensingservice

Subject: spearmint rhino objeciton

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Date 27/05/19

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email:
licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am very impressed with the work going on along Brown street the so called knowledge gateway my workshop is on that street. I am surprised that in our modern, developing city Spearmint Rhino is still open. Its location on the street is totally out of place and holding back any proper development around that area. An area with new business trying to develop, education an internationally acclaimed art gallery a university and much more. It would be great to develop the park area for young and old have a bar and café and bring that area to life instead it is just a dead zone. It is just wrong. I hate leaving my workshop late at night when it is open and I and other women working late at Persistence works often arrange for someone to meet us as we do not feel safe walking to the bus stops in town along that street. I can handle the catcalling I am 60 years old and but I shouldn't have to and younger females should not have to deal with it and be threatened by it.

I also teach joinery at the Sheffield College and hear the opinions of many 16 to 17 years old boys opinions that you would think had disappeared back in the 70s but they have not. There is no respect for the women (birds) who work there they are objects just to be bought. And we are contributing those ideas by simply making it acceptable to have Spearmint Rhino in the centre of town. We have a duty to giving women in Sheffield a safe city and equality. A safe space to live and work and in the 21st Century and equality between the sexes.

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families - and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and

their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

SIGNATURE

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection

O293

From:]

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

Hi All

Hope you're well

I'd just like to add my objection to the Spearmint Rhino application on the grounds of the venue being in an unsuitable location in the heart of the city center in close proximity to key transportation links, Places of Education and was also a factor in Sheffield not being seriously considered for the Channel 4 HQ Bid due to the proposed Site being in such close proximity to Spearmint Rhino.

Thanks



Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject:

FW: Objection for further Spearmint Rhino License

O294

From:**Sent:** 27 May 2019 11:23**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection for further Spearmint Rhino License

Objection to a further Spearmint Rhino Stripclub license

I am Sheffield resident, tax payer and have lived in Sheffield all my life and most importantly a concerned mother of 3 girls. I am horrified Sheffield City Council continue to give permission to Spearmint Rhino at all but essentially where it is located.

Such a prominent position in the industrial sector in the city and adjoining the university campus, yards from the train station serves to normalise the objectification of young women and cheapen the city.

I am not a hardened feminist and recognise this activity will always go on and it is important to make it safe. As a psychotherapist in the NHS I dont think we are looking after the women working there. I am not sure what a free choice it is for them and how much voice they have and would hope you include the women working there in the process. Whether it is overt and acknowledged or not there is a power imbalance in the activities that occur there and the Equality Act appears ignored fully.

It feels as a citizen of the city that Spearmint Rhino have you in their pocket. I am confident that in their absence the same business rates could be accrued from a more acceptable to the public establishment.

Sincerely

RMN, LLB, Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapist

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint rhino licence renewal
Attachments: SpearmintRhinoObjection2019.docx

O295 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 11:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint rhino licence renewal

--
Thanks,

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

O295 P2

15/05/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I refer to the application for a sex establishment 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 2018 Sex Establishment Policy and in accordance with the council's equality duties because it is completely inappropriate to have a strip club in that location, in such a central position within our city, close to so many educational and residential buildings and so many other things that should never have a strip club in their midst. This is both because of the direct damage that it causes having a strip club there and also because of the wider impact and message that it sends, having such a club, which is fundamentally based on outdated, stereotypical and harmful views of women, and assumptions that men are entitled to buy power over women's bodies.

I'm 17 years old, born and bred in Sheffield, and I'm amazed that in this day and age that something as old-fashioned and obviously discriminatory still exists, and has been actually approved each year by the council. In school I have learnt about the fundamental principle of respect- it is so vital for our society and the fact that this strip club still exists and promotes such derogatory and damaging views just utterly undermines the general message that we all are deserving of equal respect and rights.

I have several close friends in the LGBT+ community and it is because of places like Spearmint Rhino that I worry for their wellbeing- my friends do not conform to the archaic stereotypes which strip clubs promote, and could be subject to abuse by people who are influenced by the messages these places promote.

I'm currently thinking about my choices of where to go for University, and I would *never* choose a university which has a strip club in the middle of several of the main university buildings and literally next door to the student union.

Subject: FW: Objection to the licence application submitted by Spearment Rhino

O296

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the licence application submitted by Spearment Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the licence application submitted by Spearment Rhino. The reasons for this objection are:

Giving a licence to this type of 'entertainment' does not fit in with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

By giving this licence you are legitimising the sexualisation and objectification of women.

It is inappropriate for Sheffield Hallam University to have such a premises on their campus.

It is inappropriate to have a strip club in the middle of the Cultural Industries Quarter.

If the current investigation into this premises shows serious breaches of the current licence then another licence should not be given.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Subject: FW: Objection to the current Spearmint Rhino application

O297

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 12:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the current Spearmint Rhino application

To whom it concerns ...

I object to the licence application from Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield.

In this age of #MeToo, where we understand more and more the extent of sexual violence and harassment women experience on a day to day basis, it is not justifiable to grant a licence for any Sexual Entertainment Venue and I have particular reasons for wanting you to refuse this licence to Spearmint Rhino.

No decision should be taken before the outcome of the current investigation is known. If that shows serious breaches of their licence, as Private Investigators have previously documented, a new licence should not be granted.

Such a venue legitimises the sexualisation and objectification of women. For that reason it cannot fit with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

I believe that Sheffield City Council should adopt a zero cap on the number of sexual entertainment venues (SEVs). However, if I must bring your attention to the location of the venue ... I object to a strip club(sev) in the middle of the cultural industries quarter of the City or what can be described as the Sheffield Hallam Uni campus.

Kind regards and hoping your agreement with these comments leads to a refusal of a licence to Spearmint Rhino,

--

Subject: FW: Objection to "Spearmint Rhino" application (Sonfield Development)

O298 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:27
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to "Spearmint Rhino" application (Sonfield Development)

I am writing to object to the renewal application of Sonfield Development for an SEV licence for their premises "Spearmint Rhino".

My objection is based on the following grounds:

Unsuitability of applicant

The independent investigation into the premises revealed numerous serious breaches of the licensing conditions. Clubs in the past that have been found to have had licensing breaches have blamed the dancers and have subsequently fired them. However, it's clear that breaches of licence conditions are not the fault of one or two "bad apples" but are systemic in SEVs. If the **management** of the club is unable to monitor and control what goes on inside the club, despite the large number of CCTV cameras in place, it should be refused a licence on this basis.

Locality of SEV

The club is located on a university campus which is one of the most unsuitable locations that could be found for an SEV. As the committee will be aware, it is entitled to take a fresh look at applications each year and can refuse a licence on the grounds of unsuitable location without any changes to the locality. Councils try to mitigate the impact of SEVs on the local community by limiting their opening hours. However, university campuses are vibrant places in the evening and young women should not have to curtail their activities to avoid walking past or near an SEV. The only way to completely mitigate the risk to the local community is by not granting a licence at all.

I have been made aware that claims have been made in licensing hearings in Sheffield that Bristol - where I have lived for the last ten years - has been used as an example of where SEVs are not considered a problem in a central - and increasingly residential - location. This is absolutely not the case. Only a matter of years ago, Bristol had five SEVs in central locations and now it has two. Three have shut down because they either had repeated licence breaches (as has Spearmint Rhino) and the other lost their licence when the licensing committee imposed a cap of two in the centre of the city. The Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Inspector of Licensing and the Mayor of Bristol have all spoken out against the re-licensing of the remaining two clubs' licences.

Need to show due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty

Sex entertainment venues contribute to negative attitudes against women and girls.

Numerous studies have established that, when a man views a woman as an sexual object, he sees her as less than fully human. There is a wide range of work showing that objectified women are also perceived as less competent. Research has shown that, when men view sexualised pictures of women, they subsequently view a female experimenter as doing a worse job. In other words, men "carry over" their views of the sexualised women to another woman who was not scantily dressed. In the 'real world', consider the impact on a man who has been to a lap dancing club on a corporate event with his male peers interacting with his female colleagues the next day; or consider the impact on a member of a stag party who will be interacting with his partner after visiting a lap dancing club.

A study, "Street Harassment – It's Not Ok", published on 8th October 2018 by the children's charity, Plan International UK, revealed that: *"Two-thirds of the girls we surveyed – 66% – had experienced sexual attention or sexual or physical contact in a public place, while 38% had experienced verbal harassment at least once a month. 15% reported being touched, groped or grabbed every month."* The media picked up the story with the **headline:** *"a third of girls had been harassed while wearing their school uniform"*.

The charity is calling on the government to recognise street harassment as a type of 'gender based violence' and is asking for there to be support for boys and men to change their attitudes and challenge harassment. The report contained interviews with girls, one of whom said "It's just become normal". I hope the licensing committee understands the connection between SEVs which objectify women and the sense of entitlement over women's bodies that leads men and boys to sexually harass women and girls with impunity.

0298 P2

Heflick, NA & Goldenberg, JL (2009). Objectifying Sarah Palin: Evidence that objectification of women causes women to be perceived as less competent and less fully human. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 45, 598-601 and Loughnan, S. Haslam, N, Murmane, T., Vaes, J., Reynolds, C., & Suitner, C (2010). Objectification leads to depersonalisation: The denial of mind and moral concern to objectified others. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 40, 709-717.
<https://plan-uk.org/file/plan-uk-street-harassment-reportpdf/download?token=CyKwYGSJ>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-45777787>

Please refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Please remove any identifying details if publishing this objection

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence

O299

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:16
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence

Dear Licensing Committee

I would like to register my objection to the renewal of the licence for Spearmint Rhino on the following grounds:

- 1) It legitimises the sexualisation and objectification of women. This is something our city should be working to eliminate for the benefit of society as a whole, not promote by licensing a sexual entertainment venue.
- 2) It is completely inappropriate to have a sexual entertainment venue in the middle of the cultural industries quarter - hardly a great advert for our city's image.
- 3) If the current investigation shows serious breaches of the current license, then another license obviously shouldn't be given.

I expect the council to take their Public Sector Equality Duty seriously and turn down this licence application.

Yours sincerely

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O300

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

O301

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

I wish to object to the license application of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield. I don't think that the licence should be renewed.

I understand that there is currently an investigation going on into serious breaches at the club. It seems premature to grant a licence extension while serious allegations are being investigated.

Even if the breaches are not proven, the whole strip club business is based on women being objects to be bought. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises men perceiving women merely as sex objects. Many women are trapped in the sex industry, not through their own choice but through the continuation of venues such as Spearmint Rhino. Licensing Spearmint Rhino is therefore not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty in which you have a duty to have regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between the sexes. I do not believe that the Council has ever explained how licensing Spearmint Rhino ensures that this is happening and I do not believe that it ever can.

The Council has the legal ability and right, to refuse Spearmint Rhino a license, something which the Council does not appear to understand. The legislation allows for local people to have more say in whether they want strip clubs in their areas. Each year, more and more people object to the club which appears to be being ignored by the council.

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Council to refuse this license application.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

O302

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 12:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To the Licensing Office, Sheffield City Council

Re: Spearmint Rhino

I am writing to object to the granting of a licence to this establishment.

In the 21st century I hoped that a public sector organisation would have moved on from approving of a club that obviously objectifies women for 'entertainment'. Take a few seconds: Can you imagine that the NHS or a school would support such a venue on their own land?

However, moving on from imaginary scenarios, my objections are several:

- In an era of increasing numbers of voices, **nationally & internationally**, against the demeaning of women through language & actions, Sheffield needs to move with the times and set a higher standard of behaviour around respect for everyone.
- Such a licence does not fit with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty, which the Council has been challenged on before.
- Sheffield Hallam University should not have to have such a club adjacent to their campus. The presence of the club feeds a prevalent young male attitude (for which there is plenty of evidence nationally) that sexual objectification of women is acceptable.
- Neither is it appropriate to have a SEV in the middle of the cultural industries quarter, which the city is proud to promote.
- If the current investigation shows serious breaches of the current licence then another licence should not be granted.

I would appreciate it if you would consider these.

Yours faithfully

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O303

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:56
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimp activity occurring under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

As a regular visitor to Sheffield I feel unsafe in the vicinity of strip clubs including Spearmint Rhino. I have been victim of sexual assault and sexual harassment when merely trying to walk past such venues. One such occurrence was a man exiting a strip club as I was walking past recently shouted to me that a "massage parlour" next door offers happy endings. Clearly stating to me that the business was in fact a brothel and approaching me trying to discuss sexual services to me is, in itself sexual harassment. This made me feel unsafe. I have also been on the receiving end of men trying to grope me or shouting demands that I perform sexual acts on them while they depart from strip clubs including the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino on multiple occasions. It is clear to me that men feel more at liberty to sexually harass the female public once they have attended such venues given my experience and hearing similar experiences from friends attempting to walk from the university to home in more locations than just Sheffield. If a strip club or brothel or red light district is on their walking route, we try to avoid the vicinities, or feel very unsafe as we walk past if we cannot. These experiences women have because of the existence of a strip club does not promote equality, they are experiences of everyday sexism & tyranny. We urge you not to allow strip clubs in your area of power to be re-licenced.

Thank you for your time

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O304

From:**Sent:** 27 May 2019 12:59**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint RhinoO305

From:**Sent:** 27 May 2019 13:12**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I do NOT object to this licence as its location is entirely suitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

27th May 2019

Dear Sheffield Council Licences

I am a resident of Sheffield and I wish to object to the Council granting another licence to Spearmint Rhino lapdancing club in the city centre. I do not wish to give my name and address because of the sensitive nature of my reasons below.

Also I am concerned about the way Spearmint Rhino operates, including encouraging dancers and other supporters of the sex trade (more broadly) to be aggressive on social media and elsewhere towards local people who object to the council's repeated licencing of Spearmint Rhino. It is very intimidating and it seems like a deliberate orchestrated effort to threaten the council with a backlash to supposedly putting women out of work (even though the club does not give dancers actual jobs, they charge them to be able to ply their trade there) and prevent the council listening to local people who are actually addressing the criteria the council are supposed to apply.

I am extremely conscious that Spearmint Rhino is part of a powerful international corporation which will stop at nothing to keep clubs open (even when they are consistently loss-making on paper) and push its agenda of presenting stripping as harmless or even 'empowering' for women while covering up the reality of how the industry works and its links with illegal prostitution, sex trafficking and other criminal activity such as money laundering. I feel it is too dangerous to speak up publicly against the club, either as a local resident who believes that it is inappropriate and damaging to equality to have such a club in our city centre, or for current or past dancers and other people with direct experience of what really goes on in this and other strip clubs. I have so much admiration for the people who have spoken up publicly especially ex-dancers such as Sammy Woodhouse. But I am too afraid of being targeted, for example on social media, to speak up publicly against the club myself, and I believe this is true of many other members of the local community who object to the club, and especially true of current and ex-dancers and other people who have the most direct experience of the illegal and harmful activity that goes on but would be at very very serious risk if they ever said anything.

I want to focus specifically on the issue that having a club like Spearmint Rhino in our city centre harms women and equality because of the damaging and sexist attitudes that it promotes and perpetuates. I know there is unequivocal evidence that the presence of strip clubs causes women to feel alienated in the public spaces they occupy (at all times not just at night) and increases the risk of violence against women and girls because they normalise women being treated as objects who are expected to be sexually available and men having power over them in a way that is no longer tolerated in our society more broadly. There is no question that the existence of these clubs contributes to rapes and assaults.

The council should be treating that with the utmost seriousness, and given its very strong duty under the Equality Act to actively work to eliminate all forms of discrimination and abuse, and the dramatic increase in reports of rape and sexual assault in the last 5 years, concentrated strikingly in the city centre, that alone should be reason enough to decide to no longer grant a further licence to this club. Declining the licence would be a simple measure entirely within the powers and discretion that the council is required to exercise, and in

accordance with clearly expressed local opinion, that would unquestionably make the city centre safer for women and girls.

But the council should not just be looking at direct evidence of rapes and assaults in the area of Spearmint Rhino that can be directly linked to the club. That would be completely simplistic. The impact is so much more than that, and not just because of the complexity of the factors that lead to specific rapes and assaults happening.

I would like to give you an example from my own very personal experience of how the attitudes that places like Spearmint Rhino contribute to can have a profound impact even if it doesn't involve sexual violence.

I am a married woman in my late 40s with three children, I am university-educated and have a good career, good friends and I would say in most respects I have a good life and feel fortunate. However there is one area of my life which has been extremely difficult for many years and continues to have a significant adverse impact on me every day. That is that my husband feels dissatisfied with the amount and type of sex that I am able to provide for him and he expresses his dissatisfaction every day in various ways, including specifically reminding me how he feels, and showing anger, resentment and hostility to me which goes way beyond the context of sex, it pervades almost every aspect of our life together. This has been the situation for many years, more or less throughout our whole relationship.

One factor underlying this situation is that I have a much lower sex drive than my husband. Another is that I can be prone to anxiety particularly when I feel threatened or heavily criticised, or even if I anticipate criticism and anger, and so there is a vicious circle where if my husband anticipates not getting the sex that he has in mind and shows signs of frustration or resentment, I become anxious and sex becomes impossible. It is then self-fulfilling because my husband gets angry and it reinforces all the negative associations that each of us has about sex: for me that it is that sex is an impossible effort to appease someone who will never be satisfied with what I can offer, and for my husband it is that he will never get the sexual satisfaction that he feels is pivotal to his happiness and through the lens of which he views his marriage and life as a whole.

Over the years we have struggled and struggled with this issue, talked about it endlessly which always ends up with him being angry, and sought various forms of help including couples counselling, psychosexual counselling, CBT (in my case) and I was even prescribed testosterone patches to try and increase my sex drive. I can honestly say that so far nothing has worked in terms of sex becoming easier or my husband being less angry and resentful, the only thing that I would say has improved is that I am probably more assertive and have more self-esteem than before and I am more able to say no to trying to have sex if I don't feel comfortable or safe about it.

I feel that I have been making a conscious choice to stick with my husband for all this time (even though I am in no doubt about how bad this aspect of our relationship is), for various reasons which are complex but include the fact that I do actually think he is a good person in most ways except for a 'blind spot' when it comes to sex. I also have developed good coping strategies where I focus on the good parts of my life and draw huge strength and happiness from my children and friends. I don't know if I will always continue to make the choice to live with this (and in fact my husband talks often about how he wants to split up with me and how

terrible his life is because of this), but for now I remain committed to my marriage and to doing everything I can to make our life together as happy as possible.

The reason I am raising this is because I feel that this problem does not arise just from the fact that my husband and I have different levels of sex drive or that I am prone to anxiety. I believe that both of those things can pose a big challenge to a relationship but that actually they are both incredibly common and it is something else that more fundamentally gets in the way of us being able to work through these issues successfully as a couple. That thing that gets in the way is my husband's attitude and expectation in terms of me (his wife) being sexually available for him, and how it is reasonable for him to react if his expectations and desires are not met, for whatever reason.

On the whole I think I am quite good at articulating my feelings and feel that I have explained clearly over the years (including in the context of the lengthy couples counselling we've had) why sex can be difficult for me, also about what could help to make it easier, and particularly about why it is so important for me to feel safe and loved in order to be sexually intimate, and not fear consequences such as anger and resentment if I am not able to be sexually available on a particular occasion when my husband might want a particular sexual act performed.

My husband is familiar with these points that I have raised, and sometimes in a very calm moment he will even expressly acknowledge – hypothetically speaking – that it's not my fault if I cannot deliver the level of sexual intimacy or performance that he wants.

However the overwhelming majority of the time his behaviour towards me does not acknowledge any of these points about my perspective on our sexual difficulties. And most definitely, if we are ever in a context where he is thinking about sex (which is a lot of the time because he is so obsessed about this problem), he cannot see my perspective at all and can think of nothing but his own misery and suffering (as he sees it) because of being denied what he thinks is his very reasonable expectation in terms of a happy sex life and marriage.

My husband has never been into 'lad' culture, quite the opposite, everyone thinks of him as a very modern family man, who has always been hands on with childcare, pulls his weight with domestic stuff and is generally very caring, kind and generous. He is not the type to go on stag do's to places like Spearmint Rhino or participate publicly in objectifying women for entertainment.

He has talked a number of times about the possibility of going to a prostitute, this is one of the things that he will say when he is angry about sex, it is a kind of threat to highlight to me how unhappy he is (as if I could ever forget!), but he makes clear that even if he did that it would be unsatisfactory because it is sordid and lacking in love/real intimacy, and really it is only me (as his wife) that can deliver the sex that he wants. He is saying this like it is supposed to be a positive, that he would prefer sex with me to sex with a prostitute, but really it is just him repeating the same old points about how his life is terrible because I don't deliver what a wife should.

I think my husband has probably not used prostitutes, although I cannot be sure, and I also cannot be sure that he would not go somewhere like Spearmint Rhino in order to get sexual gratification. If he was going to go down the route of paying for sex I have no doubt that Spearmint Rhino would be one of the first options that he would consider in order to get

physical sexual contact because everyone knows it is readily available both within the club (especially within the VIP rooms where management turn a blind eye and then no doubt share in the profits) and by using it to meet women who will give out their phone number and then arrange for paid sex elsewhere. Men might consider it slightly safer to obtain paid sex via Spearmint Rhino than just off the street, although whether it is or not I don't know – probably not as it is just as illegal and probably even more dominated by criminal pimps and sex traffickers.

But my main concern is not that my husband would go to Spearmint Rhino or other places to buy sex – as I say I doubt whether he would. In all likelihood the existence of Spearmint Rhino in central Sheffield does not affect me directly in this way. My concern is that the existence of Spearmint Rhino, and the fact that Sheffield Council endorses it afresh every year by deciding it is appropriate to grant it a licence yet again despite all the evidence about local views that it is inappropriate and damaging to equality, is a very real part of the culture and system that reinforces to people like my husband two distinct messages both of which are really damaging:

- (1) that his 'need' for me to be sexually available and deliver on his expectations about sex is more important than any of my feelings or factors about whether I can in fact deliver the sex he wants when he wants it (in the same way that men can buy women's sexual availability in strip clubs without regard for women's real feelings about it – and this undoubtedly includes routine breaking of no touching and other rules which women have no real choice over), and
- (2) that his suffering if he is disappointed about the sex that I can deliver is of such overwhelming importance that he is justified in whatever behaviour he expresses towards me, including sustained anger, resentment and hostility that pervades every aspect of our life (in the same way that it is argued that men have to have access to sexual gratification in strip clubs or other forms of paid sex otherwise they cannot be expected to be responsible for their actions, closing strip clubs will just increase underground prostitution etc.).

The damage caused by these messages that is reflected in my husband's attitude and the vicious circle we have been going around all these years doesn't just affect me, it is probably him that is most affected because paradoxically his unfair and unrealistic sense of entitlement to sex is what exactly stops sex from working between us, and he is obsessed by the sense that his life is a mess as a result. But it also has a wider effect including on our children who are constantly seeing my husband being angry and resentful towards me and must wonder what it is that I have done wrong to deserve that treatment. It does border on coercive control, and sometimes I have to use all my strength to stand up to my husband and challenge him for example when he is unfairly undermining me in front of our children just because he is feeling angry about sex.

It has not been easy writing this letter but I feel it is important to give this very personal example of an issue that I believe affects very many women in Sheffield and beyond. I am particularly conscious that although the issues I've described have a profound negative impact on me every day, I am nonetheless fortunate enough to be able to make choices, I could leave my husband if I chose, and also as I say I have developed the ability to stand up better for myself and no longer feel obliged to force myself to have sex if I do not feel comfortable or safe to do so. My husband is a good man in lots of ways and although he

gets angry and that can be frightening I don't believe he would ever force himself on me. I have no doubt that there are many women who experience very similar issues to these but are not in as strong a position as me in terms of being able to make life choices or in being able to stand up to partners who may feel entitled take out their feelings and through physical and sexual violence and abusive/controlling behaviour.

This year please listen, properly, to the objections that many, many local Sheffield residents will no doubt once again raise to the application to renew Spearmint Rhino's licence in this absurd location. Please try and understand how clubs like this and the practices that are tolerated within them really do affect people, especially women, not just through obvious direct impact but through the culture they perpetuate which permeates our lives very deeply.

Yours sincerely



Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O307

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 13:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours faithfully,

Subject: FW: Objection to licence application made by Spearmint Rhino

O308

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 14:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to licence application made by Spearmint Rhino

I wish to object to the licence application made by Spearmint Rhino for the following reasons:

The law states that a public body such as Sheffield City Council must consider the public sector equality duty that is set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This means that it must have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination against and harassment of women; advance the equality of opportunity for women; and foster good relations between women and men (including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding).

Giving Spearmint Rhino a licence would not be compatible with these aims. The business directly discriminates against women by normalising sexual objectification.

In addition, it is not appropriate for a strip club to be close to Sheffield Hallam University buildings or, indeed, for these premises to be in the middle of the cultural industries quarter. People should feel safe in any public area and there is ample evidence that this is not the case in the vicinity of the Spearmint Rhino club due to the nature of its business.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: objection letter
Attachments: Sheffield Licensing renewal 2019.doc

O309 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 14:58
To: licensingservice
Subject: objection letter

Hi Please see attached letter.

Regards

Chief Executive





Apna Haq

Addressing the Imbalance ~ Working towards Justice

Black Minority Ethnic Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Resource Centre

The Spectrum, Coke Hill, Rotherham, S60 2HX
Tel: 01709 519212/1, Email: apnahaq1@gmail.com
Company Registration No: 05091212
Charity No: 1169502

0309/12

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

27/05/2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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



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LOTTERY FUNDED



Apna Haq

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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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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



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LOTTERY FUNDED



Page 688

Developing Potential ~ Transforming Lives



Apna Haq

Addressing the Imbalance ~ Working towards Justice

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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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’” (emphasis added) [7]



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Addressing the Imbalance ~ Working towards Justice

Black Minority Ethnic Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Resource Centre

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Tel: 01709 519212/1, Email: apnahaq1@gmail.com
Company Registration No: 05091212
Charity No: 1169502

0309/15

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year. I look forward to hearing from you.

k

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds
- [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>
- [6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90
- [7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive



ApnaHaq



@ApnaHaq1



LOTTERY FUNDED

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino
Attachments: SR objection 27 May 19.docx

O310 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 15:56
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Please find attached representations on the current Spearmint Rhino application.

Cllr (Green Party)
City Ward, Sheffield

Telephone:

Fax:

E mail:

Your reference:

Our reference:

Date: 27 May 2019

Licensing team,
Sheffield City Council

Councillor

Town Hall
Sheffield
S1 2HH

031012



Dear Sir / Madam,

Spearmint Rhino

I am writing as a ward councillor to lodge a formal objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

Residents and businesses

In doing so, I wish to support residents and other businesses in City Ward who are adversely affected by the location of a lap-dancing club in the growing Cultural Industries Quarter.

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 the "Knowledge Gateway," recognising the enhancement of the area as a place of creative knowledge and progressive development. Furthermore, the location is adjacent to land earmarked for a major proposed expansion of Sheffield Hallam University.

A lap-dancing club is increasingly at odds with this vision. I note the application form does not provide any evidence to show how it will meet any of the licensing objectives or the council policy, except by stating it is a renewal application.

Equality duties

Nor does the application attempt to address the minimum legal duties of the authority in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, which are clearly relevant to the authority's decision. The authority must comply with the legal duty and must therefore have due regard to:

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between women and men;

- The need to foster good relations between women and men

0310 P3

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.

Alleged breaches of licence

I note the authority has received evidence of allegations that the applicant repeatedly breached its existing licence and that extracts of this report were presented to the full council in April 2019. This report - and the applicant's formal response to it - need to be considered thoroughly and openly by the authority.

I trust the authority will take these views into account.

Yours faithfully,

City Ward (Green Party)

Subject: FW: SPEARMINT RHINO RELICENSING

O311

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 15:57
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO RELICENSING

Dear Sheffield Council Licensing Committee

To relicense Spearmint Rhino would be to collude in the objectification, exploitation and prostitution of women and you are well aware of this. It is against the Council's own policies.

If you relicense Spearmint Rhino, we and our allies will not stop drawing attention to this deliberate and wrongful action and will publicise the names of those who voted in its favour as they are personally responsible for any harm to women that follows from this policy.

We OBJECT to profiteering from women's sexual objectification, poverty, underpayment and vulnerability.

Chair, OBJECT

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Sheffield Feminist Network

26/5/19

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD

Dear Madam/Sir

We are writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

Sheffield Council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

We are also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

O312 P3

Given this we can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, we would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Yours faithfully

, on behalf of Sheffield Feminist Network

Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O313

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 20:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O314

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 19:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O315

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 19:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: objection to relicensing
Attachments: SR Objection 19 (2).docx; SR objection letter 19.docx

O316 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 19:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: objection to relicensing

To whom it may concern,
Please find attached my objection to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhinos.

Regards'

27 May 2019

To:
Licensing Service,
Block C,
Staniforth Road Depot,
Staniforth Road,
Sheffield
S9 3HD

email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

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0316 P3

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Warm Regards,

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 Staniforth Road
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 S9 3HD

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

27/05/2019

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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:

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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 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”.

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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.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

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.

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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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an ‘extraordinary campaign’, he called ‘the working of democracy’.”

It is further reported:

*“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: **‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’**”*

(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Warm Regards,

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds
- [5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>
- [6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90
- [7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O317

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 19:19

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear All,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Thank you,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: third party objections
Attachments: Anon Testimony 1 1.docx; ATT00001.htm; Anon Testimony 2 2.docx; ATT00002.htm; ATT00003.htm

O318 P1

From: no@notbuyingit.org.uk [<mailto:no@notbuyingit.org.uk>]
Sent: 27 May 2019 18:52
To: licensingservice
Subject: third party objections

These 2 former workers at this club who objected last year have told us they would also like to object but cannot rewrite new objections as it is too emotionally difficult to relive this experience

Thank you



Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

14/05/2018

Dear Licensing

I have previously worked within the lap dancing industry for 10 years. I began working in a club the month commencing my 18th birthday. As a vulnerable and impressionable young female I was not aware of the damaging implications such work would have upon my development and self-image over the coming years. I was a young mother when I began working in the industry and had endured an abusive childhood. My traumatic experiences as a child had already significantly impacted upon my self-confidence and low self-esteem. I saw the opportunity to work within the industry as a chance to earn an extra income to support myself and my child, and albeit naïve, a means of enhancing my confidence and sense of empowerment. On reflection, I realize that my years of work actually had the opposite effect.

Amongst many unfavorable experiences whilst working in the industry, I experienced firsthand the overwhelming aspect of inequality as a dancer working for powerful clubs, such as Spearmint Rhino. An example was one occasion when the management refused to exchange the large amount of 'dancing chips' I had spent the entire evening earning, for cash, and kept the money for himself. This incident took place in the small office with the manager, his assistant and a door supervisor, their presence felt intimidating and I was then told point blank that I would not be given my earnings and could either have the option of leaving with nothing or continue working with the small incentive of a one off commission free night. When disputing this proposition I was told that if I did not hand the 'chips' over they would be taken from me and the CCTV would be wiped so that I couldn't report the incident.

My other experiences working in these clubs are ones of sexual assault, harassment, verbal abuse and intimidation. These experiences were perpetrated by customers, staff and other dancers. Girls were often left unsupervised and were left open to sexual assault by customers with no reasonable method of seeking help or support when entering the private dancing quarters. Furthermore, when such incidents were reported to management or door staff, they had the attitude that 'you're a dancer, what do you expect'.

On one occasion a door supervisor had brought his trained attack dogs in a van to work with him and threatened myself and my colleague whilst we were outside, and threatened to unleash his dogs. When reporting this matter to the management, we were told to 'get back to work', and the matter was not addressed. Many of the clubs I have worked in put large amounts of dancers on to ensure that they increase their revenue, however this tactic creates hostile and competitive work environment, which alone could be argued to be a reasonable business strategy. However, this tactic often leaves many dancers with the desperate option of offering extra services, of a sexual nature, with full knowledge of the management and supervisory staff. Many of the women I have met whilst working in the industry were in abusive relationships and often forced in to work and their earnings confiscated. I have witnessed women been attacked by other female dancers whilst in the changing rooms, when this has been reported, management refuse to intervene.

This statement is only a fraction of my lived experiences working within the industry, and I am sure only just begins to scratch the surface of the detrimental impacts and unlawful activities that take place within this industry. I believe in equality and the right to work without being assaulted, abused and victimized,

Page 584

and whilst these lawful employment rights are practiced and adhered amongst all other working environments, the lap dancing industry seems to be an exclusion zone, exempt of these rights.

"I was 27 when I started lap dancing. I was introduced to it by my husband at the time. After the first dance I was physically sick. I rang my husband and told him I wanted to come home but he said I needed to make money before I came home. It is a degrading job.

You think you're in control but that's not true. I was then introduced to cocaine when I worked at Rhinos. It blocked out the reality of what I was actually doing. The more I worked the more cocaine I took.

These clubs are aware of the drug taking that goes on and they turn a blind eye. I was introduced to a lot of nasty people while I was dancing because these clubs allow drug dealers and gang members to come in. This is because of the money they spend. I am now 45 and would be devastated if my daughters were to choose this job. It ruins lives and I am proof of this."

Former Lap Dancer.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: objection to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield
Attachments: SR NBI objection 2019.pdf; ATT00001.htm; ATT00002.htm

O319 P1

From: no@notbuyingit.org.uk [<mailto:no@notbuyingit.org.uk>]
Sent: 27 May 2019 18:48
To: licensingservice
Subject: objection to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Please find attached our objection to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

no@notbuyingit.org.uk
www.notbuyingit.org.uk



Not Buying It

Dear Licensing

Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Not Buying It objects to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino strip club, Sheffield and calls for its license to be refused on the grounds of Unsuitable Location, Unfit License Holder, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Breach of Equality Law. Indeed, the license shouldn't just be refused it should be revoked on many of these grounds, which the Council has an absolute right to do.

We strongly urge you also to offer meaningful exit support to all lap dancers currently working at this club not least to ensure that they can find safe, alternative employment.

We detail our reasons for objecting more fully below:

Unsuitable location

The venue is clearly in a totally inappropriate locality. It always has been and, as the local area changes, this is only becoming worse. It is in the middle of a university; close to a college for children aged 14 and upwards, near Freeman College which provides education for young people with special needs and close to several organisations which support the vulnerable, many with PTSD. It is also in the cultural industries quarter of the city. Many of these are locations already deemed unsuitable according to the Council's own policy.

The law gives absolute power to all Councils *not* to relicense any strip club on the grounds of inappropriate locality alone. This power is *irrefutable*. Legally There are *no* grounds for appeal. Club operates that have tried to appeal such a decision via Judicial Review have always subsequently failed ¹.

What is more, there does not need to have been *any* change in the area, *any* material change in circumstances or *any* evidence of harm (even though there is now evidence of overwhelming harm) for a Council to refuse to relicense a strip club. The very reason Councils have to reconsider strip club licenses annually is to ensure they always 'look with fresh eyes' at every licensing hearing. To not do so and simply rubber stamp a license runs counter to the entire purpose of the law on this issue.

Please find out more about the law and strip club licensing here: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripLegal

Unfit License holder

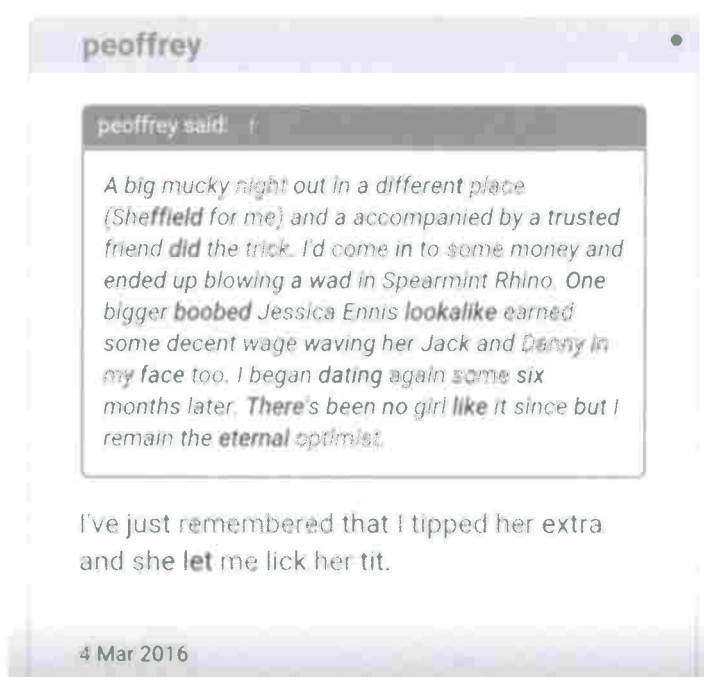
Earlier this year, independent investigators provided **hard evidence of extreme sexual contact and sex acts at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield**. These included performers masturbating themselves, punters and each other; oral

¹ www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripLegal

sex between dancers; women inserting their fingers into their own vaginas and other women's; women putting their mouths around punters' genitals; women giving out their phone number; women having sex with each other (oral and masturbation): www.notbuyingit.org.uk/SheffieldPIs

In 2018, at last year's licensing hearing for this club, 3 former performers described the wholesale abuse and intimidation they had experienced at the hands of management. This evidence was entirely ignored by the Council. Sammy Woodhouse, who gave evidence in person, was essentially accused of lying by club management. There is now hard evidence of what really happens in this club. It was not Sammy Woodhouse or her 2 colleagues who were lying.

Even reviews by punters (given in last and this year's objection by Not Buying It Sheffield) paint a more honest picture of the club than those currently involved with it, like this:



(and yes, we checked, you *can* consider 'hearsay' evidence such as this in your licensing considerations – according to a Judgement in the Court of Appeal ¹).

The club has been under the same management for years and the 3 women who testified last year had worked at the club at different times. It is therefore clear that this club has been operating in this manner for a very long time. The license holder is clearly not a suitable applicant. The license should be refused on these grounds as well as on the grounds of inappropriate locality.

Current Regulation is Meaningless

Extreme levels of rule breaches have now been irrefutably proven.

According to performers who *used* to work in this club, who seem to present the only reliable source of information in relation to how this club is really run, we now know that this has been the situation for many years.

The extreme level of contact exposed again indicates that this couldn't possibly be 'one offs' (on two separate occasions) by half a dozen lap dancers. It paints a clear picture of an entrenched culture. Given the high ratio of strippers to punters and the fact that women have to pay a club to work in it and can't make a penny *except* from private lap dances, it is also clear that every woman in the club *must* provide sexual contact. If she doesn't, no man will buy her and she will actually end up out of pocket and in debt to the club by the end of her shift.

Clearly, all attempts to regulate the club are not only failing, they are being actively circumvented. And have been for years.

This means that all spot checks by Sheffield City Council and all CCTV supplied to the Council – which always show the club as fully compliant with its licensing conditions – are meaningless. It means that every, and all, other measure to 'protect performers' and 'prevent rule breaches' - security guards, house mums, codes of conduct, dancer training etc etc etc - are utterly meaningless.

It means that all the many testimonies by management and staff, given over years, that there is no sexual contact by anyone in the club, ever, do not reflect the reality of the situation and are cannot possibly be used as evidence of compliance . This further means that anything now said by anyone currently involved in the club, or indeed the wider industry, clearly cannot possibly be taken at face value either.

In other words, every single current regulatory measure and all statements from those involved with the club are meaningless.

'Improved Regulation' is Meaningless

There is also now hard evidence that any 'improved regulation' the council seeks to put in place will also be circumvented. More CCTV, 'panic buttons', 'better training', more 'codes of conduct', 'improved security'? All of this is meaningless.

We know this because similar independent investigation exposed sexual contact as standard in **Manchester's strip clubs**, despite their being equipped with 'panic buttons': www.notbuyingit.org.uk/ManchesterPIs

We know this because sexual contact was also exposed as rife in **Spearmint Rhino's 'flagship' club in Camden**. This has to be the world's most regulated strip club, boasting no fewer than 63 CCTV Cameras – whose footage

is always full compliant with club licensing conditions. Likewise, 'secret' spot checks by Camden Council had always suggested the club is fully compliant. Yet, when genuinely secret visits were made by independent investigators they found lap dancers touching punter's genitals; strippers touching and masturbating themselves; lap dancers straddling and grinding on punters: women putting their breasts in punter's mouths: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs

Camden Spearmint Rhino is the most regulated strip club in the country. If licensing conditions are being broken there as a matter of course, they clearly can be broken - and undoubtedly *are* being broken - in every strip club in the UK. **And there is no way to prevent this.**

We know regulation is meaningless, because similar undercover investigations in 2018 exposed sexual contact in the world's most famous strip club, **The Windmill Theatre, and in Ealing's long standing LA Confidential**. It should be pointed out that the breaches here were far less significant than at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield yet both clubs had their licenses rescinded.

We know all regulation is meaningless because there are now nearly **100 recorded incidences in over 70 strip clubs** of sexual contact and often more. This represents well over 1/3 of the entire UK strip trade. Breaching licensing terms isn't just endemic in the strip industry, *it is how the strip industry operates:*



Please see: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/StripSleaze

We know that regulation of the Spearmint Rhino chain in particular is meaningless. It has a 20 year history of brothel keeping, illegally serving alcohol to the intoxicated, drugs and pimping. Yet not a single branch ever appears to have been shut because of this:

Bournemouth, Spearmint Rhino: Illegally serving alcohol to intoxicated punters [2014]

Bournemouth, Spearmint Rhino: Sexual Contact & Straddling [2014]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Sexual Contact & Straddling, performers fired [2017]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Pimps touting outside, porn events, topless advertising [2015]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino : Numerous police logs of pimps touting outside [2014]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Sexual contact, organised crime, PTSD: Former Dancer [2014]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Club unsuccessful legal challenge against ban on ad vans & dancers drinking at work [2014]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Judge states pimps touting outside is ongoing, unstoppable and caused by club [2013]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Failed Court attempt to stop Council access to CCTV & to extend opening hours [2013]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Chain hires ex detective to 'clean up act' [2004]

Camden, Spearmint Rhino: Detectives expose prostitution at club [2002]

Heathrow, Spearmint Rhino: Dancer drugged and raped by security on CCTV [c 2008]

Heathrow, Spearmint Rhino: Prostitution, Drugs: Employee whistle blower [2003]

Sheffield, Spearmint Rhino: Sexual Contact, women having sex with each other: Undercover Investigators [2019]

Sheffield, Spearmint Rhino: Sexual contact, harassment, assault, intimidation: former Dancers [2018]

Spearmint Rhino, across chain: Sexual Contact and Prostitution: Undercover Investigators [2003]

Spearmint Rhino, UK: Only £10 profit in 2015; operating at a loss in 2016 [2016]

Spearmint Rhino UK: Operating at £4.8million loss [2017]

John Specht, CEO : "We adhere to a lot of policies and procedures" [2011]

John Specht, CEO: "we are cleaning up our act" [2011]

This has been despite different managers and even 2 different CEOs. In fact, the former CEO of Spearmint Rhino, Simon Warr, is now running another chain of clubs where sexual contact has yet again been exposed on more than one occasion. Simon Warr is also on the record for stating to Parliament that 'lap dancing isn't sexual'² and that his then-publicist Max Clifford had done a great job of 'keeping incidents out of the press' - 'a great many', apparently³. At the same time, he has constantly attested that 'the rules are never broken or he would lose the license'.

This yet again demonstrates that what those in the strip trade state as fact, perhaps particularly in relation to Spearmint Rhino, is in fact not fact. Nothing they say can be taken at face value. Furthermore the actual facts are actively being suppressed.

² <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2008/nov/25/lap-dancing-parliament>

³ <https://www.thedrum.com/news/2003/11/27/spearmint-rhino-chief-strips-pr-facade-reveal-warts-and-all>

We note that Spearmint Rhino Sheffield has appointed a new, female assistant manager. Just because it now has a woman with a management role doesn't mean the club is now some rule-abiding, great big happy feminist family. Bristol's 2 strip clubs are run by a woman and described this way yet have quite happily used 'sexy school girl' ads to promote themselves ⁴.

Like women in school uniforms? Come along tonight



Lap-dancing club performers say they are 'part of a family'

Claims there is a family atmosphere amongst workers

Sheffield's new female, feminist assistant manager has also publicly called everyone who objects to the club 'old hags'.



5 Apr at 13:27 · 🌐

think this says alot about what people think. Girls should be free to do what they want with THEIR body and if men want to pay bloody let them WE NEED all of you behind us. let me know if you want to support us by in boxing me we need to show these old hags they should embrace their body too!!

⁴ <https://metro.co.uk/2015/04/14/strip-club-banned-from-using-images-of-women-dressed-as-schoolgirls-5149687/>

While her mother publicly refers to objectors as 'anal bitches'. Is this what a feminist family means? But perhaps it is in the strip trade because everyone in it, without fail, always now refers to the industry as a 'family'. It seems a very strange sense of family – one which apparently involves grinding on strangers' crotches and fondling yourself in front of them:



[REDACTED]

as I know these women are saying girls living near dont feel safe have they acctually asked them ? the same as have they asked the lovely ladies who work there havent been asked. if they choose to work there or if theyre beaten black and blue and kept in a dark room with no food.or money or even clothesid really like at least one of these anal bitches have asked anyone anything ?

We should point out that neither we nor anyone we associate with would ever talk about others in this way in private, let alone in public. And this doesn't just suggest a total lack of feminist credentials. It clearly suggest there will not be any greater level of professionalism as to how this club will now be run. Further, it is actually highly incendiary in the extremely hostile environment that has been created by those in support of the sex trade.

But the fact is that it is incidental who 'manages' a strip club. Managers come and go. So do CEOs. The culture does not. And the culture of Spearmint Rhino in all branches for years is where women *must* breach the rules to an extreme extent in order to make even £20 . A new manager, a few more cameras is quite obviously going to make no difference whatsoever.

If you license Sheffield Spearmint Rhino, you will be knowingly licensing a venue that will breach its licensing terms and conditions no matter what 'regulation' you put in place.

Breach of Equality Law

Equality law sits above all Council decisions and the Council must abide by it in every decision it makes. Clearly equality law is particularly relevant to Council decisions regarding the strip trade. Yet, the Council has conceded

to failing to uphold equality law twice in two separate court cases because of its pro-strip industry, anti-equalities stance. This came at a cost to the tax payer of £130,000.

If you license this venue, you will yet again be breaching equality law as you will be knowingly licensing an unregulatable venue: a venue where you now know you cannot mitigate harm for the women in it (as 'regulation', no matter how 'stringent', is meaningless); outside of it (countless women, LGBT groups and even underage girls have already told you of the harassment they have experienced because of it) or in wider society.

I urge you *not* to relicense this strip club and, instead of spending money in failed court cases propping up the strip trade, provide exit packages to all performers who might need it once this venue is shut down.

Irrelevant Considerations

No doubt you are going to hear a torrent of emotional arguments from those in support of the strip trade. No doubt dozens of letters have been sent in support telling you how much the dancers love their work, that it's their right, that they're empowered, that objectors should meet with the lap dancers, that the club should never have been investigated, that there should have been no filmed evidence of this investigation. But all of this is absolutely irrelevant to this licensing hearing.

None of this has have any bearing whatsoever on the Council's licensing decision for this club. However, there is a recurring pattern of irrelevant considerations such as these holding sway year after year in the Council's decision to rubber stamp its license.

Independent Investigators

There has been fury over the fact that independent investigators were sent into the club. But this would not have been necessary if the Council had stopped licensing the club after conceding 2 Court cases. This would not have been necessary if the Council had ever listened to objectors who have repeatedly told them of the reality of the strip trade or if it had ever understood its legal rights and obligations. It would not have been necessary if women *who had actually worked in this club* had been listened to at its last licensing hearing, instead of being ignored and called liars. Not necessary if those still involved with the club had been truthful (or been able to be truthful) about what was really going on in this club.

There has been fury over the fact that the investigation included video evidence of what was witnessed. But if this hadn't been done, the investigators would instantly have been called liars and their testimonies discounted. In fact, this is *exactly* what happened when undercover investigators (also ex police detectives) went into Platinum Lace in London in 2019. Sexual contact had already been evidenced in this club in 2016 (run by former CEO of Spearmint Rhino, Simon Warr) but this was conveniently shrugged off as a 'sting' by a rival ⁵. When

⁵ <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/girls-top-celeb-lap-dancing-7134470>

investigators visited in 2019 their evidence was also ignored. Only this time it was because they *only* had written witness statements, and *no* video evidence ⁶.

If the Sheffield investigators *hadn't* videoed what they witnessed it is highly likely they wouldn't just have been called liars but would have had serious criminal charges made against them of coercion and forcing women to perform sex acts. In fact, *even with video evidence*, this is exactly what is already being claimed by the 'sex workers' union who is supporting this club ⁷.

We would also point out, that we have been condemned both for not handing video over to the council as quickly as we would have wished and for handing it over to them at all. We have also been condemned for not giving it to the club – which we have gone to great lengths to ensure. Of course, if we *had*, we would be condemned for that because the club would have immediately turned around and fired all the relevant dancers. Because that is exactly what clubs always do, including other branches of Spearmint Rhino ⁸.

'Putting Women Out of Work'

Whether or not lap dancers (and male staff) will be put out of work if this club closes is wholly irrelevant to this Council's decision. This is a licensing decision NOT an employment decision.

Women in the club say they want to be treated and respected like professional workers in any other industry. But workers who breach their contract to the extreme degree that workers at this club have breached their contract would, to put it bluntly, be instantly dismissed.

Supporters of the club say it should be seen as 'any other business'. But if any other business broke its licensing conditions to the extreme extent that Spearmint Rhino did (and clearly has done for years), it would have its license rescinded. Perhaps a good example is a pub that consistently sells alcohol to under age children? Or perhaps that should be babies and toddlers – to make it more analogous to the level of license breaches at this strip club. Would the Council relicense it? Would the Council relicense it even when it knew it could not put any regulation in place to stop this? No. You would rescind its license. Why is a strip club being treated any differently if it is 'just another business'?

Despite this, all the organisations who challenge this club have said always said that the Council should be providing exit support for all women from this strip club. This could include help with gaps in the CV (you can't say 'lap dancer' because of hypocritical social stigma), re-skilling, work placements. The money is clearly there

⁶ <https://committees.westminster.gov.uk/documents/g4883/Printed%20minutes%2028th-Feb-2019%2010.00%20Licensing%20Sub-Committee%206.pdf?T=1> p20

⁷ <https://vimeo.com/333372032>

⁸ <http://democracy.camden.gov.uk/documents/g5899/Public%20minutes%2024th-Jan-2017%2019.00%20Licensing%20Sexual%20Entertainment%20Venues%20Sub-Committee.pdf?T=11>

– how else could the Council have afforded £130,000 in failed court cases defending the strip trade? A fraction of that money could have been spent supporting the handful of women effected by the closure of this club.

Frankly, the Council shouldn't just be closing this strip club, it should be offering a lump sum to all its lap dancers. In fact, we wonder why Rhino's dancers aren't suing the Council, instead of trying to sue us! The Council has clearly and, you could argue, knowingly licensed an patently unfit, unsafe work environment for years. It has made minimal effort to regulate the club. Its 'secret spot checks' are carried out with the club's management! There don't even appear to be any CCTV in the private dance areas! What a joke! It has ignored all testimonies from women who have left the club as to the abuse they experienced or as to why dancers whilst in the industry simply cannot speak out against it. The Council has shown an absolute dereliction of duty and disregard, even disdain, for the wellbeing of, often young and potentially vulnerable, women. There's your breach of the PSED! Frankly I'd be suing the Council for all it's got!

Lap Dancing will 'go Underground'

This is another oft-repeated argument by those who defend the strip trade. Again, this is an irrelevant consideration.

Presumably this is not referring to the fairly absurd notion of 'underground strip clubs'! And yes, we checked with numerous councils that have a zero policy on the strip trade and no licensed strip clubs and they have never heard of an unlicensed club. Besides if an unlicensed club does open, that is unlawful and it can immediately be shut down.

Rather, this notion appears to refer to the idea that if a strip club shuts, lap dancers will then have *no choice* but to strip at private parties – where they are 'less protected'.

But as has been clearly shown, women at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield *aren't* protected despite being in a licensed, and supposedly 'regulated', venue. And this is echoed across the UK because the entire industry cannot be regulated, the women in them are never protected.

This also clearly implies that lap dancers have to strip at private parties if a strip club shuts because they can't possibly earn money any other way. Isn't that incredibly patronising? Yet we are the ones always accused of patronisation.

It also ignores the reality of the situation - that lap dancers are itinerant or 'peripatetic' as Philip Kolvin, barrister for Spearmint Rhino has himself pointed out. Women in the industry move from club to club. If Sheffield's club closes there are numerous other local venues: 4 in Leeds, 5 in Manchester as well as clubs in Bolton, Wakefield and Huddersfield – to name but a few.

But above all else, the reality is that private parties with strippers thrive *because* of the licensed strip trade. It is driven by the acceptability of having licensed strip clubs in high streets and tiny towns across the country. And abuse at private parties is that much *more* likely because strippers are *already* being abused in totally legitimate, Council-endorsed, media-glamourised strip clubs. This makes abuse absolutely socially acceptable to the men who go. And society at large. And it is legitimised by councils' constant relicensing of the strip trade.

And, again, in order to ensure this *does not* happen we are calling on the Council to provide exit support to all women who work at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield.

'Shutting Clubs forces Lap Dancers into Prostitution'

Another oft quoted 'fact' is that strippers will 'go into prostitution' if strip clubs shut. This seems a somewhat odd assertion given that, until very recently, the strip trade was keen to distance itself entirely from the sex trade; lap dancers in the past would have been furious at being called 'sex workers'; academics have even criticised objectors for using the very term 'lap dancing'; former Spearmint Rhino CEO, Simon Warr, even swore to Parliament that 'lap dancing isn't even sexual'⁹. This makes the rush to support women in this industry by a 'sex worker' union even more bizarre (although of course they do clarify that strippers are not *that* kind of sex worker)⁷.

However, as has been clearly demonstrated, the strip trade is clearly simply a 'grooming ground' for prostitution. At Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield, it was particularly apparent that the industry puts women half way down the slippery slope into prostitution. It is quite obviously also a 'feeder' for punters, who stagger out of strip clubs, drunk, sexually aroused and clearly that much more inclined to make their next stop being the local brothel.

So actually, it is the legitimised *presence* of strip clubs in every high street- from the biggest cities to the tiniest towns - that feeds prostitution, *not* their absence.

And there is certainly no *evidence* that closing strip clubs forces women in lap dancing to 'go underground' – whether to work at private parties or in prostitution. The 'evidence' oft quoted for this appears to come from one researcher, a lap dance enthusiast, Colosi based on either:

1. Her personal beliefs (which is not evidence):

This is referenced on page 9 of Colosi 2013 (although it seems to be published with several different dates - and not a single paragraph return)¹⁰:

⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2008/nov/25/lap-dancing-parliament>

¹⁰ <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/social-policy-and-society/article/over-sexed-regulation-and-the-disregarded-worker-an-overview-of-the-impact-of-sexual-entertainment-policy-on-lapdancing-club-workers/EF5C70AFF281F37B83C8C6BCA7FA158B>

This also risks pushing the stripping industry underground, with more women opting to work in unregulated environments as erotic dancers, where the physical dangers can be considerable (see Colosi, 2010b).

This is referencing a book by Colosi, written whilst a PhD student, from her time working as a lap dancer at one venue in the UK and seems to refer to the *physical dangers* of unregulated 'underground' lap dancing *not any actual evidence whatsoever that it WILL go underground in the absence of licensed venues.*

2. Or from a popularist book about New York, written by a Marc Elliot ¹¹ who co-authors books with the likes of Erin Brockovitch and Barry White.

This is on page 3 of Colosi 2013 ¹⁰:

materials in their windows (Hubbard, 2004). In relation to legislation within the US, it is argued that such attempts have been futile, and instead have moved outlets elsewhere; furthermore, the 'zero-tolerance' approach to sex-related businesses in New York City has pushed the sex-industry underground (Eliot, 2002). Hubbard argues that similar restrictions in Paris have 'allowed the development of well known spaces of commercial sex-work' (2004: 160). This concentration of commercial sex-work is far more visible

This is NOT 'research evidence'!

In addition, even pro-strip industry academics assert that it is the supply of lap dancers, not the demand for them, that has accounted for the expansion of the industry. In other words, women get out, the industry shrinks ¹².

Let's not forget, the same academics who clamour that lap dancing will 'go underground' if a strip club closes have also consistently contested that the strip industry is 'highly regulated' ¹³.

And, not meaning to sound like a broken record but – Exit Support.

¹¹ <https://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-446-52571-8>

¹² <https://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Sanders%20initial%20findings.pdf>

¹³ <https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/politics/leeds-lap-dance-ban-call-dangerous-1-4477383>

It's Anti Equalities to Shut a Strip Club

This is something the Council actually argued in the paperwork for its most recent failed court hearing in its support of the strip trade.

The argument seems to be that it is anti-equalities to close a strip club as it will be predominantly women who are affected. But that could be said about vast numbers of industries. Take libraries - actually far more women, and a similar proportion of women, are put out of work through Sheffield library closures than would be affected by the closure of this one strip club. According to FOIs by those campaigning against library closures, 78 people have been put out of work (71 of whom were *full time* employees). 85% of these were female (ie 66 women):



According to the new assistant manager of Spearmint Rhino there are approximately 30 workers at the club and approximately 20 'girls' – lap dancers. There are at least 5 full time male staff (bar, DJ, Senior Management, Security). So approximately the same percentage of workers at the strip club are female as at Sheffield's libraries.

But writing a email of support means your keeping over 30 people in work and 20+ girls working in a safe controlled environment where they choose to work as and when they want and enjoy every minute of their job. 🙌

We don't see mass campaigns to keep libraries open (which *can* be regulated and have *never* breached their licensing terms, of course) and have put 78 people, including 66 women out of work. Yet, whilst the 20 women working at Spearmint Rhino say they want to be treated like other workers, they also think they should be totally protected from job loss no matter what, *unlike* any other worker anywhere.

In fact, the evidence suggests that women in lap dancing are very often in a much better position than many ex library staff – or the 100s who are losing their jobs from Debenham shop closures or elsewhere.

1/3 of lap dancers are believed to be students¹² – which opens up all sorts of life opportunities, not available to many - and where support during studies to find (non sex trade) work is offered. Yes university fees are a disgrace, but at the same time this is debt that is only paid off once your income reaches a certain threshold and only 50% of student debt is *ever* paid back.

Further, the majority of women in the strip trade only work in the industry part time¹². By contrast the vast majority of library staff are full time workers.

And, according to the testimonies given for years by the women in this very strip club, every lap dancer in it has amazing life opportunities. They are not only studying, but have degrees, PhDs, other businesses on the side. They are *only* stripping 'because they love it' and 'it has given them a life style they could not imagine'.

But, again broken record - Exit Support.

Undue Bias and Influence

We are also concerned by what can only be seen as bias by the Council towards this club.

I am sure there is a superlatively good legal reason why barristers from Spearmint Rhino sat alongside Council lawyers when the Council was taken to court for breaching equality law the second time around. But the optics hardly look good. Given this court case was not even against the Council's licensing of this club but the Council's overall policy on strip clubs, the 'look' is even less good.

It also hardly reflects well when, last year, those who objected to the licensing of this clubs were the last to be told. In fact they find out from tweets on social media by supporters of the club:

SPEARMINT RHINO LICENCE
 @RhinoSheffield GRANTED!
 ❤️ 🗨️ SO CALLED FEMINISTS
 TRY PUTTING US ALL OUT OF
 A JOB BUT FAILED 🤔 WHOS
 COMING TO CELEBRATE AT
 THE CLUB WITH US TONIGHT!?
 #spearmintrhino #sheffield #party
 #girlssupportinggirls
 5:14 pm · 20 Jun 18

It now seems this has happened yet again. We hear from social media chatter by strip club supporters that the hearing date has been postponed. And from a BBC journalist - calling us as a courtesy. At the time of writing this objection, we *still* have not been informed of this by the Council.

Given that the club is now recruiting for bar staff, it is not hard to see why many feel, despite all that has been exposed, that the licensing hearing (whenever that is) is going to be yet another rubber stamping of this venue's license. Again, hardly suggesting an impartial (or fit) process.

 **Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield, UK** posted a job. ⋮
 6 hrs · ⚙️

We are looking for reliable bar staff to join our team. If you are interested then please email [redacted] - [redacted]@spearmintrhino.com or [redacted] - [redacted]@spearmintrhino.com - looking forward to hearing from you 😊



It also hardly reflects well when one of the council's own Councillors not only does the books for an Escort Agency but sits on the panel that decides licensing policy for strip clubs.

It hardly reflects well when one of the Council's own Councillors supports protests using derogatory - and in this environment, inflammatory - imagery:



Or when one of Sheffield's own Councillors openly calls those who oppose the strip trade 'SWERFs' and 'TERFF':



It should be noted that these are not 'mild insults'. Calling someone a TERF means you are calling them Transphobic. This is the most unacceptable form of bigotry imaginable. People have lost their jobs if they are even suspected of transphobia. People have been physically assaulted in the streets. People have been taken to court. People have had their businesses financially damaged. NGOs have had bomb threats made against them. The word TERF is highly incendiary language.

Campaign of Libel, Intimidation and Threat

The kind of language and imagery described above is not falling in a vacuum. It is feeding a highly hostile and inflammatory environment, where those who oppose this club are already experiencing widespread abuse and intimidated on social media. Where the local press feeds story after rehashed story in support of the club (and yet again full of misinformation) further riling up those who support it.



Where a video has been put out by the 'sex workers' union that supports the club – without a single factually correct statement in it. This categorically states that video footage from the private investigators' visits has been given to the press, that revenge porn has been created, that the dancers were forced to perform sex acts. These are assertions of a criminal nature and clearly highly incendiary in the toxic environment that already exists. At the same time, the video features objectors to the strip club. This has real life ramifications for further online abuse and even possibly their physical safety.

Where the words of anyone who speaks out against the industry are twisted and misquoted to add yet further to a powder keg atmosphere.

Given the tactics that are being used against anyone who objects to this club, it clearly calls into question if the Councillors who decide on the license of this club are feeling, or being, threatened or in any other way unduly influenced. Given that only 3 Councillors make this decision, even if they are genuinely open minded, only 1 or 2 people need to be turned or persuaded by arguments that they should not be considering or by the threatening atmosphere they have witnessed or possibly by coercion – after all we know the money and power this club wields. Of course, these decision makers also need to be well informed about the reality of the strip trade and the legislation around it. Sadly, Sheffield City Council has shown time and time again, including through 2 court cases to the cost to the tax payer of £130,000, that they are not.

This is even more concerning when we know in Camden, Councillors experienced a campaign of intimidation and harassment over their decision not to extend the licensing hours of, you guessed it, Spearmint Rhino.

To conclude, for all of the many reasons given here we urge the Council to be reminded that although the law says a Council *may* license a strip club it also clearly says a Council may *not* license a strip club. It is not unlawful *not* to license a strip club. It is not unlawful *not* to relicense a strip club.

This Council must finally do the right thing. This year do not relicense this establishment. Do not relicense it - on the grounds of inappropriate locality. Do not relicense it - on the grounds of its unfit license holder, on the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder and on the grounds of breaching the Council's legally binding equality duties. *Do* provide meaningful exit support to the 20 or so women who will be affected.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection
Attachments: ObjectionSR275.docx

O320 P1

From: (CLLR-GN)
Sent: 27 May 2019 17:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection

Please find attached objection for your consideration.

Dear Sir / Madam,

O320 P2

I am writing to lodge a formal objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino licence.

City ward councillor, ***** *****, stated in his objection last year that there is an apparent breach of the authorities Public Sector Equality Duty if it issues a licence to Spearmint Rhino.

PSED is intended to challenge inequalities. The male employees are protected by employment law and enjoy the security of employment conditions like sick leave entitlements, and holiday pay. The female workers who perform erotic dances have no such security and have to pay the club to perform on the premises, being out of pocket before they even begin work.

The research on sex work illustrates that one of the damaging aspects of various types of sex work (including erotic dancing) is the financial insecurity and competition amongst dancers to earn an income. The female workers are held responsible for all aspects of their earning and if they are seen to transgress the boundaries of what is considered erotic dancing it is they who will bear the cost of blurring the boundaries, and not the club. The club takes no responsibility for the female workers.

The inequality of working conditions further exacerbates the potential psychological injuries which are commonly experienced by women engaged in the sexual services industry. Research shows that women engaged in the provision of sexual entertainment and/or services have a higher incidence of mental health diagnosis, including anxiety and depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

For the council to knowingly enable a business to exploit women through offering no financial security of employment when the women are vulnerable to economic disadvantage and to further add to the women's potential longer term negative mental health impacts ought to be very seriously reassessed. The council is exposing women to unfair working conditions, and is it not also exposing itself to future legal challenges for neglecting its PSED?

I am aware that the authority has received a report detailing allegations of Spearmint Rhino female workers exceeding the boundaries of what is considered legal under the conditions of its licence. The club is able to avoid responsibility for breaches by claiming it is the self-employed dancer's responsibility to perform within the legal limits of the licence. By shifting the onus of responsibility on to the female workers the club absolves itself of illegal conduct. Again, this adds to the pressure on the female workers by further emphasising the precarious condition of their income and the stress placed upon them when customers seek to receive additional services which place the dancers at risk, not the club.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Nether Edge and Sharrow

BSc (Hons) Psychology
M Social Science
M of Clinical Psychology
Diploma of Family Therapy

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino application to renew SEV licence
Attachments: SR Objection May 2019.docx

O321 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 16:57
To: licensingservice
Cc: Bower Claire
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino application to renew SEV licence

Dear Licensing Service,

Please see attached my objection to Spearmint Rhino's licence application.
Please confirm receipt.

Yours sincerely

Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD
 By email to:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

27 May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I wish to object to the application for a sex establishment licence by Spearmint Rhino at 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

In summary, I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application because:-

1. **The location is inappropriate by reference to the council's own policy and the overwhelming views of local people and businesses, particularly with the inclusion of private 'VIP rooms' which render it impossible to prevent illegal prostitution and breaking of no touching rules:**
 The location, and the uses of other premises in the area, have changed dramatically in recent years and it is now completely inappropriate to have a strip club there. I believe that to continue to license it in that location would cause unacceptable and unnecessary harm to the reputation and interests of the city and people of Sheffield as a whole, the Council as the licensing authority, the Cultural Industries Quarter, local residents, businesses/services and the individuals who go there.
2. **Granting a further 12-month licence is incompatible with the council's Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010:** I believe granting a further licence would cause unacceptable and unnecessary harm to women and the public in Sheffield and more widely because of the directly discriminatory images and messages that the club actively promotes about women, about their bodies and appearance, about their sexual availability and about the entitlement of men to have power over women, which is diametrically opposed to the Council's legal obligations to actively work to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, foster good relations between the sexes and people of different sexual orientations and advance equality of opportunity of women and others including by removing or minimising disadvantages they suffer.

The law and policy the council needs to apply

In previous years the council has shown a poor understanding of the law about licensing of sexual entertainment venues and especially about how that ties in with its mandatory duties under the Equality Act. This has led to it losing not just one but two judicial reviews in rapid succession, at vast cost to the taxpayer, one for its unlawful decision in 2017 to re-license Spearmint Rhino and another one in 2018 for its unlawful policy on SEVs and other Sex Establishments. In the first case claimants argued successfully that the council had failed to give due regard to the public sector equality duty, including failing to address concerns about the proximity of Spearmint Rhino to university buildings and other premises with sensitive uses, and the impact in PSED terms on students and other vulnerable people, and also wrongly ignoring objections based on the potential impact on gender equality, treating them as 'moral' objections and irrelevant. The judge in the second case, Mrs Justice Philippa Whipple, criticised the council saying "This is the second judicial review the council has conceded on the same issue, and conceded on public sector equality duties grounds on both occasions. That is disappointing. I hope the council will take it seriously." Despite that the council still has

not produced an amended policy addressing the deficits with the previous one including the decision to allow an unlimited number of SEVs in the city, without addressing how this complies with the PSED.

In previous years whilst apparently ignoring the large number of objections addressing the relevant legal criteria the council also appears to have been heavily swayed by irrelevant considerations and misleading or incorrect legal and factual assertions put forward by representatives of the club, for example:-

- **The assertion made by the club's barrister at the hearing in June 2018 (and in previous years) that legally, where a council has granted an SEV licence in a previous year, it would 'need a good reason to depart from that decision in successive years', and, even more specifically, his assertion that 'There is no reason that would allow you [the council] to make that decision [to refuse the licence in 2018]'** (emphasis added) – i.e. that a particular licensing sub-committee considering the criteria for granting a licence in a particular year has no discretion or power to take a fresh overall view of the evidence available to it at that time and potentially to come to a different view than a previous sub-committee, even in the absence of any material change of circumstances but simply because of taking a different view reflective of the changing view of the electorate that the sub-committee represents.

Yet this is exactly the nature of the discretion that the council is empowered and indeed obliged to exercise when it considers each application for a new licence afresh each year. This is fundamental to the legislation that the council is required to apply (Schedule 3 of the Local Govt Miscellaneous Provisions Act, brought in by the Policing and Crime Act 2009) which was expressly introduced in order 'to give local people greater say over the number and location of lap dancing clubs in their area' (Home Office guidance for local authorities in applying Schedule 3) and give 'a wide discretion to licensing authorities, in particular in forming **value judgments** as to whether the grant or renewal of a licence would be appropriate in that locality' (*R (ex parte Thompson) v Oxford City Council* [2014] EWCA Civ 94 at [25]; emphasis added). It was 'a deliberate act by Parliament so as to widen the grounds upon which a licence for an SEV might be refused and also to enable such discretion to be exercised annually' (*R (ex parte KVP Ent Limited) v South Bucks DC* [2013] EWHC 926, at [17]), with councils being required to consider each such application afresh and according to the same criteria as if it were a new licence.

Case law has repeatedly reinforced the principle that 'a later committee is entitled to take a fresh look and is not bound in any way by the views of an earlier one' (eg *Bean Leisure and Ruby May v Leeds City Council* [2014] EWHC 878 at [53]), highlighting for example that 'On an application to renew an SEV licence it is not necessary for an objector to demonstrate that something has changed since the decision granting the licence. Were the position otherwise, the efficacy of annual reconsideration would be much reduced' (*Thompson*, at [35]).

Case law has also focused on Parliament's intention in excluding any right of appeal under the Schedule 3 legislation against a refusal of a licence based on a decision that granting or renewing it would be inappropriate: the courts have made clear that this is precisely to prevent courts interfering in local councils' exercise of discretion and value judgements, involving 'a significant evaluative power for the local authority at two levels: first, in assessing whether the grant or renewal of the licence would be "inappropriate" – which is a very broad and general concept; and, secondly, in assessing the character of the relevant locality – which, again, involves questions of fact and degree and local knowledge which important, at that level also, a broad power of evaluative judgment to be exercised by the local authority.' (*KVP Ent Ltd*, at [12])

The courts have also emphasised that ‘the reasons for not reaching the same conclusion as a previous decision are infinitely variable and may range from where a subsequent committee takes a different view of unchanged circumstances to where circumstances have changed to such an extent that the basis for the previous decision has ceased to apply; and it may involve a combination of changed circumstances and a different view being taken of those that are unchanged.’ (*Bean Leisure*, at [52]) In particular the court’s have highlighted the importance of the changing composition of a licensing committee being able to be reflected in them changing their view: “the legislature must be taken to know that a local authority is a body of changing composition and shifting opinion, whose changes and shifts reflect the views of the local electorate... What is “appropriate” may be the subject of different perceptions by different elected representatives.” (Mann LJ in *Sheptonhurst*)

- **The response of the club’s barrister at the hearing in June 2018 to a question by Cllr Josie Paszek about how the club protects dancers and ensures compliance with ‘no touching’ and other rules within the private rooms as opposed to the main public lap-dancing area:** the barrister replied referring to private booths (rather than private rooms as per the question) and saying that ‘There are different definitions [of private booths], it generally means the fourth side is closed off so you can’t see in, we don’t have those, there is always a view in’; this was extremely misleading in ignoring the ‘VIP rooms’ that Spearmint Rhino has which are not only on completely enclosed but are on a different floor from the main public area. The council will be aware that some of the most serious illegal activity and rule-breaking reported by ex-police undercover investigators at Sheffield Spearmint Rhino when they visited on successive occasions in early 2019 took place in the ‘VIP rooms’ – though persistent rule-breaking and illegal activity also took place in the more public areas.
- **The council appears to be increasingly targeted by arguments by the club’s representatives, dancers and other supporters of strip clubs and the sex trade more widely (including campaigners for the decriminalisation of prostitution) that continued licensing of Spearmint Rhino and other SEVS is necessary in order to provide work for economically and socially vulnerable women within a relatively safe part of the sex industry, who would otherwise be driven into more dangerous sex work:** These arguments fail to address the relevant criteria, they are irrelevant factors, and they are extremely revealing about the reality of the strip industry which is fundamentally based on conditions which force women to compete for scarce business by routine rule-breaking and blurring the boundaries between prostitution and stripping.

Location and equality

I refer to the comments of others about the location of 60 Brown Street, and about the premises and wider uses and activities of people in the immediate vicinity, the surrounding area and Sheffield more widely.

In particular I refer to the comments of Sheffield Hallam University, as the way that SHU and the area around 60 Brown Street has developed means that Spearmint Rhino is now bang in the middle of the SHU city campus, including being literally next door to the students union but in fact even closer physically to the Cantor building which is one of the main SHU buildings housing over 240 staff and providing teaching space for more than 1600 students including the faculties of Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences.

I have used the Cantor building and other SHU buildings surrounding 60 Brown Street in my role as a trustee and Chair of Disability Sheffield, which is a membership and user-led organisation, run and controlled by disabled people, that promotes independence, equality and other human rights for disabled people. We have regular board meetings and SHU kindly gives us free room space for this. Most of the trustees have a disability, including learning disabilities, physical disabilities and other long-term conditions. As well as my voluntary role with Disability Sheffield my work centres on disability rights and throughout my career I have worked with disabled people and supported them to fight against discrimination and systemic disadvantages.

I am passionate about advancing equality and improving the lives of all people with protected characteristics, not just disabled people, and I am fully aware of how strong the duties are on public bodies such as the Council to exercise all their functions in a way that works to proactively eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, foster good relations between people with different protected characteristics and advance equality of opportunity. As such I find it incredible that the Council has continued to grant a licence to a strip club in such a central and prominent location, which is unquestionably damaging to equality, promoting stereotypical images of women as objects and reinforcing rather than challenging assumptions of women's sexual availability and men's power over them.

If the Council had to consider granting a licence for business located in such a central part of Sheffield whose prime purpose was to present as entertainment a spectacle based on stereotyped views of disabled people, where non-disabled people were able to pay for the right to get the disabled people to behave in a certain way that conforms further to outdated and damaging assumptions – for example a display of people with dwarfism that presents them as toys – the Council would not dream of granting it. (Incredibly, however, there are strip clubs in other parts of the world that do operate just such a form of entertainment: <http://ottawacitizen.com/news/local-news/ottawa-strip-club-defends-dwarf-toss-after-event-raises-ire-of-critics-councillor>; <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/wayne/2016/01/29/dwarf-tossing-topless-bar-little-people-of-america-dearborn/79539972/>.) This may seem like an extreme comparison but in equality terms it is no different than allowing such promotion of stereotypical, outdated and damaging images of women.

When attending Disability Sheffield meetings or going to the area of 60 Brown Street for other reasons such as with my children I am extremely aware of the imposing presence of the club and what it represents, and I feel it makes a mockery of the principles of equality that I and others fight so hard for that the Council has continued to actively support its presence each year given what it represents and what it does. The current context is very hard for disabled people, after years of cuts and austerity that have fallen disproportionately on them, and it feels like things are going backwards for disabled people in equality terms. As such I would prefer to have our meetings somewhere else where we do not have this striking reminder of the inequality that is still so rife for disabled people, women and other people with protected characteristics. But our resources are limited and so we need to make the most of SHU's generosity in hosting us.

Location including wider context

When considering the appropriateness or otherwise of the location, it is vital for the Council to understand why it is inappropriate not just in terms of the impact on individual local businesses or uses in close proximity to the building but in terms of how it fits into a wider picture, including the location:-

- within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ)
- in the middle of a specific sub-area of the CIQ that has been dubbed the 'Heart of the CIQ'
- relative to adjacent areas of the city, including being immediately between the main railway station (230 metres to the east of 60 Brown Street) and the Heart of the City area (180 metres to the west) (distances are measured on Google maps) – **bearing in mind that in the existing licence conditions for the club, there is a ban on advertising in the 'immediate vicinity' of the club which is defined as within 440 yards of the premises (= 402 metres)**
- on key pedestrian, cycle and other through routes between different areas of the city, for example:-
 - between the main residential area of the CIQ (the so-called 'City Living Hub', which is just 70 metres east from 60 Brown Street) and the Heart of the City area: see for example route on walkit.com between the Unite Students residential block at 26 Leadmill Road and Sheffield Town Hall;

- between the east and west of the city, including the Moor : see for example route on walkit.com between the Cholera Monument (to the east of the railway station, next to the Norfolk Park area) and The Light, the new cinema complex on the Moor;
- between Sheffield's main bus station (325 metres to the north-east) and the Moorfoot/Bramall Lane/London Road area and Sheffield's new £65m Chinatown development: see for example route on walkit.com between the bus station and Decathlon (199 Eyre Street), one of the large retail units between Moorfoot and Bramall Lane;
- between the south-east of the city and the centre: see for example route on walkit.com between the Sheffield College Granville Road site (640 metres to the south-east of the club, which has a nursery that is open to all parents who live, work or study in the wider community, not just students at the College) and Sheffield Town Hall
- See also the Area Action Plan for the CIQ from 2013 including the maps on pages 7, 13, 15, 16, 18, 23 and 60 which shows how absolutely central and critically important the location of 60 Brown Street is in terms of:-
 - Streets and buildings with character, including listed buildings
 - Educational and cultural activities
 - The only signed cycle path in the CIQ
 - Pedestrian movements
 - Bus routes and bus stops serving **more than 15 lines** – the most in the whole area
 - Landmarks – it is literally in the middle of the cluster of four major outside landmarks in the Heart of the CIQ between the railway station and the centre of Sheffield
 - Nodes – i.e. 'places where paths, activities or events are concentrated' and that are 'visually very important in providing an entrance to the area'
 - Corridor views and important pedestrian viewpoints
 - Position in the middle of 'visually positive architectures'
 - Being next to the only open space in the whole CIQ
 - Key Project Sites

In all these respects, the location of the club is inappropriate and damaging, because of the actual impacts on local residents and other people and businesses nearby or passing through, including people experiencing harassment in that area or avoiding the immediate area because of concerns about increased crime or antisocial/abusive behaviour from people associated with the club or because of the tawdriness of the vicinity that the club's presence perpetuates, and businesses avoiding that area because they do not want to be tainted or otherwise adversely affected by being near a strip club (for example the premises next door, 62 Brown Street, are, unsurprisingly, vacant), but also because of what it represents. This is a profound effect which is not mitigated by the fact that the club is closed and the signage blacked out in the daytime; it is caused by the club being there, being approved by the Council, and standing as a living monument to outdated views of and behaviour towards women, where all notions of equality and improvement of the lives of women can be left at the door.

This wider impact and awareness of such clubs and what they represent, regardless of signage or specific advertising, is highlighted by research in Leeds commissioned by a strip club in order to support its application for a licence. This research is summarised in the published case of Bean Leisure and Ruby May v Leeds CC [2014] EWHC 878 (Admin) in which the High Court upheld the decisions of Leeds City Council refusing to renew the SEV licence for two strip clubs (including the one that had commissioned the research) despite them having been licensed for a number of years previously. The research was based on 100 interviews with respondents who were 21 or over and either lived in the city centre or visited it at least once every two months. It found that 76% of respondents were aware of the presence of lapdancing clubs and many could name one or more of the clubs, including around a third of all respondents who could name the

club that had commissioned the research despite the fact that the club had no signage, just plain windows with a dark curtain blocking the view into the premises. The judge held that:

‘Not least because of the gender split of the respondents (46 men/54 women) it is overwhelmingly unlikely that the 76% of all respondents who were aware of the presence of lap dancing venues were all or even preponderantly users or potential users of the clubs.’

He also commented that it was ‘debateable’ whether the club’s presentation and lack of signage,

‘which is itself a contrast to the buildings around it, most or all of which provide some indication of what they are... really anonymises the premises or does the opposite by suggesting the true nature of their use’.

I believe that the same is true of Spearmint Rhino at 60 Brown Street, and that the nature of the club and what it represents is extremely well known to people across Sheffield and very evident not just to people that use the immediate vicinity but more widely including to those who might be considering walking through or using facilities in that area, or setting up home or business in the immediate vicinity (for example in the vacant premises next door), or elsewhere in the Cultural Industries Quarter (for example in the almost entirely residential City Living Hub sub-quarter of the CIQ running from Leadmill Point (70metres from the club) to The Trigon where Shoreham Street meets the inner ring road), or elsewhere in Sheffield, but may think twice as a result of the prominent presence of a strip club in such a central location.

Some of these impacts can be clearly identified: for example my friend’s 15-year-old daughter walks from her home in the Norfolk Park area east of the city centre to King Edward’s School, south-west of the centre; her shortest route would go past 60 Brown Street, however she is not comfortable taking this route and diverts a longer way to the north via the railway station and Howard Street. Other impacts are less measurable, but they include the full range such as being a potential factor in decisions such as that of Channel 4 as to whether to move to Sheffield.

Impact on Festival/CIQ Square and pedestrian route from CIQ eastwards beyond the railway station

A specific illustration of how the locality has been adversely impacted by the inappropriate presence of a strip club at 60 Brown Street is the fate of the so-called CIQ Square (formerly Festival Square) which lies between 60 Brown Street and the SHU Students Union Building.

In the detailed Area Action Plan for the CIQ that was published in 2013, this is identified as the only area of open space in the whole CIQ with huge potential to develop as a green space and focal point for development of the whole area. However it is also identified (page 48) that the open space has no landscaping, planting etc and ‘does not seem to be achieving its full potential’, moreover it is identified (page 23) as part of a **weak pedestrian route** connecting the Heart of the CIQ via Grinders Hill to the neighbouring City Living area of the CIQ, then to the Cultural Commercial Hub immediately south of the railway station, and beyond that to the east side of the station via the pedestrian bridge.

It is specifically identified (page 35) that the poor pedestrian flow and footfall through such parts of the CIQ is ‘due to a lack of attraction with poor active frontages, vacancy and dereliction’.

The Area Action Plan sets as top priorities to be achieved **within the next 1-5 years** (i.e. by 2018) the need to ‘revitalise and re-landscape this open space [next to 60 Brown Street], whilst also creating a connection between it and Grinders Hill pedestrian route’, which ‘will involve improving the quality of the public realm along this route, developing a connection with this route and the pedestrian route which is part of the City Living area’s Key Project Site, and improving the lighting of the enclosed Grinders Hill section’.

The Area Action Plan also sets out in detail how temporary uses in outside areas such as that next to 60 Brown Street can be a vital way of 'attracting investment, people and activity into otherwise forgotten spaces'.

The Plan sets out a vision for CIQ Square being developed along the lines of Leopold Square or Devonshire Green. The vision is of a vibrant mixed use with development of green space, outside seating and special events to draw people and business in.

I agree wholeheartedly with this vision and it resonates particularly with me because I play in a gypsy jazz band and we are active in supporting the development of live music at different venues in Sheffield including new and up and coming venues as well as more established venues both indoor and outdoor such as at Leopold Square. The other musicians in the band are extremely experienced having played for many years with people like Van Morrison, John Martyn and Peter Green. CIQ Square stands out as a potentially perfect location for the development of outside events, including gigs, that link in with the activities of the surrounding buildings such as the Showroom, the Site Gallery and SHU. I would love to see it develop in that way, as in the vision set out in the Area Action Plan 6 years ago.

Yet it is patently obvious that that vision and the specific plans that were to take place in the last 5 years have not happened. The open space next to 60 Brown Street is still deserted and devoid of activity or attractive landscaping. The pedestrian route is still weak and people avoid it. The extraordinary development in other parts of the CIQ in the last 5 years has completely bypassed this immediate area. It is patently obvious that the key factor in this has been the presence of a strip club, with a total lack of positive contribution to the frontage of the street, to the connection between inside and outside activity, and which puts people off renting the premises next door or using the outside space.

Inappropriate proximity to premises/areas with sensitive uses

There are many examples that others will no doubt give as to how Sheffield's CIQ and the area round 60 Brown Street has developed, and the dramatic increase in the number of nearby premises with sensitive uses, so that it is now completely inappropriate as a location for a strip club. Below are a few examples of nearby premises with sensitive uses that concern me and would undoubtedly be regarded by the vast majority of the public as activities/uses that a strip club should never be sited near, but I am in no way attempting to be comprehensive:-

- The club is less than 100 metres away from a business called The Great Escape which runs children's parties with themes like pirates and mad scientists for children at least as young as 7 and which my youngest child has attended - <https://thegreatescapegame.co.uk/>
- Sheffield College has a number of nearby sites including several within the CIQ such as Sheffield College of Music at 12 Sidney Street (just 160 metres from 60 Brown Street), and its Eyre Street and Matilda Street sites; as mentioned above the College runs a nearby nursery which is open to all; and it provides a huge range of courses for different ages and needs, including computing and robotics camps for children aged 7+ at its Lego Education Innovation Studio
- Other local education establishments within the CIQ (the entirety of which covers only $\frac{3}{4}$ of a square mile), most of them either brand new or new in the last few years, include Freeman College, UTC Sheffield (which caters for children from 13), and a drama school that runs acting courses for teenagers and adults: <http://www.standbymethod.com/acting-programmes/young-peoples-programme/>.
- The Showroom: This has grown into the largest independent film house outside London and it is a family cinema. I have taken my children there and attended special family events. My daughter went with other pupils from her primary school to attend an awards ceremony for their work on an eco film. If Sheffield City Council were to conduct research like that carried out by Leeds City Council as

- to the public's view of sensitive buildings that should never have a strip club near them, the response would unquestionably be that it is unacceptable for a strip club to be positioned within sight of a family cinema like the Showroom.

Inappropriate layout and character of the premises, including private rooms which contributes structurally to a culture of rule-breaking including rules against touching and offering sexual services

The location at 60 Brown Street is inappropriate for a strip club regardless of the layout and particular way in which such a club might be operated. However the layout of Spearmint Rhino and way the premises are used is particularly inappropriate in that location because it includes a number of private so-called 'VIP rooms' where customers can pay much higher sums of money than in the main public lapdancing area (typically £300 per hour) in order to be able to have a private session with dancers.

This layout contributes directly to a culture of rule-breaking by dancers including breaking rules against touching and offering sexual services. The club states that there is CCTV in all such rooms but the problem is that there is no structural incentive on the management of the club to enforce these rules; on the contrary there are strong incentives on both dancers and management to break the rules in order to obtain the most profit.

Spearmint Rhino have confirmed in previous licensing hearings that the dancers at the club are not employed, indeed many (it is said) are not even local to Sheffield, but are 'peripatetic' self-employed workers who rent space from the club in order to ply their trade. The club is able to maximise its income by having a large number of dancers at the club on a given night, each paying a significant sum for the right to be there. Some nights for example during the week will be quiet and dancers may not make enough from individual dances to be able to cover their costs of being at the club; however the club will require dancers to attend on less profitable nights as a condition of being permitted to attend on more profitable weekend evenings.

Testimony from former dancers makes it clear that this system operates structurally to create intense competition between dancers for limited custom, and that those who are not prepared to break the rules will lose custom relative to those who are prepared to do so.

Having private booths where both dancers and the club can potentially make much more money from rule-breaking without the scrutiny and regulation of being in a public area is extremely problematic for this reason and as a result many local authorities will not license strip clubs containing private booths or rooms.

For all the above reasons I ask the Licensing Committee to refuse to renew the licence of Spearmint Rhino at this location.

The Committee should take a fresh look and take account of the huge changes that have taken place in the area and in Sheffield more widely, and it should take account of the views of its electorate that this club is totally inappropriate in this location.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[PLEASE REDACT NAME AND ADDRESS]

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O322

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 16:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - a University campus and cultural quarter are inappropriate places for this. I believe a strip club cannot legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to prevent breaches in Sheffield. The licence holder seems clearly unfit to comply. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Thanks and regards

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O323

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 16:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. A strip club cannot legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit and will therefore be difficult to prevent crime and disorder and abide by equality law.

To license this club will be licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and put women at risk.

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

O324 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 22:19
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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 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 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

- **Character of the Locality & Use of Other Premises**

Location wise it is close to ; the city centre, train station, residential units, Hallam University, the rich cultural industries quarter encompassing art galleries, Yorkshire Art Space and the Showroom Cinema, SRASAC (Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre).

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.

As a family we are members of the Showroom Cinema and are frequent visitors. As a mother of 3 children it is extremely uncomfortable having to walk past the club, which looks quite sinister, and answer questions from them about what it is. The presence of a strip club here clashes with our family values and desire to promote healthy and loving relationships between people.

- **The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality**

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society.

Having used the specialist services of SRASAC myself I can say first hand that it is totally inappropriate to site a strip club at such close proximity.

The needs of young and extremely vulnerable people should be a priority over those of a branch of a multi-million international chain of strip clubs.

As the first city of sanctuary in the UK, Sheffield should be trailblazing for a cultural shift to champion equality of all kinds by abolishing all strip clubs.

Women in Britain suffer disadvantages in all areas of life. The topics of gender pay gap and sexual exploitation and abuse continue to dominate the headlines. In my view the club, Spearmint rhino embodies and promotes both of these illegal and divisive phenomena. Sheffield City Council should not renew this club's licence.

I sincerely hope you take my objections on board when considering this licence renewal.

With best wishes

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019
Attachments: SR Objection 2019.docx

O325 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 22:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Dear Licensing Authority,

Please find attached letter of objection re; licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield 2019.

Your Sincerely,

Licensing Service,
Block C,
Staniforth Road Depot,
Staniforth Road,
Sheffield
S9 3HD
email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

27th May 2019

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. As someone who works with vulnerable women in Sheffield, I often refer clients to specialist services such as SRASAC, a support service for survivors of sexual violence who are based in the area. I am concerned about the potentially traumatic impact this may have on women who have to walk in the vicinity where Spearmint Rhino's is, in order to access SRASAC. As someone who works and socialises in the area, often attending events at The Site Gallery, The Workstation and The Showroom, I am uncomfortable with being in and around the area in the evening as a lone woman due to safety concerns. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license should be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This

attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: SPEARMINT RHINO
Attachments: SR RESPONSE TB 2019 (2).docx

O326 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 23:09
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Service,

I attach my objection to the granting of a licence to Spearmint Rhino.

I would like to be invited to the meeting on June 11th.

Thanks.

Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Surrey Street
S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

26 May 2019

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 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, which are detailed in the template letter that, no doubt, other objectors will have submitted:

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Location

- 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;
- d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises;
- f) a central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction.

Further grounds for 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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**" (emphasis added) [2]*

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence.

Widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council, in April this year. A small sample of this reported evidence is shown overleaf in the form of a graphic. This shows, in **bold**, some of the Rules that are, we have been told in the past, rigorously upheld and enforced in all Spearmint Rhino establishments. The 8 statements in italics are abstracts from the detailed evidence, collected by former police officers, and presented to the Sheffield Licensing Service, showing 116 examples of the breach of these rules at the Sheffield establishment. [The full report can be found at <https://t.co/vEkBB4mFSY?amp=1>, accessed on 26.05.19. The reference numbers and letters in the graphic have been added here - they are not in the original Report].

The applicant and current Licence Holder is thus clearly either unwilling or unable to ensure that these rules are upheld, and as such is therefore clearly an unsuitable person for this role.

I look forward to hearing from you. I wish to attend the Review Meeting on June 11th.

Yours sincerely

References

[1] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing, p.90

[2] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

WITNESS STATEMENT D: She sat on my [redacted] facing away from me, gyrating her buttocks into my genitals and, reaching forwards, grabbed and massaged my testicles. She said that I had nice balls and that she "loved balls and loved dick and squeezing balls".

WITNESS STATEMENT E: She straddled me whilst facing me, pushing her genitals towards my thigh and crotch area

RULE 1: Dancers must not put their feet on the booth seat

RULE 2: Dancers may only touch customers above their chest and only with hands

WITNESS STATEMENT F: One dancer licked the other's breasts and vagina

RULE 3: Dancers must not sit on or straddle punters

WITNESS STATEMENT G: She knelt in front of me and gently bit my penis through my trousers, rubbed my genitals with her hand saying she loved 'old dick'

RULE 4: Dancers are never to intentionally touch another dancer's breasts or genitals

RULE 8: Dancers may not touch their breasts with their mouths, lips or tongues

WITNESS STATEMENT B: She said "oh grandad give me some dick now"

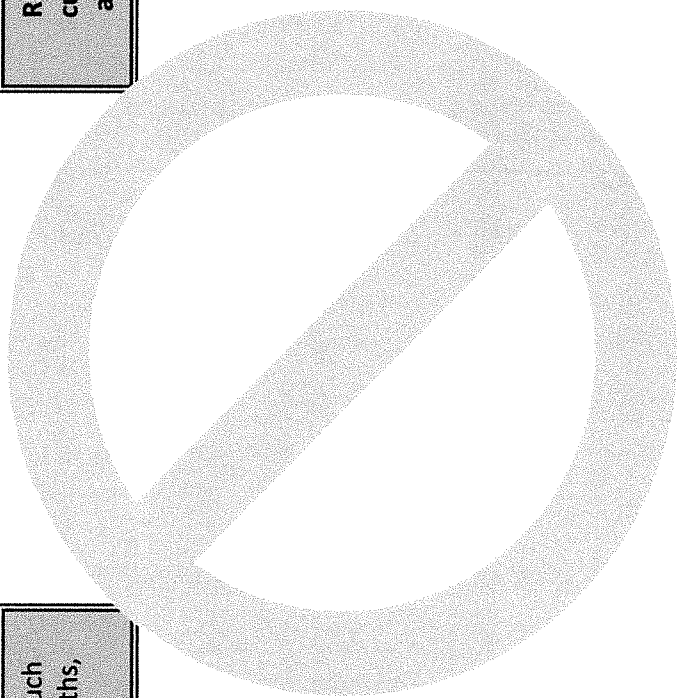
RULE 7: Dancers are never to engage in communication that suggests prostitution

WITNESS STATEMENT A: She placed her mouth around the area of my genitals again, using pressure and simulating oral sex

RULE 5: Dancers must keep one foot on the floor at all times

WITNESS STATEMENT H: She placed her right foot on the bench next to me, repeatedly rubbed my genitals with her hand and pushed her nipples against my mouth

RULE 6: Dancers may not use any sexual, graphic language



Subject: FW: Objection to re-licensing Spearmint Rhino.

O327

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 23:09
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to re-licensing Spearmint Rhino.

Hello,

FAO Sheffield licensing team.

Objection to re-licensing Spearmint Rhino.

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. This is in addition to the information about the trading that occurs, previously exposed via an undercover investigation and made public.

You are welcome to email me for further details.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: SPEARMINT RHINO
Attachments: SR template objection letter 2019.docx

O328 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 23:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Licensing Service

I wish to object to the granting of a licence to Spearmint Rhino and attach my objection letter.



Licensing Service

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

27 May 2019

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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."[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

"Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an 'extraordinary campaign', he called 'the working of democracy'."

It is further reported:

*"But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year's committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year's committee even where nothing had changed: **'The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.'**"*
(emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) 'The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings' Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015 <https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O329

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 15:08
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you are knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and you are knowingly putting women at risk.

Yours sincerely,

Sent from my iPhone

11:37am

0330

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 18/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty and consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs.

Strip clubs promote a message that is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification thus treating women as objects. This at a time of increased awareness about the impact of such ideas on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety, and no evidence that violence against women/street harassment of women is decreasing. In licensing Spearmint Rhino SCC gives a very confusing message about its commitment to women's safety /equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe, not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have exited. Information about sexual harassment of women in clubs by users and even staff suggests that it is rife. Working conditions for women are very different to those of male security and other staff.

I am also aware of information from local publicity/campaigns which seem to indicate that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of rules which have not been picked up by the councils own inspections. This suggests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is an illusion.

In these circumstances I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its licence. As the law permits Councils to decide that there will be no strip and lap dancing clubs in the City, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse the licence, invest in support services for women who may be impacted and divert the cities assets more wisely.

I have have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

LICENSING

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0331

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Date

18-05-2019.

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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~~I have~~ / have not objected before.

Signature

[REDACTED]

LICENSING

28 MAY 2019

11.37am

0332

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

Address

Date

18/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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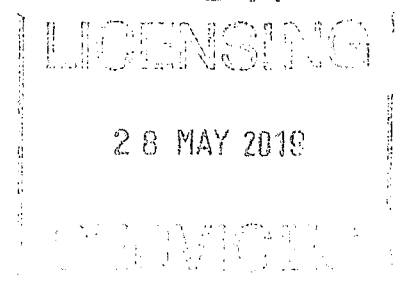
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I have ~~have not~~ objected before.

Signature



11.37am

0322

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 18/5/2019 .

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

LICENSING
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0334

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 18.5.2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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I have have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

LICENSING

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0225

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [redacted]
Address [redacted]

Date 18/5/5

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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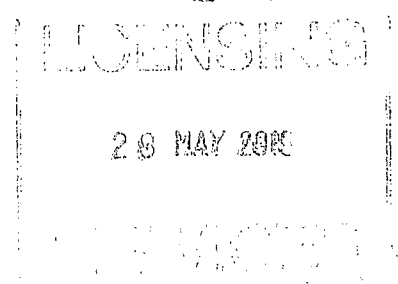
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I have have not objected before.

Signature [redacted]



11:37am

0336

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 18 MAY 2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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~~I have~~ / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

LICENSING
28 MAY 2019
CITY OF SHEFFIELD

11. J7an

0337

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

Address

Date

18/05/19.

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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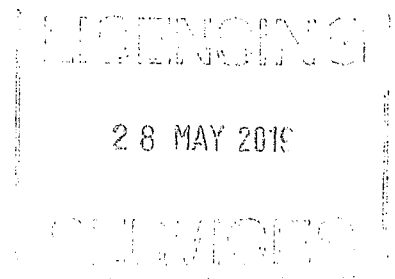
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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[Redacted Signature]



11:37av

0328

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 18/05/2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

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~~I have~~ / have not objected before.

Signature

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

LICENSING
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0339

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 18/05/2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

LICENSING
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0240

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [redacted]
Address [redacted]

Date 18.05.2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have /have not objected before.

Signature [redacted]

11.37am

034

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name Sheffield resident - male

Address

Date 18/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam / Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[Redacted signature]

LICENSING
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0242

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 18/05/2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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Signature [REDACTED]

LICENSING
28 MAY 2019
SHEFFIELD

11:37am

0343

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 16/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

RECEIVED
LICENSING
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0344

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

Date 18-May-2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature [Redacted]

LICENSING
28 MAY 2019

O345 Withdrawn

11:37am

0346

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

Date 18.05.2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

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I am also aware of information from local publicity/campaigns which seem to indicate that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of rules which have not been picked up by the councils own inspections. This suggests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is an illusion.

In these circumstances I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain it's licence. As the law permits Councils to decides that there will be no strip and lap dancing clubs in the City, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse the licence, invest in support services for women who may be impacted and divert the cities assets more wisely.

Have / have not objected before.

Signature [Redacted]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0347

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [redacted]

Address [redacted]

Date 18/5/2020

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty and consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs.

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I have / have-not objected before.

Signature [redacted]

It puts me off coming to the city

28 MAY 2015
Page 773

11:37am

0348

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [redacted]

Address [redacted]

Date 18.5.19.

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have ~~not~~ have not objected before.

Signature [redacted]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0349

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

Address

Date City Centre Visitor.

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty and consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs.

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[Redacted signature]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0250

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

Address

City Centre Victoria

Date

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have have not objected before.

Signature

[Redacted signature]

18 May 2019

[Handwritten signature]

28 MAY 2019

11:07am

0351

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

Address

Date 18/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have have not objected before.

Signature

As a visitor I find this shocking

11:37am

0352

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

Address

Date

25/05/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have have not objected before.

Signature

28 MAY 2019

SEX ENTERTAINMENT CLUBS
OBJECTIFIES WOMEN. FULL
STOP

11:37am

0353

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

Address

Date 25/5

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

RECEIVED
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0354

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Date

25/05/2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[REDACTED]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0355

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25.5.19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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~~I have~~ / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0356

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

28 MAY 2019

11:07am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

0357

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25 MAY 2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Stamp: 28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0258

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam/Sir

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I have /have not objected before.

Signature

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

RECEIVED
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

0359

Name

Address

Date

25/05/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[Redacted signature]

RECEIVED
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

0260

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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~~I have~~ / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

0361

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature [REDACTED]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0262

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25.5.19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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Signature

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0263

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 2014-5-25

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty and consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs.

Strip clubs promote a message that is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification thus treating women as objects. This at a time of increased awareness about the impact of such ideas on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety, and no evidence that violence against women/street harassment of women is decreasing. In licensing Spearmint Rhino SCC gives a very confusing message about its commitment to women's safety /equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe, not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have exited. Information about sexual harassment of women in clubs by users and even staff suggests that it is rife. Working conditions for women are very different to those of male security and other staff.

I am also aware of information from local publicity/campaigns which seem to indicate that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of rules which have not been picked up by the councils own inspections. This suggests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is an illusion.

In these circumstances I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain it's licence. As the law permits Councils to decides that there will be no strip and lap dancing clubs in the City, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse the licence, invest in support services for women who may be impacted and divert the cities assets more wisely.

I have / ~~have not~~ objected before.

Signature

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2019

11.7am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

0264

Name [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

Date 25/05/19

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[Redacted Signature]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

0265

Name

Address

Date

18-5-2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty and consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs.

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I have / ~~have not~~ objected before.

Signature

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

02660

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [redacted]
Address [redacted]

Date 18 May 2019.

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / have not objected before.

Not sure - I think so
if bothers me
that it still
here

Signature [redacted]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

0367

Name [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

Date 18.5.2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

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✱

I have / have not objected before.

Signature [Redacted]

Stamp: SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LICENSING SERVICE

28 MAY 2019

To a different club.

O368 Withdrawn

0269

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/19

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, S9 3HD licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

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Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

28 MAY 2019

0370

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

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SIGNATURE

[REDACTED]

28 MAY 2015

0371

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name

Address

Date

25/5/2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

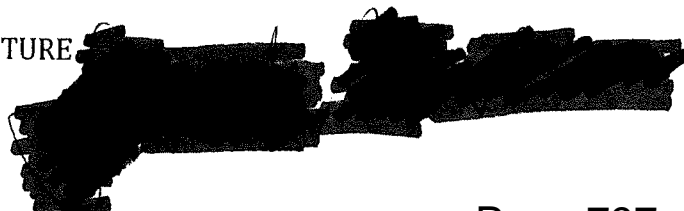
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SIGNATURE



28 MAY 2019

0372

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Date

25-5-19

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

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SIGNATURE

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2019

0373
11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25 May 2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

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SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

28 MAY 2019

0374
11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] EXPERIENCE WITH MISMANAGEMENT OF DATA BY PUBLIC AODIES

Date 25-5-19

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

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SIGNATURE

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2019

0375

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name

[REDACTED]

Address

[REDACTED]

Date

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

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SIGNATURE

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2015

0376

11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [redacted]
Address [redacted]

Date 25/5/19

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

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SIGNATURE

[redacted signature]

28 MAY 2019

0377

11:07am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/2019

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Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

SIGNATURE

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2019

0378
11:37am

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 25/5/16

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

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SIGNATURE

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2016

0379

11.7 Jan

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [redacted]

Address [redacted]

Date

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

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SIGNATURE

[redacted signature]

28 MAY 2016

0380

11.3.7a

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name 

Address 

Date

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

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SIGNATURE



29 MAY 2016

0381

11/3/19

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

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SIGNATURE

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am
0282

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 27 MAY 2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty and consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs.

Strip clubs promote a message that is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification thus treating women as objects. This at a time of increased awareness about the impact of such ideas on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety, and no evidence that violence against women/street harassment of women is decreasing. In licensing Spearmint Rhino SCC gives a very confusing message about its commitment to women's safety /equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe, not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have exited. Information about sexual harassment of women in clubs by users and even staff suggests that it is rife. Working conditions for women are very different to those of male security and other staff.

I am also aware of information from local publicity/campaigns which seem to indicate that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of rules which have not been picked up by the councils own inspections. This suggests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is an illusion.

In these circumstances I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain it's licence. As the law permits Councils to decides that there will be no strip and lap dancing clubs in the City, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse the licence, invest in support services for women who may be impacted and divert the cities assets more wisely.

I have / have not objected before.

Signature

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

RECEIVED
28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0283

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name [Redacted]

Address [Redacted]

Date 26/05/2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

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SIGNATURE [Redacted]

28 MAY 2019

11:37am

0284

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019 ZERO OPTION

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 26/5/2019

To Licensing Service, Sheffield

Dear Madam /Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip / lap clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic.

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I have / ~~have not~~ objected before.

Signature

28 MAY 2019

11:37am
0388 P1

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

[REDACTED]

DATE 25/5/19

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 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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone. I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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.

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]

28 MAY 2019

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] 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 many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

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.

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, many of whom will have PTSD.

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 newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. 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 student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for 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.”[6]

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.

When Philip Kolvin represented residents objecting to the renewal of the strip club in Chester in 2015, it is reported that:

“Their representative Philip Kolvin QC told the meeting that 2009 legislation meant communities now had more say in where such sexual entertainment venues should be located. What Mr Grant had dubbed an ‘extraordinary campaign’, he called ‘the working of democracy’.”

It is further reported:

“But Mr Kolvin pointed out that this year’s committee was entitled to come to an opposite conclusion to last year’s committee even where nothing had changed: ‘The courts have said that you can respond to a body of feeling in the locality, merely the fact that a number of people are concerned about this justifies refusal.’” (emphasis added) [7]

Please note that the licence renewal was refused. As such, the Council is fully empowered to refuse the licence, particularly in view of the widespread breaches to conditions, recently reported in the local and national press and presented to the Council in April this year.

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] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) ‘The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings’ Leeds: University of Leeds

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: ‘Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city’ April 5th 2019
<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

[6] Kolvin, P op cit. p. 90

[7] Chester Live: ‘Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision’ July 18th 2015
<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

0386 P1 11:37am

[REDACTED]

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE 25.5.19.

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There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

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

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0387 P1 11:11am

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

[REDACTED]

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE 25/5/2019

Dear Licensing

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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.

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0355 PI

11:07am



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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE 25/5/18

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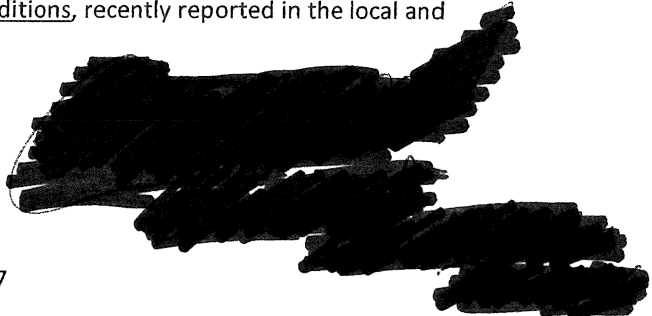
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Licensing Service
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
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By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE

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Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
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By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

25/05/19

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The Prevention of Public Nuisance

I worked at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield as a dancer as well as other clubs in the UK. I was touched, grabbed and assaulted – both physically and sexually - on a regular basis. The response of management was always that it was my job and I should expect it. This is despite the customers being told on arrival and throughout the club that there is a ‘no touching rule’. Management prevented us from ever reporting this to the police because it would go against the club’s licensing renewal. Because of this, it became the ‘norm’.

When I worked at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield the atmosphere was very tense. The girls were not friendly, in fact they were very ‘bitchy’. There was a lot of ‘dirty dancing’ – in fact the entire Spearmint Rhino chain is well known for this throughout the industry. The girls often gave out their telephone numbers and met with customers. The management is very seedy and pervy with the dancers. Other dancers have also confirmed this in reviews and to me directly.

They were extortionate numbers of lap dancers on each night which makes it harder for each performer to make money. But this ensures a good income for the club, as each girl has to pay a house fee and a percentage back of whatever she earns. If you wanted to work during the more profitable weekend you had to work during the quiet week nights. There were also student nights, which meant we had to do free dances for students.

The club, like most others, takes a house fee from dancers (they have to pay for the privilege of working in the club) AND a commission from them (ie a portion of whatever they then earn). Manager, Mick Goodwin stated at last year’s hearing that men are ‘only allowed to spend a certain amount on dances’. This means the dancers are limited to earning a set amount each night. This is just one of the ways that lap dancers with no employment rights are taken advantage of by management and owners financially.

At last years’ hearing it was stated that dancers would deliberately get men drunk as a way to get much more money off them. This has been confirmed by a dancer currently working at Spearmint Rhino during a visit by independent investigators. It has also been reiterated by male customers leaving reviews about the club on social media. I would like to point out that it is an offence under s 141 Licensing Act 2003 to sell or attempts to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk, or allows alcohol to be sold to such a person. To get a person drunk and take their money is financial exploitation and also a criminal offence. A person intoxicated cannot consent. My understanding is that the Spearmint Rhino chain has had court cases taken against it and paid out cash settlements for exploiting customers financially whilst drunk.

I have also gone to Spearmint Rhino as a customer. When I went outside for a cigarette, I became surrounded by a male customers, who were very abusive towards me because they thought I was one of the dancers. They called me a slag and whore and told me my children will hate me and be ashamed of me. This gives you a clear picture of what the men who visit strip clubs think of the women there. It was so bad my friend had to escort me to a taxi to ensure I wasn’t actually attacked. Unfortunately, this happens all the time for dancers and is one reason why some use a stage name and a different exit to enter and exit the premises. I believe this would come under the licensing objective ‘prevention of public nuisance’.

There is a lot of criminal activity in strip clubs - drugs, drug dealing, prostitution, fraud, money laundering and trafficking. Some of this is going on in Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield. A man that was selling drugs there has recently contacted me after seeing the campaign on social media to confirm he was selling drugs there and that the door staff were aware of this. I

am willing to give his name and contact details to South Yorkshire Police and the council. He was also exploiting women from this club and others to commit crimes. He tried doing this to me unsuccessfully, however he exploited many other women - one was even jailed because of it.

As a dancer, I was often not paid my wages. This happened at Spearmint Rhino, Leicester with a house mum, 'Porcha' and the manager. I and other dancers were told CCTV would be deleted to make it look like we were never even on the premises. We were told we would lose our jobs if we told anyone when I threatened them with legal action. The regional manager met with us to ensure we'd handed over our money tokens. He sided with 'Porcha' and the manager. We didn't receive our wages. The regional manager is still working for Spearmint Rhino and was at last year's Sheffield hearing, I recognised him and I believe his name is Andy Foster.

Clearly there are serious issues with the Spearmint Rhino chain and these go a lot further than just the Sheffield branch.

Last year's hearing showed there have been issues over a long period of time at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, as 3 dancers gave testimonies against the club. All 3 had worked there during different time frames.

Last year, several dancers who had worked at Spearmint Rhino, including myself, spoke out about the club and objected to it being relicensed. For doing this, we have received abuse from some staff, their partners and friends. We have been called liars and insulted. Emily Brown, the new assistant manager has even publicly called us 'old hags. This is just highly unprofessional.

I would like to express how difficult it has been for myself and other dancers both former and current to speak out against Spearmint Rhino and what we have experienced both in the club and throughout our lives. To be treated in the way we have is disgusting and appalling. We have disclosed how we got into the industry and how we have been mentally, sexually and physically abused in our lives. We spoke of being raped and how we have been exploited for crime in this and other clubs.

At last year's hearing, Spearmint Rhino management claimed I had never worked in the Sheffield club. They claimed they had checked all their records and I was not on them. I can prove - and have testimony from other staff to prove - I worked there. Besides, Spearmint Rhino staff have always sworn to the council that there 'is no sexual contact'. There is now hard evidence to show they are lying about this. There isn't just sexual contact, there is sexual contact to an extreme degree. If they have the audacity to lie about this, how can you possibly believe anything else they tell you?

I would like to also assert that Spearmint Rhino must be committing fraud as they clearly have not declared the house fees and commissions they took from me. How could they have declared my earnings if I am not on their records? I would like to know whose back pocket it has gone into?

I have seen firsthand from working at the club, from last year's hearings at the town hall and on social media how the staff have conducted themselves and it is extremely unprofessional and intimidating. I am in contact with other Rhino dancers who will not speak out because of

this. It has also been alleged that one of the managers has pressured female staff to have sex with him in order to keep their job. I have reported this as a third party to South Yorkshire Police and been told a complaint has to come directly from the complainants – who of course are too scared to speak out.

There have been multiple breaches of both the licensing policy and the law by Spearmint Rhino and its staff and this is proven not only from the testimony of former dancers, including myself, but by the evidence from independent investigators that the council now has.

They think they can break Licensing policy and laws and then claim “its women’s body, their choice” or try to turn this into an issue of “Its revenge porn”. Just because a person is taking their clothes off for a living does not mean they should not abide by policies and laws and go unpunished for doing so - unless of course that person is being forced to commit such an offence. Otherwise they should be held to account just like anyone else in the UK.

At last year’s hearing a dancer, management, door staff all lied in person to the council stating there was no sexual contact or other breaches of licenses or the law. Numerous other lap dancers and staff also signed statements to the same effect. It has now been proven this is not true. I hope you make the right decision and close down the club and support the girls out if it’s needed?.

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APPENDIX E

Representations - Support

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino licensing renewal

From:

Sent: 02 May 2019 21:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino licensing renewal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to show my support for spearmint rhino Sheffield, yet again the licence is up for renewal, and yet again all the dancers, management, staff plus there family and friends are having to band together to protect there jobs and there wellbeing. This is a huge stress each year for all involved, due to the uncertainty of there future and there job security, as well as the club being forced into the limelight at each renewal in a negative way, which affects the clubs business and reputation.

My girlfriend has worked at the club for 2 years and the confidence and independence this job has given her is amazing, the flexible hours allow her to spend more time with me, her friends and family, because she has control over when she wants to work. I also see how much she enjoys her work, and how close she is to everyone at the club, this reassures me because I know each girl that works there is looked out for and protected. I know the management and security will take good care of her so I never need to worry, they listen to each girl and if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable or acts inappropriately they are removed from the club straight away, they also call each girl a taxi at the end of the night so they have a record of the licence number and driver, and walk each girl out to the taxi to double check they are safe, and if anyone is hanging around outside they won't let the girls leave until it is safe. I am confident no girl is left out or uncared for emotional, as all the girls are good friends, always talking on the group chat together and helping each other out if they have any problems.

I know there are certain groups out there that claim to want to help these girls, and that they think that attacking the club will achieve this, they claim to have the girls best interest at heart, yet have not spoken to a single girl that works here to find out what they want. This simply does not make sense, and you have to question there motives here.

I urge you, listen to the women that work for spearmint rhino, listen to there friends and family, listen to the customers that have shown support, and listen to the majority of Sheffield that support these women in doing what they want to do.

This is simply an administrative matter that shouldn't be allowed to be turned into a spectacle each year because that benefits know one. Women should not have to fight for there jobs and there rights every year, know matter what profession they choose to do.

Kinds regards

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 03 May 2019 12:21
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield

To whom it may concern - Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

I am a High Court Enforcement Agent working on behalf of the courts enforcing warrants and high court writs. I am certificated by the judge at Nottingham County Court who has to be satisfied I am a fit and proper person to carry out my role.

I have been doing this job 13 years and have experienced enforcing warrants at similar venues at the other end of the spectrum to where this venue operates. I feel the venue is being put under unfounded scrutiny based on a stigma that seems to be associated with the industry.

I have visited Spearmint Rhino Sheffield on several occasions over many years having been on my own, with my partner, and also held a work party there. I have always been impressed with how the venue is ran and the safe environment the staff have to work in.

I have never witnessed any trouble inside the club and every member of staff I have met there enjoys their work and I know some of the girls personally who all seem to have concerns there is a chance they could lose their employment due to unfounded circumstances beyond their control.

My partner works in the same industry (no connection to the venue whatsoever) and has commented it is the best environment for the industry she has ever seen.

I am fully behind this venue and the staff there and feel I am in a very good position to judge this venue based on my extensive dealings with similar venues in the same industry across the country.

Can you please confirm receipt of this email.

Kind Regards

High Court Enforcement Officer

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 03 May 2019 13:17
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

To whom it may concern,

I have worked at the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino for many years now. This establishment has become far more than just a place of work for me. It is a place where I have built some of the strongest bonds and made the closest friends i've ever had in my entire life. It has also given me the opportunity to be the best parent I could possibly be.

When I first started working here, I was a single mum caring for a 4 year old. I had struggled to find a job that would suit my needs as a full time parent and was so relieved to have found somewhere with such flexible work patterns that allowed me to spend as much time as possible with my child and provide him with optimum care and opportunities with my above minimum wage earnings.

Stripping plays an important role in positive body image and self esteem. The job role requires us to be resilient to offence and rejection. We deal with this at Rhinos by constantly lifting and supporting one another, there is no room for jealousy or competitiveness as we understand this does not aid in creating a friendly atmosphere for our customers or ourselves. This is something that many other strip clubs and women in society still struggle with. The job also provides fantastic social aspects for people such as myself who may have otherwise struggled to maintain a healthy social life while being both parent and bread winner. Each day I work at at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, I know I am able to talk to my fellow employees and management about anything I may be struggling with and this gives me immense peace of mind.

It is not only the dancers and staff that this establishment positively affects. Throughout my years at the club I have come into contact with both male and female customers seeking refuge from stress and social anxiety. I have experienced them arriving at the club feeling depressed and suicidal from damaging relationships or socially impaired from disability or mental health issues and shortly after conversing with dancers and staff who hold no judgment or prejudice, leave feeling nurtured and validated.

Society needs to abolish the idea that stripclubs scam and degrade their customers. What we offer is emotional labour and adult entertainment. We provide a niche service to a wide demographic and even if one does not use this facility, it should be accepted as important by all.

Objectors are campaigning for a striplless city but I see no logic in attempting to completely abolish something that is in such high demand. In hindsight, we know this just pushes people to seek out service from illegal venues which Sheffield has a lot of. Shouldn't we be collectively striving for a city that moderates our work to ensure it is always carried out safely?

Moreover, the underhand tactics opposes of the club have recently carried out have actually had the opposite affect on what they supposedly should have. Dancers are now more scared than

ever to return to work in fear of being exploited and filmed against their will. What was once a place where we felt protected by our bouncers and management has been violated by the very people who claim to want to help us. I do not see how this is beneficial for the individual or our community. I feel it will ultimately lead to the separation of the people I have considered family for quite some time now.

In conclusion, I believe Spearmint Rhino Sheffield operates as the most effective strip club in the UK for all employed by or buying into the industry. To destroy what has been cultivated here would certainly be detrimental to the city and all involved. I hope that council members are able to see this and will allow us to continue providing our service to the city. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further insight into how we operate as a strong family unit.

Sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spirmint Rhino Support

-----Original Message-----

From: Sent: 03 May 2019 23:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spirmint Rhino Support

Good afternoon,

My name is xxxxx xxxxx and I'm emailing to support the place I work.

Spearmint Rhino it is not just a place where I work, moreover this place made me feel like I'm in a big family. Practicing this job it's allow me to continue my university classes on the day time.

I use to dance to other clubs but for almost two years I decide to stop to Spirmint Rhino because it have professional staff which is helping me not only on work but it is always in there for anything the dancers needed. Moreover, I feel safe and protected.

In here the dancers are not just work colleagues but also a family.

Please feel free to ask any more information if you need.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: renewal of spearmint rhino license

From:

Sent: 05 May 2019 12:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: renewal of spearmint rhino license

as a user of spearmint rhino over several years I support the renewal of their license as while I have been in there I have never seen any inappropriate actions .

speaking to the dancers they are doing this to support their studies or families.

to my knowledge of them they have gone on to become lawyers ,accountants and nurse's.

so by denying the license you are denying the ladies the chance to better their lives and futures

I know this is likely to be printed in the court reports and would like to be anonymous

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Open letter for Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:
Sent: 07 May 2019 09:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Open letter for Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

Due to the recent accusations which threaten the licence renewal for, Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, I thought you may like to receive an opinion from one of their most regular customers.

I am a single man of 37 with no partner and no children. My job requires me to be constantly working up and down the country and as Sheffield is very central, it has become my routine stop off in between work and home, as well as a location I routinely need to work. I feel very fortunate to have found this network of incredible people, it can be hard for me to socialise as I generally have to spend a lot of time on my own. But the convenience of knowing I can step into Rhino's six days a week and be able to relax at the bar with such friendly and welcoming people really makes my commute bearable.

I was sorry to hear that the radical organisation, Not Buying It, had made demands for the closure of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I no longer see the dancers at Spearmint as merely objects of desire, they have become some of my closest friends and the club my home away from home. Seeing how much of an affect this scandal has had on their mental health and wellbeing has being very sobering.

I find it ironic that Not Buying It will seem to stretch to any lengths, even exploit, abuse and betray these women in an attempt to prevent them from being exploited, abused and betrayed by their industry. I can see that this club is somewhere the girls feel safe. There is security at every door, management and fellow dancers are always checking up on each other to ensure the quality of care is kept at a high standard. I don't see or hear of any other club in Sheffield, let alone in the UK that upholds such strict monitoring.

If you were to revoke the licence. I believe it would have a really negative impact on Sheffield tourism. I see customers from accross the world visiting, claiming that this club has the best reviews nationwide. These customers mostly range from business men, stag parties and university reunions. The city would certainly lose all this custom with no strip club to visit.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my perspective and opinions. I hope this will be taken into account and I will be able to continue visiting this establishment that plays a very important role in my life.

ST

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Support for Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 15:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Support for Spearmint Rhino

Dear whom it may concern,

I am a friend of one of the dancers at Spearmint Rhino. I am writing to express my support for the license of Spearmint Rhino to be renewed.

I have sat and discussed the current issues with my friend and listened to her thoughts. She expressed to me how much she enjoyed her work and how much it meant to her, including how dramatically it has helped her confidence and body image. I believe that women have the right to work in whatever jobs they wish, the same way that men do.

In regards to the claims that the license rules have been broken, I understand the girls involved have been suspended for their behaviour and so the rest of the workers should not be punished too. I don't believe that revoking the license of the club would prevent any further unlawful activity or breaching of strip club rules as the dancers would most likely be forced to move to other venues including non-regulated ones. If the primary concern is to remove dancers that are not complying to the rules then Zero Option Sheffield should only be interested in the dismissal of those particular girls and not shutting the whole club.

I have also read in the media that there is supposedly video footage of the sex acts taking place. This in itself seems of a higher concern than the acts themselves. How can it be fair, legal or safe for girls to be filmed in their place of work let alone without their consent?

My friend has explained to me all the actions that have been taken in order to improve the club and keep the dancers safe.

If this 'women's rights group' has such strong views on protecting potentially vulnerable women they should provide support services for the dancers, not attempt to put them out of work.

Thank you for your consideration.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield Licence Renewal

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 15:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield Licence Renewal

To whom it may concern,

I ask that you treat this letter as an honest rendition from someone who can offer you valuable insight into an industry you may not understand or have preconceptions about.

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I am not trafficked nor abused. I am not striving to feed an addiction or a need to feel validated. It is not that I am under-qualified for any other line of work or even that I work here as a means to an end. I work here because I enjoy creating unique fantasy experiences for people who require my services, these range from entertainment to therapy. I work here because the flexible hours give me the opportunity to balance work life with personal fulfilment. I work here because the employees of the club provide me with a strong sense of community that is rare to find in so many workplaces.

Spearmint Rhinos offers adult entertainment in the form of striptease and pole dancing performances for both men and women, while offering jobs to dancers, managers, security and bar staff. To withhold this would only turn both dancers and customers to club's in other cities, taking revenue away from Sheffield's economy and separating the family unit of dancers, staff and regular customers that has been built over the years.

I fear that customers may even turn to alternative illegal venues such as brothels where women are actually at risk of being exploited. Sheffield has more brothels per square mile than any other city, yet the council seems far more concerned with destroying the only safe haven it has for dancers and customers, this seems completely nonsensical.

I have worked in club's in other cities and was astonished at how poorly both management and dancers operated with one another as well as towards customers. Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is actually renowned for providing the most friendliest atmosphere in the UK, this is largely to do with how harmoniously we operate as freelancers under one roof. We should be seen as a model example of how strip club's should be run, Instead we are penalised each year at our license renewal and told to restrict our dance choreography, limit our advertising and even remove our sign from the building. The council should be proud of what we have achieved at Spearmint, not relentlessly trying to squeeze us out.

As a feminist, I completely reject the notion that we as dancers are exploited and need to be saved. It is the pinocchio of feminism to respect the rights of each woman to do whatever she wants with her body and not up to the council or anyone else to claim autonomy over it. When I strip, I am ultimately requesting payment to be gazed upon, something all women are constantly subjected to in society. I cannot feel exploited when I am profiting from and completely in control of the situation, yet when this happens on the street, in a nightclub or even the supermarket, I am vulnerable and defenceless. Stripping helps me gain power back from the misogyny I deal with in day to day life, this is why it is such a crucial drive in the feminist movement.

I understand that there are many objections against the club being allowed to keep its licence. Many will say it is because they want to prevent us from being exploited and sexualised. However no one has actually taken the initiative to contact any dancer at the club to ask us what we want or how we feel. Perhaps if this was done, objectors would be able to gain a better understanding of how to actually support and protect us. Likewise we would be more likely to approach outreach if we knew our firsthand accounts were being held in higher regard. There is simply no logic behind making a decision on assumptions and not through discussion or research.

I sincerely hope that the points I have outlined will help anyone with a negative opinion if Spearmint Rhino see it's value and necessity. Only by working together will we be able to ensure safeguarding for the citizens who depend on this establishment for more than just a living wage. It is our family, it is our home.

Sincerely,

Dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Regarding license of Spearmint Rhino Sheff

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 17:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Regarding license of Spearmint Rhino Sheff

Hi sir/madam

FAO of licensing department in regards to Sheffield Spearmint Rhino

I'd just like to have it noted I fully support this establishment. I believe there license should be renewed without issue.

I don't believe a word what these so called "Feminists" groups are saying have occurred there.

I've never met a more friendly, caring, down to earth lot in my life.

They have all helps me better my life, as for many years I had suffered from severe social anxiety and depression and for long time never used to leave the house. Due to fear of having to speak to people.

A friend of mine took me a in there one evening on a night out, at first I was very reluctant having never been in a strip club ever in my life and only seen them in films and expected dirty, smelly, downriden place. Lucky to my surprise it was very clean and very well maintained and odourless. One of nicest bars I've ever been in around Sheffield. I won't name worst here..

Anyways got taking to few girls and felt very relaxing being able to talk to whom was complete strangers at the time, simply about anything n everything from weather to politics. They're very well educated girls in there and that blew me away from my stereotyping expectations of airheads Anyways fast forward a year now since I first visited and I find myself visiting often for a catch up with girls who I now class as friends who work there. Also given me less anxiety of talking to people that n general and very rarity I'm depressed these days. I put this down to girls in there and then just treating me with kindness and as a nice human being. Unlike most in my younger days who bullied me all the time.

Please note for record and in context of the above, that I don't drink alcohol either. I've been t-total since I was 21 and I'm now 35.

Please renew the license so we can keep these girls in well paid jobs they choose to do. As well as Door staff, bar staff, cleaners, maintenance person(s) and management.

Thanks

Photographer based in Sheffield

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

From:]

Sent: 07 May 2019 20:43

To: licensingservice

Subject:

To whom it may concern

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino and I wanted to write this email to show my support of the company. I enjoy working at within this industry and also enjoy working With Spearmint rhino as well. They are supportive and helpful in my roll.

I wish for my data to be kept private and not publicly available.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From:]

Sent: 07 May 2019 21:12

To: licensingservice

Subject: Supporting letter

Good evening,

My name is xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx, I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino . I wanted to write a letter of support because I love working at Spearmint Rhino because it allows me to spend a lot of times with my family.

It's a friendly and supportive environment.

I wish for all of my personal data to remain private.

Kind regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From:]
Sent: 07 May 2019 21:18
To: licensingservice
Subject:

To whom it my concern

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino and I wanted to write this email to show my support of the company.
I enjoy working at within this industry and also enjoy working with Spearmint Rhino as well.
They are supportive and helpful in my roll.

I wish for my data to be kept private and not publicly available.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 21:33

To: licensingservice

Cc:

Subject:

Hi! My name is xxxxxx xxxxxx xxxxxx I am a dancer working at Spearmint Rhino and I am sending this email because I am enjoying working at Spearmint because I earn easily my money I have plenty of time to study during the week and spend time with my family! I am very happy with my job and it is interesting to meet new people,earn money and have fun in the same time !

Best regards!

I wish for my personal information to be kept private.

S14

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence

From:
Sent: 07 May 2019 22:39
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino, ever since I started stripping I have loved every night working here. Having this job has allowed me to earn an income that allows me to have the freedom to spend with my family and friends unlike most of the other daytime jobs that have restricted me of less time and less income.

The community of this strip club is like no other place I have been to, the workers are very professional and friendly, something that is rare to find in other places of work in general. Working here can also improve and provide skills like self-confidence, time-management, communication, dedication and diplomacy but mostly provides a job that is enjoyable.

Dancing and stripping is not something that should be penalised or stopped due to someone else's opinion, especially those who have never experienced working as a stripper. It is not exploitation, I have never been forced or told to do something illicit. The dancers code is always followed, we have our rules already set, adding more would be unnecessary and would proceed to ruin the brand, the customers satisfaction, encourage defamation of Spearmint Rhino and result in job losses, which is something that is increasing in the UK in general, that would be adding to insult to injury, becoming detrimental to the nation as a whole.

Please reconsider revoking the licence.

I would like my information to be kept private and confidential.

Kindest Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 08 May 2019 19:54**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern

I am writing with the application of Spearmint Rhino.

I agree with the club as it is a controlled environment for these women. I look at it this way at least these women are safe in the club and not working on the streets, and the main thing they are just trying to earn money for their families and at least they are not just claiming benefits.

If this is the way they want to earn their money this way who are we to judge.

Kindest Regards

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmintrhino supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 20:08

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmintrhino supporting letter

Hi , my name is xxxxxx xxxx , I'm a dancer at spearmint rhino I'm enjoying working here because the SR team are professional ,helpful and supporting!

I wish that my data remain private and confidential!

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

To: McConaghy Julianne
Subject: RE: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

From:
Sent: 08 May 2019 20:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to draft a letter regarding spearmint rhino Sheffield.

I myself have worked here for over 15 years as a door supervisor and have thoroughly enjoyed my job here. All the girls here are fantastic and admire them for the opportunities this club has given them with a lot of them excelling in their own projects which without their earnings at the club would have been unachievable.

I hope I can continue enjoying my job here and I'm sure I speak for the rest of the employees in this respect.

Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 20:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

I work at Spearmint Rhino, I have worked at numerous different clubs and I have found the team at SR to be the most professional and supportive in both my professional development as well as assisting me with my educational development.

I have a great sense of pride being a member of the Spearmint Rhino team and hope that we can push forward and lead by example of how a gentleman's club should be run.

Best regards!

House mum at Spearmint Rhino!

I wish my data to remain private and confidential

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 20:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Good evening,

I'm a friend of a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - I want to support as I've seen how much my friend loves her job, the stability it has given her in life is immense and I've watched her confidence blossom since she started this job. I have no concerns for the running of the club, I myself have visited numerous times and the management and girls are all happy, friendly and welcoming! I've never seen anything unprofessional happen in the club. I'm failing to see what the grounds are for revoking the clubs licence?

Surely, the worst thing that's happened in this club, is the fact that women have been photographed, filmed and blasted online without their knowledge or consent?

If anyone is to face consequences in this instance, should it not be the the person/persons, who entered the club under false pretences and filmed women who are doing nothing but working, to feed their families, fund their university courses - or what ever reason they decided to work where they do? After all - strip clubs are legal and I thought it was the choice of a woman what she does with her body, if she isn't breaking the law?

Kind regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino supporting letter

From:**Sent:** 08 May 2019 20:38**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino supporting letter

I'm a dancer at Spearmint Rhino, my name is xxxxxx xxxxxx.

I love working in this place because I feel very secure. Everything it's in the right place how it's supposed to be. We have a great management, who's looking after all of us, they make sure we are enjoying our job.

The most amazing thing it's that I can make my own shifts, that encourage me to plan my free time the way I want.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 20:41

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

I am an entertainer at Spearmint Rhino ,my name is ~~xxxxxxx xxxxxxxxx~~ and I love working in this place for so many reasons. I feel very secure and safe and management its very professional. I am very happy that I can make my own shifts weekly.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Supporting Letter

-----Original Message-----

From:]

Sent: 08 May 2019 21:13

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Supporting Letter

To Whom It Might Concern,

Hello, my name is xxxxx xxxxxxx and I've worked as an entertainer at Spearmint Rhino for many years.

I have worked at numerous clubs throughout the years but I always preferred Spearmint Rhino because I get the biggest support from the management to work and progress as a professional entertainer. I appreciate the freedom and security the club provides for me and I will always be grateful for what they have given to me in personal and professional way. Only a person who has worked themselves in this kind of industry be certain about the benefits one can get from working as a self employed, in their own time and get empowered as a woman at the same time.

I do not give my consent for my personal information to be shared in any way.

Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 21:28

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

My name is xxxxx xxxxxxxxxx,

I am an entertainer at Spearmint Rhino and I enjoy working here.

I am enjoying working at spearmint rhino because I like to perform. it's also gives me flexibility, I can work when I want. As well as being able to financially support my family.

I request that my personal information is kept private and confidential.

xxxxx Dancer at Spearmint rhino

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

From:]

Sent: 09 May 2019 01:36

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I ask that you treat this letter as an honest rendition from someone who offers a valuable insight into an industry that you and others may not understand or have premissconceptions about.

I am an employee at Spearmint Rhino, working as a waitress, as a feminist I completely reject the notion that dancers are exploited and need to be saved, Having worked firsthand with dancers

I work here, not because I am under qualified for any other kind of work, but because I enjoy the flexible hours which give me the opportunity to balance work life with personal fulfilment.

I request that my personal information, and details are kept private and confidential.

Kind Regards

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

-----Original Message-----

From:]

Sent: 09 May 2019 01:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I ask that you treat this letter as an honest rendition from someone who offers a valuable insight into an industry that you and others may not understand or have premissconceptions about.

I am an employee at Spearmint Rhino, working as a waitress, as a feminist I completely reject the notion that dancers are exploited and need to be saved, Having worked firsthand with dancers.

I work here, not because I am under qualified for any other kind of work, but because I enjoy the flexible hours which give me the opportunity to balance work life with personal fulfilment.

I request that my personal information, and details are kept private and confidential.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhinos Renewal

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 13:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhinos Renewal

--

hi, here is my supporting letter for spearmint
rhinos licence renewal

thanks

Create your own email signature

To whom it may concern,

I ask that you read this letter carefully from someone who can offer you an honest insight into a working sector of which you may not fully understand or of which you may have misled prejudgements about.

I am currently a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and also a full-time student at the University of Sheffield. I have not in any way been forced into this line of work or made to work here by anyone- something that many outsiders believe that we dancers are forced to work here. When infact this statement couldn't be any further from the truth, this is one of the many jobs I have worked whilst being at university that has allowed me to work as and when I please, meaning I can take time off whenever it is needed such as around big deadlines. I chose to work at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield due to the freedom it gives me, I choose my shifts myself and if I am unable to commit to these or need to change them it comes with no hassle. I enjoy providing entertainment to others that may be deprived of it in their daily life or struggle themselves with socialising.

Protestors trying to close down spearmint rhino in Sheffield say they are doing it to support the dancers, when in reality they are taking away from us a job that we love to do. Closing down the premises would not stop us from doing our job, as we are self-employed, we can work in another strip club across the country wherever we want, but this would cause huge disruption and distress to many of the dancers. Here at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield we are a very secure unit. Managers deal extremely well with anything we have going on in our lives, the support I have received from my managers with any struggles is absolutely phenomenal, closing down the club and having to dance somewhere else means I would lose this network. I would lose the feeling of having a sense of security in my work place and it would be very upsetting to me. We are told we will receive support if the venue gets its licence revoked, but what I feel protestors fail to acknowledge is that it won't just be dancers that lose their jobs. Managers, bar staff and also bouncer will feel a huge effect as for many of them this is their full-time job which supports their families. Where will the support and help be for them?

It also comes to much of my annoyance that protestors suggest that all of us dancers need 'help/support' once exiting the industry. As previously stated, closing down the venue does not mean we will stop working in this industry. Further to this the help and support which we are actually in need of is for people to support us in whatever descion we make to where we want to work. We have a right to choose whatever job we want, and this should not be stripped away from us.

With Spearmint rhino Sheffield being the only legal strip club in Sheffield I fear that regular customers may turn to illegal alternatives such as brothels where women are actually exploited. Spearmint Rhinos provides a safe place for dancers and women to work. I am confused as to why Spearmint rhino in Sheffield seems to be a target to protesting groups to be closed down. I myself have worked in multiple venues across England some of which I will never return too, I always find myself ending up back in Spearmint Rhino, this is because the management here is incomparable to other strip clubs, they truly care about us girls and want the best for us. In comparison to other clubs where making the most money

is all that matters, other clubs treat girls unfairly and are extremely bitter environments to work in. This club is known for how friendly and welcoming it is and we should be shown to others of how strip clubs should operate. We should be praised for what we have provided the community with.

I further find it absurd that protestors suggest that we need saving, but all over the internet they call us all sorts of horrible names which are so visible for us to see. If they are trying to help us why are they contradicting themselves and bashing us down publicly, surely, they should contact us and ask us personally how we feel. We live in a generation where mental health is more fragile than ever, these degrading horrible comments on social media could have detrimental effects to a person's mental health. I have never been reached out to by the people who seem to know so much about us. No one has asked what support I may need or asked what I think as a dancer in relation to how the club is run, safeguarding and my rights as a sole trader. No one seems concerned in getting to know us or what we are like, I think its appalling to suggest their reasoning for the club to be shut is to save us girls when really, they don't even want to get to know us. This shows that the opposition are not trying to help, but they are trying to dictate what they think other women should be allowed to do. They shouldn't even be allowed to call themselves feminists.

Additionally, many people have the misconception that a strip club is an extremely unsafe place, again this couldn't be further from the truth. The bouncers at the club are there to protect us and I do not feel as safe anywhere as what I do when I'm at work, at the end of the shift we are walked to our vehicles or waited with until a lift arrives for us to make sure no one is coming in our vicinity. Recently we had private investigators come in and film us doing our job. I completely understand the need for certain clubs to be investigated if there are reports of wrong doings. However, we are frequently visited by the council on numerous occasions throughout the year and each time they leave happy with how the club is running. This has caused a group of 'feminists' to take it into their own hands and investigate us. Knowing that someone has been in the club and filmed us without our knowledge has made me feel extremely uncomfortable. It is one rule of the club that people are not allowed to film or take pictures whilst inside. This incident has caused me to become extremely anxious about going into work. I have been up at night worrying that someone is watching and following me in daily life, although I know this is unlikely this is now what my mind set has resulted in due to being secretly filmed. It is an awful feeling to think that someone has come into somewhere where I feel so safe and protected and just violated everything, I feel about this.

Finally, this job has educated me in ways I can't even explain. For example, before I started working here I had absolutely no idea about income tax or what any of it meant as this is something which is not taught or revised in the educational system, from the basis of this job I now understand exactly what it is and am able to complete my own tax forms myself. This job has actually allowed me to contribute in society as a functioning adult.

I sincerely hope that all the points I have raised are taken account for and will help people to see the negative opinions of Spearmint Rhino are only from one side of people. We all need to work together to ensure safeguarding continues for everyone associated with this

establishment. This is more than just a job for us, this is our family and our home, please do not take this away from us.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:**
Sent: 09 May 2019 13:27
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear whoever this may concern,

I am a very good friend of a current dancer who works at spearmint rhino in Sheffield. I would like to write this letter in support of the club gaining their licence at the renewal hearing this year. I fully support the club and feel it would be shameful to shut the club down over the recent allegations it has incurred from so called 'feminists.

I have many reasons I wish the club to remain open, one main reason is that this club has given my friend a work place she loves, her confidence and personality since working here has absolutely beamed, she is one of the happiest people I know and I put that down to being in a job she absolutely loves, you can't take her away from the place she loves it so much. I have never heard a person speak so highly of a workplace as she does of hers at spearmint rhino, from the friendship bonds she's made with the other girls, to the impeccable style of management who run the club. To shut down such a well-run and respected establishment would be a pitiful decision.

My friend has told me how every night security takes her to her car, if anyone comes into the club and is rude or makes any of the girls feel uncomfortable, they are asked to leave immediately. In what other work places do you see this happening, it seems to me that the safety of all the workers is at the forefront of the managements mind at all times.

This job has given my friend to work as and when she pleases, this is extremely useful with her being a university student. There is no worry of having to go to work, or a worry of calling in sick as the management here are so understanding and you choose your own shifts. I don't know of any other job that allows this freedom with also providing fantastic financial stability.

I have never had any concerns about Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, I never even knew there was a strip club in the city until my friend started working here. I never really knew how strip clubs were run or how they operated. But since my friend began working here my respect and knowledge of them has increased dramatically. I have never come across a business that has so much respect and such a strong duty of care for its employees.

My friend's life would be turned upside down if this safe place was taken away from here. The blame here need not be put on the club and its dancers but on the horrible people who have stated they will stop at nothing too close the establishment down. Doesn't this seem like the club is a target for hatred? With this being said we should all as a community come together and support the workers here, they are being targeted by groups who do not like what they do yet seem to have no understanding of the stripping industry itself. The dancers, management, bar staff and bouncers all need our support to overcome disgusting behaviour which has been targeted towards them.

My friend has specifically stated that these groups have never reached out to her to ask if she likes her job, or anything about her well-being. Seen as they specifically state they want to help the girls this seems absurd seen as they have never spoken to any of them.

I greatly hope you take my letter of support into consideration when looking at the licence renewal, shutting down the club would take away a huge support system that my friend has in place it would be extremely disappointing. I believe action needs to be taken against these groups that hold so much hatred towards the stripping industry. It is these groups which make the dancers feel unsafe going to work as they are unpredictable in comparison to the safe workplace they have.

Many thanks
Close friend of a Spearmint Rhino Dancer

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino-Supporting Letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 19:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino-Supporting Letter

To whom it may concern

Hello,

My name is x cccccc and I work as an entertainer in Spearmint Rhino and I am happy to let you know that this venue is the perfect place to work. The reasons behind this is that my shifts are decided by me, I dress up how I want, I feel free to talk to all the staff or managers about

everything. Everyone is so helpful.

I wish my data to remain private and confidential.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 19:59

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

My name is xxxx xxxxxxxxxxx and I am a entertainer at spearmint rhino . I am really love working here because they have the best staff that offers me protection and I have flexibility and that gives me more time to spend with family and friends during the day I wish for my data to remain private and confidential!

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 20:13

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

My name is xxxxx xxxxxx and I work for spearmint rhino as dancer .The reason I love working here is because they treat us with the outmost respect ,I feel like they are there to listen to any problem that we may have (work related or personal).As I used to work in many other clubs ,I can definitely say this is the safest and most professional by far.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential.

Sent from my iPhone

S31

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Supporting letter for Spearmint Rhino licence

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 20:14

To: licensingservice

Subject: Supporting letter for Spearmint Rhino licence

Hi my name is ~~xxxx xxxx~~ and I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino and I am writing this email to let you know that I love this club. I am a Rhino girl for many years and I've always been happy with the management and staff! I am free to work whenever I want and this allows me to finish my studies and spend time with my friends and family!

I want my data to be protected and not shared with anybody !

Best regards!

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

S32

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 20:27

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

Hello, my name is xxxxx xxxxxx. I work in Spearmint Rhino for 6 years and I loving being here. Everyone treats really well and they are friendly.

They make sure that we are safe and happy, they are always professional

I request that my data remains private and confidential.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 20:27

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino support

Hi, my name is xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx, I'm a dancer at Spearmint Rhino. I writing to let you know that I'm very happy with my job and I'm doing it because I love dancing and the opportunity to work for myself. The club treats me very good and all the staff have always been very fair and professional. I want my data to stay private and not be shared with anyone. Best regards,

McConaghy Julianne


Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 09 May 2019 20:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino support

Hi I am a dancer and my name is xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx, I wanted to show my support for spearmint rhino, they are amazingly supportive. This job allows me to concentrate on my studies as well as spend my free time as I wish. I can set my own working days and this is very convenient.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential

 Sent from my iPhone



McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support

From:
Sent: 09 May 2019 21:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino support

My nams is xxxxxxx xxxxxxx.I am are entertainer in Spearmint Rhino and i enjoy working in this club because everyone is so nice,friendly and professional.I enjoy choose my working days and my working hours,because is alow me to freedom and manage my time off.

I wish all my data to remain private and confidential

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino supporting letter

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 21:27

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino supporting letter

Hello ! My name is ~~XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXXX~~ i am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino and i want to let you know that i love my job, i'm doing it because it allows me to have a flexible program, i love socializing and making money out of it. Please keep my personal informations private and confidential

Kind regards,

S37

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rihno suporting letter

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 21:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rihno suporting letter

My name is xxxxxxxx xxxxx xxxxx i am dancer at spearmint rihno. I write to you to know about my job is very nice nobody force me , i have all day free i am social person i want to have a new experience . And the money are very good. Thank you .

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 21:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

Hello, my name is xxxxxxx xxxxxxx I am a dancer at spearmint rhino and I am writing to inform you that I am very happy to work for spearmint rhino the place is amazing the staff and management is very nice and helpfull and this allows me to keep my day job because they are very flexible with the shift and o cand earn some extra money !

I wish my data to remain protected and not shared with anyone else.

Best regards!

S39

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

From:
Sent: 09 May 2019 21:42
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

My name is xxxx xxxxxxxxx.

I am a dancer at spearmint rhino. I feel safe working here and the club is professional the staff are friendly and i enjoy interacting with customers.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 21:51

To: licensingservice

Subject: Supporting letter

My name is xxxxx xxxxxxx. I'm working as Dancer in Spearmint Rhino London.

I really enjoyed this place, first of all because I appreciate the communication between the dancer and the office literally all the staff. The very important point, every body is respectful with us always make sure every dancers are in security and trait in the best ways.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

-----Original Message-----

From: Sent: 09 May 2019 22:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

My name is xxxx xxxxxxxx
To who it may concern, I am an entertainer at Spearmint Rhino, I enjoy working with spearmint rhino because I make a great living whilst being able to pick my own working hours. I think that the management team are very friendly and professional whilst maintaining an open door policy. When I work at spearmint rhino i feel that it is the best club for my feeling of safety and security. I feel valued at Spearmint Rhino and that I am a valued member of the team here. I am able to pick my own shift and working hours to suit the needs of my personal life.

I wish for my personal data to be kept private and confidential

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 22:45

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino support letter

To whom it may concern,

I am an entertainer at Spearmint Rhino,

I enjoy working at Spearmint Rhino because of the flexibility to study at College and maintain good standard of living as well as building my own Business I can choose to work as and when I like, and the managers help me get the time I need to complete my studies.

I feel safe and very valued here and a part of a big team.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential.

Kind regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 22:54

To: licensingservice

Cc:

Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

Hi! My name is xxxxxx xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxx I am a dancer working at Spearmint Rhino and I am sending this email because I am enjoying working at Spearmint because I earn easily my money I have plenty of time to study during the week and spend time with my family! I am very happy with my job and it is interesting to meet new people,earn money and have fun in the same time !
Best regards!

I wish for my personal information to be kept private.

Sent from my iPhone

SH

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 23:13

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

My name is xxxx xxxxxx and I am a waitress at Spearmint Rhino.

I find the club to be extremely supportive and flexible, I earn a good wage whilst maintaining an active social and family life.

I like to travel and the company is always very supportive and accommodating in arranging my shifts.

I enjoy working here because it feels like a family, we are all valued and look after each other regardless of our different positions.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 09 May 2019 23:13
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Thankyou for reading.

To whom it may concern,

As a frequent customer at Spearmint Rhino, I have seen first hand how hard these girls work. I have had deep chats with them regarding their jobs, their life and whatever concerns they have.

I've never witnessed any dancer forced/manipulated/pressured into doing anything they won't do willingly. They are true professionals, from the dancers, bar staff and door staff. The dancers are treated with respect, and all seem to work in an enjoyable environment. Having had conversations with many of them, they express how lucky and grateful they are to be in this position, meaning a steady job and brilliant wages.

The men and women who work there are in a safe and stable environment. Customers are treated very professionally, and in using the services at Spearmint, also remain in a safe setting. I dread to imagine what illegal and immoral lengths both dancers, and customers, would go to if not provided the services Spearmint does.

The city of Sheffield itself benefits with its economy. These girls make fantastic money, why rid them of that when it is solely their choice to dance? Many have family who benefit from this too, who wouldn't be able to afford certain things, or even more so, with the flexibility the girls are allowed, have a good relationship.

Every woman deserves to make their own choices in life. We should not judge nor interfere with something that, not only earns them a good living, but enjoy doing too. I have seen the environment at the club, and it is like one big family. They show tremendous respect to one another, and as a customer, it makes it better because they show more enthusiasm, professionalism and general happiness.

I implore you, before making any decision, to speak directly with these girls and staff. Base your decision on their opinions, on their stories and reasoning. Please do not succumb to outside pressure without speaking with every single person you may be putting out of a job.

Yours sincerely,

S46

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 09 May 2019 23:36

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

My name is

I am a waitress at Spearmint rhino; I love my job it's like a family the staff are extremely friendly and easy going, my hours are extremely flexible which enables me to get on with my other responsibilities throughout the week I really enjoy working here!

I do wish for my data to remain private and confidential

Thank you

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rihno support letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 00:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rihno support letter

To whom it may concern,

My name is xxxxxx and I work as a floor host at Spearmint Rihno.

I am currently a full time student and I am more than greatfull that I am able to work in a place with flexible hours, allowing me to attend classes and fully focus on my studies. As you may understand, that can be difficult.

The work environment is safe and friendly and the management is making sure everyone is happy. My job requires minimal effort and in the same time I have a very good wage.

We have a wonderdull team and great people depend on this job.

I wish for all my details to be private and confidential

Regards,

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 02:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

Hi , my name is xxxxxx , i am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino for a year now and i love working here , the staff / managment is very professional and that is very important for me . I began here as a dancer and everyone was really helpful and understanding.

Please keep my information private !

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

From:**Sent:** 10 May 2019 11:02**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

To whom it may concern,

I ask that you treat this letter as an honest rendition from someone who offers a valuable insight into an industry that you and others may not understand or have pre-misconceptions about.

I have a Sister that works at Spearmint Rhino, working as a waitress. As a feminist and knowing that she works first hand with dancers, I completely reject the notion that dancers are exploited and need to be saved.

She works at the club, not because she under qualified for any other kind of work, but because she enjoys the flexible hours which give her the opportunity to balance work life with personal fulfillment.

I request that my personal information, and details are kept private and confidential

SUPPORT S50 WITHDRAWN

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Working at Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 10 May 2019 20:11
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: Working at Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

i am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino, i am a grown and responsible adult. I wouldn't put myself in a job where i feel in any shape or form I'm being put at any risk of any emotional manipulation, being abused or trafficked.

There over 50 clubs alone in London to work at, but i solely refuse to move around because working here feels like a big family. We are all respected , treated fairly and its just a all around safe and classy environment to work in.

Prior to working here i was a recruitment consultant, and now i am a qualified book keeper and i run my own online store that i started and funded by working here. The flexibility and hours of work allows me to run my business in the day time ,whilst i can still be at work at nights to make an additional income. Being inside our club, honestly on a normal night , you deal with men of all nationalities and a wide occupational background. The guys are always polite and a gentleman of course, talking to each individual is abit of therapy followed by a lap dance or just having a drink and making a friend.

Respectively,

I would like my details to be kept private and confidential, thank you.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: To whom it may concern**From:****Sent:** 13 May 2019 03:15**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** To whom it may concern

Sent from my iPhone

To whom it may concern,

I ask that you treat this letter as an honest rendition from someone who can offer you valuable insight into an industry you may not understand or have preconceptions about.

My name is

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino. I am neither trafficked nor abused. I am not striving to feed an addiction or a need to feel validated. It is not that I am under-qualified for any other line of work or even that I work here as a means to an end. I work here because I enjoy creating unique fantasy experiences for people who require my services, this ranges from entertainment to therapy. I work here because the flexible hours give me the opportunity to balance work life with personal fulfilment. I work here because the employees of the club provide me with a strong sense of community that is rare to find in so many workplaces.

Working at Spearmint Rhino I perform strip tease and pole dance for both men and women. Many people work here from dancers to bar staff, security and managers, even a toilet attendant. I think doing this would only force dancers and customers to go to other clubs in other cities thus taking away jobs and revenue from Sheffield's economy. Over the years staff, dancers and regular customers have build up a family like unit.

I feel very safe here, I work for myself and management and staff are very professional, I work my own hours and I even get walked to my car or waited on while I wait for a taxi.

I can see customers turning to alternative venues such as brothels where women are actually at risk of being exploited. There are a lot of brothels in Sheffield. Sheffield has more than in most other cities. The council should be trying to close at least some of those brothels, not a place where we as dancers feel safe and respected. This to me seems completely illogical.

I am also a feminist and I am not being exploited, I do not need to be saved. I thought that being a feminist you respect the rights of women everywhere. You say you fight for all those things so then I should have the right to do whatever I want with my body. This shouldn't be up to any council officials. If you are a feminist then you should be helping to empower us not stopping us from earning a living.

Unless you have or are willing to come and talk to dancers like myself where you can gain some insight into how we do our jobs then you cannot say things like we are being exploited or even that we are seen as sex objects. It will really help if you actually take the time to do some research.

I sincerely hope that the points I have outlined will help anyone with a negative opinion on Spearmint Rhino and see its value and necessity. Only by working together we will be able to ensure safeguarding for the citizens who depend on this establishment for more than just a living wage. It is our family, it is our home.

I wish for my personal details to be kept private and confidential, I do not wish for my name or any other details shared.

Dancer at Spearmint Rhino

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: To whom this may concern

From: Sent: 13 May 2019 03:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: To whom this may concern

To whom it may concern,
My name is

I would like to ask you to read my words very carefully as this letter can give you a better view of the industry. I work as a dancer because I want to and not because someone forces me to do so. I work as a dancer because I love it, I love to entertain. I work as a dancer because it gives me the flexibility that I need in my life. We dancers do not need to be saved.

I have worked for other clubs in the past few years and I must say that Spearmint Rhino is one of the safest and well managed clubs. The company offers adult entertainment in the form of striptease for all gender and nothing more. The management are very strict about enforcing the rules and if anyone tries to cross them can expect to lose their job on the spot.

Spearmint Rhino is a place where people go to celebrate, get relaxed, or even gain some confidence. There are many lonely people who find company here. Maybe it is not openly agreed but believe me when I say that the Club has an important place in the life of the community

. Once again the dancers are not exploited or sexualised. It would be better if the people who have concern about the club ask us the people they say they want to protect first.

They should be more concern about what this might do to some of us if we're unable to work in well run protected environment.

I never hear about them going into brothels doing these kind of things, they are more likely to be trafficked and forced to things they do not want to do, hypocrisy at work here I see.

I request that my personal information is kept private and not accessible to the public.

Spearmint Rhino dancer

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

From:
Sent: 12 May 2019 18:22
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

My name is [redacted] I am a waitress at the spearmint rhino . I love working here , the flexible hours and the competitive rate of pay suit my needs and work around my current job. All the girls (and gents) that I work with are friendly and as a relatively new member have made me feel so welcome and part of the family.

I wish for all of my details to remain private and confidential,

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject:

FW:

From:

Sent: 11 May 2019 17:02

To: licensingservice

Subject:

I am writing in regards to spearmint rhino on brown street, Sheffield.

I am a dancer here and have been for almost 15 years since I was 21 years old.

This club and my earnings have given me great opportunities to succeed in my own business. I still dance here as not only did it give me those opportunities It also became my social life with the girls becoming my close friends. I wanted to write this letter to support not only myself but also my colleagues.

Kind regards

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject:

FW:

From:**Sent:** 13 May 2019 09:03**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

To whom it may concern,

My name is _____ and I have danced for 9 years and spent the majority of that time at Spearmint Rhino in Bournemouth.

I am not here through any means of coercion or because I can't do anything else as a means to earn money, I am here solely out of choice. The reasons for that choice include the flexible hours it allows me, the chance to travel and do this job in different areas, the strong friendships I have made in the dancer community over the years and the steady and sometimes lucrative earnings.

I dance in a safe and controlled environment with strict rules that must be adhered to by both the dancers and the patrons. If strip clubs were forced to be closed I feel entertainment venues would go underground where these controlled environments wouldn't be adhered to and illegal brothels would be used more frequently. Is that a better alternative than light hearted fantasy adult entertainment?

The woman's groups that attempt to close these establishments have never reached out to us, the dancers, or attempted to ask us how we feel doing this job. They are attempting to take this choice away from us without giving us a voice.

I request that my personal information is kept private and not accessible to the public.

Spearmint Rhino dancer

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 11 May 2019 01:24**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

Hello, My name is _____ and I'm a full time DJ at Spearmint Rhino. I've been with the company for over 16 years and I've worked in several of the companies venues throughout the UK.

I have made a career playing music in a fun environment which I really enjoy. Unlike most DJ positions I'm employed full time which gives me security in my personal and working life. In my opinion the clubs are run in a professional manor where all staff and entertainers can easily express their views and opinions. I find the management very approachable and the old phrase 'the door is always open' definitely applies to our working environment. In the past the club has even helped me out with my Morgage application.

When working evenings and most weekends Its essential to have a good team spirit throughout the club and we are very fortunate to have that at Spearmint Rhino.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential.

Regards

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

From:
Sent: 12 May 2019 12:35
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

Dear sir/madam

I am a waitress at Spearmint Rhinos, I enjoy working at this club. It offers flexible hours and I really like the staff at the club. It is an enjoyable job and a very nice environment to work in.

Kind regards

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: spearmintrhino supporting letter

Sent: 10 May 2019 22:27
To: licensingservice
Subject: spearmintrhino supporting letter

to whom it may concern,

im a bartender at spearmintrhino. i enjoy working at spearmintrhino because Management are really nice and very considerate. i like working night time industry because it allows me to have active personal life. it's great to work with people i consider family now. i wish my data to remain private and confidential.

kind regards

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino uprooting Letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 22:14

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino uprooting Letter

To whom it may concern,

My name is _____ and I am a barman at Spearmint Rhino,

I enjoy working for the company because they are very supportive and professional, I am able to work flexible hours to suit my home life as well as pick up additional hours when needed.

We are a family here at SR and we all look out for the other staff as well as the dancers.

I have worked for the company for a number of years and the support that I have received has been unwavering.

The club is very well run by a team of managers that genuinely care about the staff and it shows.

The industry that I work in is fun and it allows me to meet new and interesting people on a nightly basis as well as working with a group of people that I consider to be great friends and colleagues.

working during the night time allows me to spend a larger amount of time with my family and bond with my children.

I wish for my data to be kept private and confidential.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support letter

From:
Sent: 10 May 2019 23:03
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino support letter

To whom it may concern

My name is [redacted] and I am working as entertainer in Spearmint Rhino. I am a single mother and this is the main reason that I am working as a dancer. It gives me the freedom I need to look after my son and I enjoy doing this job because I have more time for myself and my family. The club makes me feel very safe and secure and staff are really nice with the dancers. The management team is very flexible and understanding and they have been supportive every time I needed time off from work and helped me adapt in here. I wish that my details would stay private and confidential.

Kind regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 11 May 2019 20:56

To: licensingservice

Cc:

Subject: Spearmint Rhino support letter

Hi,
My name is _____ and I'm a waitress in Spearmint Rhino. I'm writing just to let you know that I'm happy to work here. The management and the staff is really nice and helpful. The hours are very flexible. Every day I can learn something new. The work environment is safe. I hope to work here as much as I can.

Kind regards,

Wysłano z aplikacji mobilnej Poczty o2

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support letter**From:****Sent:** 11 May 2019 20:05**To:** licensingservice;**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino support letter

To whom it may concern

I WISH FOR MY DETAILS TO REMAIN STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND NOT GIVEN TO ANY THIRD PARTIES.

I write to you today in regards to the recent events in our club brunch Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. My understanding is that your organisation has some sort of deluded beliefs about the girls being trafficked or manipulated in to working in Spearmint Rhino. I can categorically state that these statements are not true.

As a dancer that earns a respectable living at spearmint Rhino I have sent two of my family members through university and has managed to be on the property ladder under the age of 25 which many people find difficult given the current property market.

I would like to state that I am not being forced nor manipulated into writing this letter. I write simply because I find your statements a threat to my career as a dancer. I am a UK tax payer thanks to Spearmint Rhino and it's wonderful work environment. I would also like to state that as a self employed dancer at Spearmint Rhino my work is protect my Zurich Insurance and I find it disgusting that individual within your organisation would think that it's ok to take away work from tax paying UK residents I am appalled by this.

To conclude I would like to state the obvious that I like my job and I like working in Spearmint Rhino. We should be finding ways to lift each other up as women not putting each other down. I say this because I find it undermining that one would think a woman should not do a job that I do, the mentality of this is stupid and ignorant.

Yours
Faithfully

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spermint Rhino Support Letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 21:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spermint Rhino Support Letter

This letter to who may concern

Hi

I'm and Im working at Spermint Rhino Club as a Bar Supervisor
Im writing this letter to show mine support of Spermint Rhino.I found the team very supportive,
professional ,and helpful and is a joy to work with people like this.

I request mine data to be remain private and confidential

Regards

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Licencing Service
Block C
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD



RECEIVED By Post.
565 P1

A Copy of this letter has been sent to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sir or Madam

Support for the Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal 2019

As a Sheffield resident, voter and council tax payer, I wish to register my support for the **Sheffield Spearmint Rhino Club** licence renewal. I have visited the club a number of times and regard it as a very well run club providing a safe environment for both the dancers and customers.

City centres across the UK are dying as major retailers such as House of Frazer, British Home Stores, C&A, Woolworths, Maplin, Virgin Megastore/ Zaavi, Rumbelows and likely Debenhams have either withdrawn from the city centres or gone into receivership. Sheffield City Centre in recent years has managed to reinvent itself as a place for recreation and nightlife activity with restaurants, bars, clubs and cinema complexes etc. Although small groups of very vocal supposedly feminism supporting objectors may not like the idea of pole and lap dancing clubs they are a crucial part of the nightlife entertainment scene, and if Sheffield wants to compete with Manchester, Leeds, Nottingham and Birmingham it needs at least one if not more of these kind of clubs, that are well run by a world class brand. Please also consider whether the absence of any venues of this type in the city could have an impact on hosting sporting events such as the World Snooker Championships, darts and boxing events. It's ironic that the home of the world famous Full Monty should be considering closing the only strip club in the city.

Although there are protesters that will protest against anything that doesn't fit with their ideal and supposedly moral stance on life, society actually is much more tolerant of activities consenting adults partake in provided there are no victims. Attitudes to sexuality have changed in recent decades, such as the decriminalisation of homosexuality and the gradual changes in the laws to allow this section of society the same human rights as the rest of society. The continued targeting of workers in the sexual entertainment industry is likewise immoral. The actions recently undertaken by Zero Option Sheffield, secretly filming the women at work at a time when Upskirting legislation was being brought in, designed to protect women from unconsented photos of a personal or invasive nature, is abhorrent and now a criminal act. I note from media reports that this supposed evidence has not been provided. I ask you to consider the credibility of the former police officers who are prepared to commit a criminal act of secretly recording naked videos of women without their consent. As a due diligence point I would also make sure these former police officers left the police force of their own choosing. When research or investigations are paid for by a group with an agenda it is rarely an impartial unbiased conclusion, particularly when they are prepared to break the law in an attempt to obtain evidence of these unsubstantiated allegations. I can categorically say that on the numerous occasions I have visited the club I have never been offered a sex act.

After last year's successful licence renewal the moral objectors tried to argue that the club had had a negative effect on the area. The immediate vicinity is office complexes which operate at completely

different hours to the club and are locked up and deserted by the time the club opens. The club takes down all the signage during the day so the building is innocuous to the most easily offended. On my visits to the club I have never seen any men hanging around outside, other than club security which enhances safety in the area not decreases it. Contrast this with any other type of alcohol licenced establishment where you will often find some form of antisocial behaviour. I have seen antisocial behaviour at the Odeon cinema, on public buses, in shops, etc but have never seen any at Spearmint Rhino.

I also ask the committee to consider the online poles that have taken place that reflect whether the public want the Spearmint Rhino licence to be renewed. The petition on Shefnews calling for the club to be closed was rejected by 92% voting against the club having it's licence revoked.

If you are going to licence sexual entertainment venues, I would also ask you to consider whether a no physical contact rule between consenting adults is really an appropriate rule for a lap dancing venue to have to abide by. Removing this restriction would remove one of the alleged objections of those who just want all venues of this kind closed.

In summary I ask the licencing committee to uphold the human rights of the workers at the club and renew the license at this respected well run establishment. Closing the club is likely to push the workers and customers into unregulated, unsafe environments.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David".

David from Sheffield

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: spearmint rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 11 May 2019 19:20

To: licensingservice

Subject: spearmint rhino support letter

Hello my name is _____ and I work as receptionist at Spearmint Rhino. I am very pleased with this job because it's offer a flexible schedule I can work even only 2 days which is very good for me because I get kids to look after.

I want that my data to be kept private and confidential

Best regards!

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Support Letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 23:02

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Support Letter

To whom it may concern;

My name is _____ and I work as a waitress at Spearmint Rhino. In no way shape or form have I been forced or co-erced into working here. In fact I love my job and it's the most fun and safe environment that I've ever worked in. Alongside pursuing my other career, this job has really allowed me to do so, as the managers at Spearmint Rhino have been extremely supportive of me and the hours that I work, keeping my schedule with them very flexible.

I wish that my data be kept private and confidential. Thank you.

Regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 22:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

My name is

I'm a Door supervisor at Spearmintrhino

I enjoy working here the hours are very flexible

It's a very professional working environment

Rates of pay is good

The management team is very diligent

The time I've been working here is great experience and look forward for a long future with the company

I wish for my personal information to remain private and confidential

Regards

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Support Letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 21:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Support Letter

My Name is _____ and I am a trainee manager at Spearmint Rhino, I have found this company to be an extremely supportive company in both my personal development as well as professional advancement.

The support that I have personally received has been from the director down to shift manager and all of the staff.

I am able to learn from an experienced team that are happy to offer me guidance and support with the correct methods in carrying out my daily duties, they have also shown me a route forwards with career advancement opportunities and guidance as to how to achieve my goals.

In my experience the club is a friendly and supportive environment and allows people to advance at their own rate as well as push you to reach your true potential.

The team here is extremely close knit and we all work to ensure that the team is both happy and respected.

--

Kind Regards

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

From:
Sent: 10 May 2019 21:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

Hi my name is I am currently working for Spearmint Rhino as a cloak room attendant and now they are training me to become a bartender, this is for me a great opportunity to be advanced within the company and earn better! I do really enjoy working at spearmint rhino all the Rhino team is amazing from management ,staff and entertainers,I love being here is a great experience for me and I really hope you will consider my email because being a family guy I will struggle without this job and without the time which this work place is giving me by letting to pick up my own shifts
I wish that my data to remain protected and not shared with anyone else

Best regards !!!

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 20:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino support letter

Hi there my name is _____ and I am a bar tender at Spearmint Rhino.
I have been working in the company for about 9 years now. It is my privilege to work in this environment because most of the team is easy to work with and they look after each other in terms working hours. I enjoy interacting with the customers and the team usually helps me to work suitable with my needs. I wish all my details to remain private and confidential .

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: spearmint rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 10 May 2019 19:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: spearmint rhino support letter

my name is i am a door supervisor at **Spearmint Rhino**,
I enjoy working at spearmint rhino because the shifts are very flexible and the team here are very professional and engaging.
If I have any issues then the management are quick to help and issues are always quickly resolved.

i wish for my data to remain private and confidential

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Anonymous Letter

From:
Sent: 12 May 2019 09:17
To: McConaghy Julianne
Subject: Re: Anonymous Letter

Hello,

I would like to clarify from my original email that I am supporting the application and the incident I am referring to are the actions taken by 'Zero Option' objectors ie. undercover filming.

I hope that helps and if you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks

Sent from my iPad

On 10 May 2019, at 09:37, McConaghy Julianne <Julianne.McConaghy@sheffield.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning

Many thanks for your email. Please can you clarify as it is not clear from your email as to whether this is either support or objection with regard to the renewal application for Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield or a comment about recent incidents and not to do with the renewal application.

Many thanks.

Julianne

Julianne McConaghy
Licensing Analyst & Processing Officer

From:
Sent: 09 May 2019 22:12
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Anonymous Letter

Apologies, please note I mean refer to Sheffield Spearmint Rhino not Leicester in my below email.

Sent from my iPhone

On 9 May 2019, at 21:48,

As I write this email I would like my information to remain anonymous.

I write to address to the recent incidents that have been taking place in the spearmint rhino branch in Leicester.

I am a dancer at Birmingham Spearmint Rhino and choose to work at this particular club due to the safe environment that is provided. The management and other girls who work here are all pleasant and abide by the house rules.

I choose this profession as it is flexible and easy to have a work life balance. The management work well with all girls who are employed here and provide support and guidance when necessary.

Many thanks

Spearmint Rhino Birmingham dancer

Sent from my iPhone

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S 74

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support letter

From:]

Sent: 14 May 2019 20:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino support letter

Good day,

My name is xxxxxx xxxxxxxx and I am an entertainer at Spearmint Rhino. I am addressing this letter to you to inform you that I like working as an entertainer for many reasons, one of them is being able to choose my shift and be able to study in the same time. I like that freedom and I like the fact that I am like my own boss, but within the clubs regulations, which are really ok, I feel really safe and I am working in a very friendly environment. This is for me a very important thing and it makes me really happy and positive. I don't see working as an entertainer a bad thing especially in Rhino. The staff are very professional and nothing bad has ever happened there since I have been working there.

I am not forced to work as an entertainer, I choose this as my job because I like it and it gives me many positive feedbacks.

I want that my data to remain private and confidential for personal reasons.

Best regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Letter from dancer at Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 15 May 2019 09:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Letter from dancer at Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino, I ask that you regard this letter a true representation of an employee. Over my 3+ years of dancing in this industry, I choose to work here for many reasons. Predominantly, due to the positive work environment that the club provides, the enjoyment of providing an expressive and empowering form of entertainment for customers; who benefit from the entertainment, and many of which are friends, who also enjoy coming to the venue to socialise. Secondly, the flexible shifts, and thirdly the way that Spearmint Rhino management work with their employees in a highly respectable and professional manner, whilst making it a pleasure to be part of the Spearmint rhino community.

I have chosen this line of work, after voluntarily leaving my previous highly qualified job in the forces, as it enables me to have the financial freedom to look after my child and provide for the family whilst maintaining a healthy work/life balance. I have full respect for my body, morals and values and I'm able to work happily whilst still maintaining these as I feel that pole dancing is truly an art form.

I am in every way working by choice and I have not been subject to trafficking or coerced to work by any means. For many centuries women's lobbies have fought for the women's movement for freedom of choice and I myself and many others will feel extremely let down if our workplace and the club's SEV licence renewal is in jeopardy. It shocks me to hear of the lack of support and true understanding of these groups targeting the Spearmint Rhino club.

For the council to take such a one sided view on this would therefore take away my freedom of choice and it will infringe upon our legal rights to work in a venue which now feels like a second home, it is a fun, safe and controlled environment.

The idea that the council and licensing service is considering closing the premises has left me feeling very vulnerable from an employment perspective and disempowered. Where's the sense in that?

I do not feel it is necessary and justifiable to close down any Spearmint Rhino club as it could also mean that the management, bar staff, security, DJ and everyone involved will loose their jobs.

I look forward to hearing how these issues get resolved and how this has helped many employees continue to enjoy working at Spearmint Rhino.

Dancer at spearmint rhino.

I request that my personal information to be kept private and not for public use.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: To whom this may concern**From:****Sent:** 16 May 2019 01:16**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** To whom this may concern

My name is xxxxxx xxxx and I have been working in this industry for over 12 years now, I started as a member of the security team then worked my way up.

I noticed that this company was at the forefront for of progressing people from within no matter who you are, anyone from security to bar staff or even dancers themselves could progress up the ladder and all the way to management.

This is why I know for sure that I can say that this is one of the best companies I have ever worked for, everyone here is treated like a valued employee or entertainer whichever one you may be.

When customers visit us they often return time and again, some even become regular customers because they like how well the establishment is run.

The dancers alike also like working here even though they are self employed and can go where ever they want, they like the relax atmosphere, the fact that their safety is our no 1 priority and that they literally can come and go as they please.

I don't understand why these so call feminist groups are saying that we've got girls here through means of coercion or because they can't do anything else as a means to earn money, these girls are here out of choice, their choice and no one else. The reasons for their choice includes the flexible hours it allows them, the chance to travel and do this job in different areas, the strong friendships they often make in the dancer community over the years and the steady and sometimes lucrative earnings.

In all my 12 years working in this industry I'm yet to see anyone from any of these women's groups who are attempting to close these establishments reach out to a dancer and anyway shape or form. Basically they want to take the choice away from all dancers without giving them a voice.

I fear that customers may even turn to alternative illegal venues such as brothels where women are actually at risk of being exploited. Sheffield has more brothels per square mile than any other city, yet the council seems far more concerned with destroying the only safe haven it has for dancers and customers, this seems completely nonsensical.

I sincerely hope that the points I have outlined will help anyone with a negative opinion in Spearminth Rhino see its value and necessity. Only by working together will we be able to ensure safeguarding for the citizens who depend on this establishment for more than just a living wage. It is our family, it is our home.

I wish for my personal details to be kept private and confidential, I do not wish for my name or any other details shared.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: To whom it may concern

From:**Sent:** 16 May 2019 02:37**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** To whom it may concern

To whom it may concern,

My name is xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx and I have been working in this industry for about 3 years now as a DJ. I know that I am valued here because the management always look after me and I also know that I am not limited to just being a DJ here although this is my choice.

I am always having fun while working and that is one of the main reasons why I like working here.

The next reason is how much of a family like unit we all are here. Customers and dancers alike, over the years I've been seeing the same faces which says to me that they like coming here and why would they not want to?

If these feminist groups are fighting for the rights of these women then why are they harassing them in their work places, working hard to make sure they're not able to do what they want as women who are empowered already?

Most of my colleges will agree that brothels are bad for communities around the country yet there are so many in our towns and cities and nothing gets done about them.

In all my 3 years working in this industry I have never seen anyone from any of these women's groups who are attempting to close these establishments reach out to a dancer and anyway shape or form.

Basically they want to take the choice away from all dancers without giving them a voice. I sincerely hope that the points I have outlined will help anyone with a negative opinion in Spearmint Rhino see its value and necessity.

Only by working together will we be able to ensure safeguarding for the citizens who depend on this establishment for more than just a living wage. It is our family, it is our home.

. I wish for my personal details to be kept private and confidential, I do not wish for my name or any other details shared.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: To whom it may concern

From:**Sent:** 16 May 2019 02:37**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** To whom it may concern

To whom it may concern,

My name is xxxxxx xxxx and I have been working in this industry for about 10 years now as a barman and although I cannot decide whether I want to progress to better things I know that I can. This company is well known for allowing you to reach your fullest potential.

Girls come and go but most of the girls who come to work here seems to be happy just working here, they know they have the freedom to working anywhere in the country but they love it here, girls here feel valued, protected and like family really or at least that's what they tell me.

If these feminist groups are truly fighting for the rights of these women then why are they harassing them in their work places and working hard to make sure they're not able to do what they want as women who are empowered already?

Most of my colleges will agree that brothels are bad for communities around the country yet there are so many in our towns and cities and nothing gets done about them.

In all my 3 years working in this industry I have never seen anyone from any of these women's groups who are attempting to close these establishments reach out to a dancer and anyway shape or form. Basically they want to take the choice away from all dancers without giving them a voice.

I sincerely hope that the points I have outlined will help anyone with a negative opinion in Spearmint Rhino see its value and necessity. Only by working together will we be able to ensure safeguarding for the citizens who depend on this establishment for more than just a living wage. It is our family, it is our home.

I wish for my personal details to be kept private and confidential, I do not wish for my name or any other details shared.

S 79

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Dancer at Sheffield

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 02:38

To: licensingservice

Subject: Dancer at Sheffield

I would like to ask you to read my words very carefully as this letter can give you a better view of the industry. I work as a dancer because I want you not because someone force me to. I work as a dancer because I love it, I love to entertain. I work as a dancer because it gives me the flexibility that I need in my life . We dancers do not need to be saved .

I have worked for the others clubs in the past few years and I must say that Spermint Rino is one of the safest and well managed clubs. The company offers entertainment in the form of striptease for all gender and nothing more. The management are very strict about enforcing the rules and if anyone tries to cross them can aspect to lose their job on the spot.

Once again the dancers are not exploited sexually .

I request that my personal information is kept privat and not accessible to the public.

Kind regards

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 12:50

To: licensingservice

Subject:

To whom it may concern,

My name is xxxxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxx.

I have worked in the gentleman's club industry for 12 years, this is my personal choice and I am very happy with how I am treated, my safety and the working conditions I am provided.

If they're fight for my right then why are they harassing us in our work places, working hard to make sure we're not able to do what we want as women who are empowered already?

Most of my colleges will agree that brothels are bad communities around the country yet there are so many in our towns and cities and nothing gets done about them.

I request that my personal information is kept private and not accessible to the public.

Spearmint Rhino dancer.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 14:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:
Sent: 16 May 2019 14:38
To: licensingservice; licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work

further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Work is Work - Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:
Sent: 16 May 2019 20:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: Work is Work - Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,
I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhinos

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 21:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhinos

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women

upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,
Sent from my iPad

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support letter

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 21:53

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino support letter

Hi my name is ~~xxxxxx~~ and I am an entertainer in Spearmint Rhino. I am writing this email to let you know that I really enjoy working as a dancer. It allows me to afford to be able to learn more and do courses to further my knowledge. It has given me the opportunity to progress as a person outside of the club. I also enjoy dancing and for me it is my exercise. The management here always support me in everything I do, which is one of the reasons I enjoy working here and have stayed here for so long.

I wish for my data to be protected and my details to be confidential.

Yours sincerely.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino support letter

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 16 May 2019 22:18

To: licensingservice

Cc:

Subject: Spearmint rhino support letter

This is a letter to confirm I am happy working for spearmint rhino I have been here many years and enjoy coming into work I like the flexibility of the hours which enables me to spend time with my children, I get on with all the management and feel safe working in this environment.

I would like my data to stay confidential

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 08:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: In Defence of My Friend xxxxxxx

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 10:53

To: licensingservice

Subject: In Defence of My Friend xxxxxxx

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a student of the University of Sheffield and someone who's whole family comes from the city I am in favour of the SEV license renewal. To illustrate why I am so strongly in favour I would like to tell you about my friend xxxxxxx:

I had the pleasure of meeting xxxxxxx while we were studying together at the University of Sheffield and would consider her to be a close friend. Upon graduating, both xxxxxxx and I have decided to pursue further study, xxxxxxx is currently studying for a master's degree while I am studying for a PhD. I have been lucky in that my PhD comes with funding but for xxxxxxx, like several thousands of young people pursuing Masters degrees in the UK she has very little funding and as such money is a constant worry. You can only imagine how delighted I was then, to hear that xxxxxxx had found a job which can fit around the hours of her study, pays remarkably well for part-time work and makes her feel both happy and confident. Since working at the club there has been notable positive changes in xxxxxxx personality, having had the constant burden worrying about money lifted slightly she has been able to enjoy a more full social life and can afford to live by herself, a factor that for someone who undergoes bouts of illness is incredibly important. Her outward confidence has also increased, and she carries herself with a new-found pride I previously hadn't seen. Also she has a group of work colleagues that she feels real connection with and sees as a close-knit family.

How utterly and deeply saddening then it is to hear then that after finally finding a job which seemed so perfect for her, that xxxxxxx may have all of this pulled from under her feet in the name of liberation. In a place where due to her friends, and security staff xxxxxxx used to feel safe she now faces the prospect that she and her colleagues have been filmed without her consent. How anyone could possibly think that by ending my friend's job, causing her an unprecedented amount of stress and damaging the safety of her workplace, that they are helping her, is beyond me. It is not an act of equality to make someone jobless, moneyless and potentially given the financial burden for some members of staff, homeless. xxxxxxx chooses to have the career that she has, she chooses to use that money to study a subject that she loves and to live in a place where she feels happy and safe. Trying to take this from her can only be described as cruel.

If only the people 'rescuing' my friend could see the pain which they are putting her through so that they could change their minds.

Best Regards

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

-----Original Message-----

From: Sent: 17 May 2019 11:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

I'm really struggling with the vigor being put into this attempt to close this club,when there are numerous saunas selling sex minutes away from this venue,I go in the rhino a couple of times a year with my wife,nice venue nice people professionally run. Go to the paradise venue and look at the line of taxis waiting outside,until the early hours .. Offering discounts on a Sunday... Respect the women's choice to work in a nice venue like the rhino and sort the brothels.

Sent from my iPad

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino licensing

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 12:31

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino licensing

My name is xxxxxx I am married to the DJ at spearmint rhinos Sheffield, I met my husband there around 8 years ago and was a dancer there for around 2 years... while working there it funded my first ever house and helped me pay my bills.. whilst working at spearmint rhinos I felt in a very safe environment, I met some great girls there who have come to be great friends, if we had any concerns or needed to talk to someone the managers/ girls were always there to help and support me. My husband has worked for spearmint rhinos from the day it opened and it's funded our family for 8 years we have 2 Children now and if spearmint rhinos was to close financially we would be broken as my job wouldn't even pay our rent, we would really struggle to meet the basic needs without spearmint rhinos, whilst I no longer work for spearmint rhinos as I look after my children at night from my personal experience, it's a safe, well managed place where girls can work safely and earn their living.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: support letter for spearmint rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 14:12

To: licensingservice

Subject: support letter for spearmint rhino Sheffield

I have worked at Spearmint for a number of years on and off. this is a place where I have always felt happy to work and comfortable. It works well around my personal commitments and has funded me through courses to be able to set up my own business.

I owe alot to the club and the support I get there to keep me going to do the things I want in life.

This places helps keep a roof over peoples heads and after working at a number of different clubs I can honestly say it's the top one where the girls are safe and well cared for. They have a top management structure and bringing in a female manager was a great thing to do. She supports us in and out or work with whatever we may need. I can think of a better place to be.

Please take in to account how the club helps keep so many people off the bread line and in a safe working environment.

Thank you

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:**
Sent: 17 May 2019 17:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in defence of Spearmint Rhino Club. I think to close this establishment on the basis of exploitation or mistreatment of the female workers is a huge error. I personally know one of the workers and know from them on a personal level that the club provides safe, flexible working within a job that could easily be less safe were it in a different space. The community that exists between the women, as well as the administration from the club itself means they can feel safe and secure in their job, a job they have chosen on their own terms. Many of the women rely on the job for their livelihood, I'm sure without this job many would be unable to earn money in a way that suits them/at all.

For the accusing group to claim their stance comes from a place of concern and of feminism is to make a mockery of what feminism and concern for the workers is. Illegally filming workers in a job role that could easily threaten their financial security and social life is not in their best interests. And to claim their actions are on the behalf of the workers without having actually considered discussing the issue with the workers is completely irresponsible and suggests this group believes they know better than the women with actual experience at Spearmint Rhino, which is ludicrous.

Overall, what needs to happen is for this group to stop using a wilful ignorance of the situation and industry to justify closing an establishment which has been vital for many women, and for them to be punished for the illegal and completely inappropriate filming that has occurred. As a feminist and human being, the actions of this group against Spearmint Rhino and its workers has disgusted me. I feel I must emphasise my negative feelings around this and stand in solidarity with the women working at Spearmint Rhino who simply want to do their job without feeling under the threat of filming or unemployment due to the actions of a so-called "feminist" group.

Sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Support letter for Spearmint Rhinos**From:****Sent:** 17 May 2019 19:06**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Support letter for Spearmint Rhinos

To Whom it may concern,

I have worked at Spearmint Rhinos for nearly 11 years now I started here behind the bar to get me out of a relationship that wasn't good for me or my children, This wasn't meant to be a permanent job at all it was just to get me out of a bad patch without claiming benefits, It worked well for me whilst my children slept I worked so I didn't miss the first day at school and all the school trips and nursery visits, at that point I was a young newly single parent to 2 young boys aged 1 and 5.

After time working here I realised what a great place it was to work how nice it was to work with a group of women that didn't bitch about each other but we actually friends and there for each other. I found my manager at the time very accommodating to my situation, I had to take time off due do a domestic violence issue which they allowed and didn't question. After being here for around 3 years (this was only meant to be a 6month job) I became bar supervisor which I enjoyed I have run a bar before having children so it was something I knew I could do. I also moved down to work on the reception given more responsibility and been the first person to greet new and old customers. I loved my job.

I then met my now husband who wanted me to try and get a day job so we could have our weekends together, I got a day job full time as my kids were both now in full time education, but unfortunately the wage I was given wasn't near enough for me to pay my full rent and look after 2 children on my own, so I had to keep my weekend job on here at Rhinos. It was much easier to do because I loved the job I was doing I loved the girls the door staff management the Dj even down to our regular customers that had been attending as long as I had been working here which had been around 6 years. The important part of this is that Rhino helped keep a roof over my head and food on the table for my children.

And now to the present day, I was in my full time day job for 5 years I was promoted to do the recruitment for them however I hated it, I hated the way I was treated the unrealistic expectations, how I was spoken to and it made me really quite ill I ended up on medication. At this point I knew I had to leave and I couldn't remain in the job as it was affecting my home life and me mental health. I was then offered the assistant manager's position here and it was a shock but it was also something that I knew I could do but also something that I needed to do, it came at the best time for me. I have never been happier in this job, which has made home life better and my mental health is evidently better, yeah I might be a little tired at times but hey aren't we all after a days work?

I am now working full time with a bunch of amazing people that make me happy to come to work. The girls that we have working for us come and go as they choose but it's always nice to see an old girl come

back, I have got really good customer relationships with regular customers that comment on how much they enjoy coming to this club some of which have travelled all over the world to different clubs like this and comment at how nice the girl/ doorstaff / barstaff and management are. I know you the council know that the girls choose to work here and no one holds them against their will. I am really appalled at how the girls here are been portrayed and how people are pushing for them to lose working in a club where they feel safe and well looked after all because some women don't agree with the job they do.

It would be a crying shame to have this club which is up there with one of the friendliest clubs in the industry where customers and girls alike feel safe, We have people such as myself and the dj who have families that we support and without this job it would send us in to financial poverty and in turn could lead us to lose our homes not be able to feed our children, The girls could very well end up working somewhere underground far less safe forced to work in god awful conditions and possibly be abused.

In the time I have worked here I have seen girls become nurses solicitors social workers, I have seen girls buy their first property and move on to buying a second at a young age, I have seen weddings paid for, nice holidays, Children having a fantastic upbringing holidays of a lifetime from their mums working here to pay for their children, The girls learn about how to do their own taxes and learn how to manage their money, it really does teach them life skills most other jobs don't.

This is our home we are a great big family unit we aren't perfect but we are perfect in working together. It really would ruin so many people's lives this club not been here. Including customers, we have regular customers that come here as they struggle to speak with women in a cafe or a bar down town it gives them confidence and makes them feel 100 times better about themselves and these customers don't even pay for dances they just come in for a chat and to have a bit of female company. The girls here have helped save marriages whether its husbands needing to talk to someone or coming here instead of cheating on their wives, or even couples coming in here together to try and spice up their relationship.

We aren't the god awful place that people think we are. I look after the girls here like they are my friends my phone in on for them 24 hours a day home life or work life I am here for them. I'm not a 'pimp in a suit' I'd like to think of myself as a person that any of the staff could come and talk to but also to ensure the girls here that I will always have their back and make sure they are safe.

Kind regards

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 17 May 2019 22:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

To whom it may concern.

I would like to show my support for the licence being granted for spearmint rhino in Sheffield. I, myself, worked there for several years and I must, hand on heart, say that I always felt safe, looked after and most of all, happy. I, and all my colleagues were all there out of choice and were by no means degraded or there by force.

The club offers many people a safe and secure place to work which fits around parenting, studying and other careers while being fun, flexible and with a wonderfully supportive "work family". I feel it would be a tragedy for Sheffield to lose such a welcoming, judgement free and social business.

I hope that you consider the views of the people who actually know the club and access all the things that it has to offer above those who just have an indirect abstract view of what they believe happens behind the doors.

Sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Please support the striptease industry.

From:

Sent: 18 May 2019 02:58

To: licensingservice

Subject: Please support the striptease industry.

To whom it may concern, please find attached my anonymous letter of support to spearmint rhino Sheffield and other clubs in the striptease industry.

I would appreciate it if you would take the time to read this letter. As a fairly new dancer i feel i provide a fresh insight into the every-growing industry.

thanks again!

To whom it may concern.

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Leicester. I have worked in spearmint rhino Leicester and other clubs all over the country for over a year, predominantly 6 days a week.

As a young dancer, fairly new to the industry I can say with confidence that i never feel exploited or forced to work as a dancer. I do this job because I like to entertain and create a fantasy for customers that require this service.

I left my full time job to dance at spearmint rhino Leicester. This job gives me freedom to travel, and flexibility to work the hours I wish. Many of the girls here are business owners and feminists alike.

Please treat this short letter as a token of my support for other entertainers and other venues in the striptease industry.

Please appreciate I do wish to remain anonymous.

xxxxxxx, dancer at spearmint rhino Leicester.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: SEV License Renewal**From:****Sent:** 18 May 2019 14:39**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** SEV License Renewal

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: My support

From:

Sent: 18 May 2019 15:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: My support

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a regular visitor of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhinos license

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 18 May 2019 16:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhinos license

Hi license department

Plus allow this anonymous letter as support to renew license for Spearmint rhino.

It's a very classy. No contact establishment.

If this places loses its license I'd personally like to know how you allow all the following which are disgusting in Sheffield? Where you can actually have Sexual Intercourse with girls working at these places for less than £40 for 15mins.

- La Shambre
- OMG Massage Parlour
- Paradise
- City Sauna

Yes I've been in them all as I couldn't believe they existed and your trying to close Rhinos it's NUTS!!

Anyways back to Rhinos. All the girls working these are beautiful and Intelligent girls just trying to make a good living to better their life. There is a strict no touching policy and anyone who breaks that rule is asked to leave.

Must say I've been in there a number of times while around Sheffield area and never seen any trouble. Have seen many celebs in there tho. I won't say who to protect them

To conclude. Please renew Spearmint Rhino license in order to keep around 30 people in employment and to keep them safe from places I mentioned above.

Thanks

Mr Anonymous

(Sent on behalf of a friend who wants to remain fully anonymous)

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino club

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 18 May 2019 19:59

To: licensingservice

Subject: Fwd: Spearmint Rhino club

> Dear Sir/madam

>

> I am writing to support Spearmint Rhino Strip Club in Sheffield.

>

> This establishment has been home at time for my self and my colleagues who have worked night shifts and wanted somewhere to go after work to wind down and have a relaxing drink in a lovely environment.

> The staff their are absolutely fantastic the bar staff the bouncers, management and more than anything the dancers.

>

> These ladies work hard to earn a living it's certainly not easy money by any means.

> However this place is a safe very well managed establishment.

>

> The rules are very clear and the management is very strict.

> Under no circumstances ever have i whitenessed any unlawful act go on under that roof or even heard talk of it from any of my friends which are both male and female.

> I personally have been going in the venue for over 10 years.

> This would be a terrible shame for the club to lose their licence to what i truly believe to be lies.

>

> I can only imagine what anxiety this has caused to all who work their employed and self employed. Having your work place up at a risk of closing for no right reason must be absolutely heart breaking and having to live with the uncertainty of this is dreadful.

>

> These people work hard to entertain others and to earn an honest living.

>

> Some of these ladies have children, bills to pay university fees etc and have funded their way through life doing a job they love with passion and dedication.

>

> This would cause more damage losing the licence than keeping it massively.

> Unemployment, cut backs uni fees unpaid, people falling behind on bills the list is endless.

> I am strongly asking you to take all this in to consideration and re new this clubs licence.

>

> Thank you so much for reading my email.

>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 06:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sirs/Madams

I am writing to express my support of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and the renewal of its SEV license by Sheffield City Council Licensing Committee. I write as a Sheffield resident and as a father of one of its dancers / employees.

I believe that the failure to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino will first and foremost remove employment opportunities from Sheffield residents, valuable employment in a city hit hard by austerity. From management, security professionals, catering and bar staff, and the dancers. These are Sheffield people with Sheffield families to support, living in Sheffield homes paying Sheffield rents and mortgages. More specifically the dancers themselves, women of diverse backgrounds able to earn decent and stable wages in a secure and flexible environment who possibly would not have the same opportunities elsewhere.

The location of Spearmint Rhino is in a discreet and unobtrusive part of the city, and yet generates valuable income for the local economy. And money earned in the local economy is spent in the local economy. We must not fail to remember the wider impact and benefits of Spearmint Rhino.

I appreciate certain moral objections some people may have regarding venues such as SR, but that is a matter of debate only. The decision to renew the SEV or not should be influenced by these otherwise SEV s would not exist.

From a very personal point of view, my daughter's employment at SR has been nothing but positive. I have seen her confidence soar, and the

club and its management have helped her develop into a self assured and self reliant young woman.

On a less positive note, I would like to express my objections to the tactics used by the media to smear the reputation of the club and its staff. Under cover and covert filming in establishments with an SEV license is not acceptable at all. Any policing of such a venue should only be undertaken by the authorities to protect the privacy of the clubs staff and clients.

In summary, I urge the licensing committee to consider the positive contribution SR brings to Sheffield , especially the opportunities it provides to the women who work there. Opportunities which I believe are in short supply and would be missed.

With much thanks in anticipation

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 10:44

To: licensingservice

Subject:

My Name is xxxxx xxxxxxxxxxxx. I'm a friend of xxxxx who used to work at spearmint rhino. I support xxxxx because I've never heard anything negative about her experience working there Just positive things about how she earned good money and it was very flexibale hours, It is a really popular club that deserves to stay open due to its success over the years. I know that xxxxx enjoyed her work because she always felt respected and found it very fun to work at. I really support keeping this club open as it's a job where people really like working and can support there family or univercity fêes or simply just earn some extra cash. I know all the dancers and managers have worked really hard to keep the business going And I know it would effect many people mentally and financially and put them into difficult situations. Thank you for your time reading this letter.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 12:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to give my full support of the Spearmint Rhino club licence being renewed.

I believe it not only gives the employees a safe space to practice their jobs but also gives them the freedom to choose how they celebrate their bodies.

Thanks,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 15:25

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

Dear sir/madam

I am writing to you, to express my views on the so called feminist groups, whom quite clearly (and quoted) " want the industry abolished".

I am actually a qualified psychotherapist . I am a single mother to a disabled child. I am also very proudly a dancer of nearly 20 years.

I have been with the spearmint rhino family for nearly 10 years. The predominate reason I work there, is to provide my child a private education. . However I adore my job. My managers are fantastic , we are in a safe environment and I feel like my colleagues are family.

I am appalled by what I have read by the feminist groups against us. They have made serveral misconceptions that as a professional psychotherapist worry me. I Have never taken drugs! I pay my tax! And I am most certainly not exploited .

Please consider this letter as private , and please consider the implications of the loss of jobs in our industry in this false persecution by these groups continues .

Yours sincerely

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino: Sheffield

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 15:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino: Sheffield

To whom this may apply,

I am hereby sending my support as a valued and frequent patron of spearmint rhino. I have read the news of campaigners calling for you to revoke the licence of the club.

The ladies and staff have never been anything other than professional. I thoroughly enjoy my time spent here. I wish to ask you to carefully consider the revoking as a loss will be of much disappointment to myself, their staff and other people visiting the city of Sheffield and it's night life.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: letter of support for spearmint.docx

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 19 May 2019 17:39

To: licensingservice

Subject: letter of support for spearmint.docx

Hi

I have attached a letter of support for spearmint rhino Sheffield as one of the dancers. I wish to remain anonymous please.

It is with a great fervour and sincerity that I write this letter of support for Spearmint Rhino, a company that has taken care of me for almost 4 years. I started working for Spearmint Rhino in the first year of my undergraduate study and continued throughout my Master's degree. Without this occupation, I would not have been able to complete my master's. Sex work is legal and will continue regardless of dissent, and this is the reality that has been painted by history numerous times. The benefit of having clubs like Spearmint Rhino is that the employees of the sex work industry have a safe place to practice their business and support themselves without risk of harm. It is anti-feminist to strip away a female's choice to work in a safe, controlled environment. Many faux-feminists have the deluded idea that strip clubs are degrading to women because it is 'solely aimed at men' and is reflective of patriarchal control. This is a subjective ideological dogmatism that bears no objective truth. Sex work provides a natural exercise of the sexual behaviour of the human psyche and there are couples, parties of women and of men that attend strip clubs. The issue that people in opposition of this type of work are attempting to raise is one of personal preference, which has no place in action against a community of people and the freedom exercised therein. Another argument the feminists have is that 'stripping is exploiting women by using their bodies as commodities and are being coerced by men to strip for money to pay for their family'. This argument is extremely ignorant. Firstly, the term exploit is to 'make full use of and derive benefit from a resource' which is what any good organisation or company achieves in order to benefit from their services.

However, the term coercing - 'persuading an unwilling person to do something by using the force of threats' - does not apply to any regulated strip club like Spearmint Rhino. Maybe in the 1990s, when women would be forced to become street prostitutes by abusive pimps, but it is now 2019 and we are not prostitutes! Stripping has improved every girl's confidence and the idea that we are 'objectified' because the clients do not care about our personalities and view us as only objects does not create an intrinsic nor an objective issue. To exemplify this, a service provided by a postman does not hold an expectation that your post will be handed over with a longing stare and profound interest in your life. It is a business and should be run as such. Exotic dancing is a form of dance, fantasy, and art. Exotic dance movements performed in high heels derive from popular Broadway theatre, music videos, hip hop dance, cheerleading, and gymnastics. There is no physical contact, just a show, a fantasy for everyone.

In the end, we dancers are being paid for work, everyone is consenting we are all adults here. We are not finding illicit means to fund our necessities so why should we be shut down as a result of the insecurities of ignorant people that have not done their research into strip clubs? Don't like strip clubs? Don't work there or don't pay to visit there. Should we not be using our resources and taxpayer money to achieve something more useful and ubiquitously beneficial?

Thank you for reading,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Sheffield Spearmint Rhinos License

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 12:39

To: licensingservice

Subject: Sheffield Spearmint Rhinos License

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you to express my extreme concern regarding the report gathered by private investigators visiting Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield, and how it may be used to influence the decision made regarding their license.

I became aware of the report after reading an article on The Times online. I find it disturbing that a 'women's rights campaigner' would act in a way that so flagrantly ignores the consent and freedom of the women working inside. I have heard from one worker that footage was obtained without the workers' knowledge and against the rules of the venue, meaning that what was done was also illegal. The obsession of certain groups of "radical" feminists to save sex workers from themselves whilst ignoring the desires of the workers themselves is concerning. It not only implies a lack of understanding of the multitude of reasons individuals might choose to go into sex work, but it also detracts from finding and assisting those victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking by deliberately conflating them with those undertaking consensual sex work.

My other concern is that through the closure of this venue, its workers will be forced into less regulated, less safe working environments. Aside from the emotional stress this campaigner has already inflicted on the club's workers in the name of their own safety, they could now be placed under horrendous financial pressures. Instead of working within a community, with support, co-worker friendship, and, importantly, security they could be pushed into more exploitative industries.

The infantilising of sex workers by implying that they could not ever consent to their work freely is absurd, and should be treated as such. The true violation here is the non-consensual recording of individuals who have a right to privacy and safety in their workplace. That it was done in the name of Women's Rights is a disgrace.

I urge you to consider a course of action that will protect the victims of this action, and prosecute those who illegally obtained this footage.

Yours faithfully,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: SOS Sheffield Solidarity

From:

Sent: 20 May 2019 16:50

To: licensingservice

Subject: SOS Sheffield Solidarity

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino.

From:
Sent: 20 May 2019 18:35
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino.

To whom it may concern,

I'm emailing in support of the renewal of Spearmint Rhinos license in Sheffield.

I've lived in Sheffield for 8 years, and never had any problems or issues with the club, it's very simple, if i don't want to see it, I don't go.

One of my closest friends is a dancer at the club, and it has been such a positive impact on her life. She's grown in confidence, and self belief, she's a completely different person to the girl I knew before working at spearmint. She was literally scared of her own shadow before she started working there, and now I see her as this massively confident girl, who does what she wants, and enjoys doing it.

She's got such a good group of friends, and such a good support network through the club, and to see it close due to a small but loud voice, who won't even speak to the girls involved would be a real shame for everyone involved in the club, and a huge step back in Sheffield's forward thinking, liberal reputation. Our previous Lord Mayor was such a positive forward thinker, and spoke the true voice of Sheffield, and I think closing the club would be a huge step backwards in the positive message Sheffield has been showing the rest of the country.

I won't repeat the other emails, such as safe working environment and the benefits of the the girls being self employed etc, but I do stand by them.

Please do get in contact if you'd like to hear more from me, as a proud Sheffield resident, and close friend of a girl affected by this issue.

I hope you consider the positives when considering the clubs license, and not the minority who think they are helping the girls, by taking away their lives.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino license

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 10:58

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

S110 P1.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 21 May 2019 11:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences

and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 11:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely,

▪

McConaghy Julianne

From: Sent: 21 May 2019 12:06
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

SUPPORT S112 WITHDRAWN

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Renewal of spearmint Rhino license

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 12:09

To: licensingservice

Subject: Renewal of spearmint Rhino license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 12:37

To: licensingservice

Subject

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

As an employee at Ann Summers, Sheffield, some of our regular customers are the women that work at Spearmint Rhino. They are enthusiastic and enjoy their jobs and are lovely ladies. They are having to travel far to different cities in order to earn money and it is unfair and unnecessary for them to have to do so.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours faithfully,

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 12:55

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to express how strongly I feel about Spearmint Rhino having their license renewed by the council. I am shocked and appalled that there is a debate around this at all - surely an establishment where the dancers and other staff of Spearmint Rhino can operate safely and securely is a far better option than leaving people jobless and risking them turning to illegal sex work such as prostitution. All kinds of people from all walks of life use and enjoy the club and similarly support its existence - for example, I myself am a biologist working at the University of Sheffield, I have never once stepped foot in the building but continue to support its running and this is proof that there is not one type of person who supports the club. Exploitation within this industry should indeed be raised as a potential issue and monitored but to completely remove someones way of earning money when the individuals themselves are not being exploited and are happy with their line of work is dehumanising and immoral. I hope that the council will listen to the views of the public and rather than choosing the easy way out of revoking the license, become ore involved in ensuring safety and happiness of the employees. (This WILL NOT be achieved by revoking the license).

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely,

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: License of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 12:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: License of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I work as a dancer for Platinum Lace Brighton, and I love my job. I stand behind Spearmint Rhino Sheffield.

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

▪

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From

Sent: 21 May 2019 13:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licence renewal of Spearmint Rhino ,and how not renewing could have an adverse effect on all who work there.not just the girls ,but the management ,security ,cleaners ,and d.j just to name a few.

but not granting a renewal of its s.e.v will no doubt prompt the girls to seek work outside the restrictions of your conditions and further afield into totally unsafe environments ..

I know first hand how Sheffield's spearmint club is a tight knit community all on its own I've seen the management conversing with the performers and also witnessed first hand one of the girls seeking advice from security and a manager about family matters ..whilst being sat at its bar..so for someone to do this they must feel confident and safe whilst working there...regardless of what people trying to close the club are trying to do ..isnt it better to keep people in work in this present day than to take work away that they choose to do ?

taking away an income and security is never an easy thing to do but please take into account that some of the staff have been working at the venue for a long long time..for as long as I can remember I have seen at least a couple of its security for the times I have been visiting the venue..they have always been Profesional and welcoming also some of the girls are still there from when I first chose to visit and welcome me each time I call in...I can hand on heart say its one of the safest clubs in Sheffield..so why close it?

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing**From:****Sent:** 21 May 2019 13:14**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

I have been going to Strip Bars all my Adult life. It all stops me from getting sexually frustrated. I'm on medication and there have been other disabled people who have been helped by one to one connection with Strippers. I connect to the East London Strippers Collective on Facebook. They are Feminists that want the right to use their bodies as they choose and not to be told by prudish people that they shouldn't. I think that Councils should get back to the Government to say that the Labour parties legislation went too far and there is a need to repeal it or at least amend it.

Yours sincerely,

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 21 May 2019 13:18**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 13:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: SPEARMINT RHINO

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 13:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhinos Sheffield

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 14:11

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhinos Sheffield

Hi,

My name is xxxxxxx xxxxxxxx I am email you is support of keeping Spearmint Rhinos open for business.

I have a really good friend that works at the club and loves her job, closing the club would be extremely detrimental to her family and two young boys who rely on her for financial support.

I have been to the club many times as a woman and a customer of this club I find all the girls who work there very professional and seem to enjoy there job very much.

I would like you to consider the fact that these girls choose to work here and love what they do.

Closing this club would put loads of people out of a job, woman that have child and families and house to run

Thank you for taking to time to read my email.

Kind regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: support of spearmint rhinos

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 16:11

To: licensingservice

Subject: support of spearmint rhinos

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

~~AWW/AB/ET~~
S123 P2

Subject: FW: Keep it open!!!!

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 22:50

To: licensingservice

Subject: Keep it open!!!!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 16:15

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: support of spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 16:25

To: licensingservice

Subject: support of spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing**From:**
Sent: 21 May 2019 17:14
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: SPEARMINT RHINOS SHEFFIELD

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 17:26

To: licensingservice

Subject: SPEARMINT RHINOS SHEFFIELD

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 21 May 2019 17:59**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:
Sent: 21 May 2019 18:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing**From:**
Sent: 21 May 2019 17:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 18:03

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

This is a way in which you can support the working people of Sheffield.

Thank you for taking the time to read and listen.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Kieronhbb@gmail.com

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 18:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Kieronhbb@gmail.com

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 18:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in its area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 18:35

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing**From:****Sent:** 21 May 2019 19:29**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Licensing

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield.

A member of my family has chosen to maintain her own financial independence by working as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, whilst studying for a Master's Degree in Sheffield. She has taken the decision freely and without coercion and was fully aware of the nature of the work before working there. She considers it to be a safe and supportive work environment. She is extremely concerned about her ability to support herself and continue her studies should the club be closed.

Closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers' rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers' rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield Licensing

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 21:09

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 21:13

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 21:45

To: licensingservice

Subject:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to hearing of recent allegations re. Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

I wish to remain anonymous but as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino in Birmingham, I wish to confirm I am in full support of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield.

I have danced for many years at Spearmint Rhino, working in many of its UK clubs and have always found each club to follow the same high level of professional conduct. I would like to share I have never felt pressured or that it was necessary to do anything more than dancing in order to earn money in Spearmint Rhino.

Spearmint Rhino has always provided me with a very safe and structured environment to work in and I found a home within the walls of my club that I never had before I started dancing. It feels like a very big family and many of the girls I have grown up alongside with at work over the years now feel like both friends and sisters. New members of staff are always welcomed and looked after in my club and one thing I like the most about Spearmint Rhino is a very strict anti bullying policy in place.

The managers have always been beyond helpful and supportive and I've always felt able to go and talk to them about anything I've ever needed help with, and I'm forever grateful for having that continued high level of support.

I choose to stay working in this profession because it has provided me with the much needed flexibility to work as a single mum to a 3 year old child with health issues, together with enabling me to complete a university education that I couldn't otherwise have afforded.

Please feel free to contact me for any more information.

With regards

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Supporting Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 23:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Supporting Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in regards to the license review of the only strip club in Sheffield.

I write to you to express my solidarity and support for all involved in Spearmint Rhino, dancers, bouncers, DJ's, owners and everyone else.

Firstly, on the most basic note, closing the club will take away the wages and job security for all involved, and without even touching on the issues relating to sex workers this is an unacceptable reason for placing all employees into such an uncertain place. These jobs provide money for families and individuals all across Sheffield. It is unobtrusive in its nature and does not pose a threat or discomfort to anyone who does not choose to be involved.

Secondly, I would like to touch on supporting specifically the dancers who are employed by Spearmint Rhino. This 'feminist' campaign is a targeted attack on sex/sex industry workers. This attack also affects me on a personal level as I am a pole dancer, and personally I love to embrace the exotic/stripper nature of pole dancing. I understand that this is not for everyone, but what these women choose to do with their bodies, and how they choose to earn their money is of no one else's concern but their own.

The approach that the campaign has taken toward these women and this business is rooted in misogyny and completely disregards the respect and privacy these women deserve.

Lastly I would like to address the nature of the films that were taken. These women were filmed without their consent, and the videos were shared without consent and they were completely completely compromised. Both actions gross GDPR violations, I am shocked that these videos have even been allowed to be used as evidence.

Please consider all the individuals you will be affecting if the club loses its licence. And please consider the the knock on effect of closing the club, more sex workers will be forced into dark illegal practice, perpetuating the stigma that already exists around these women and those who chose to work in the sex industry.

In a time of such political turmoil, join those in the fight for women's rights and support dedicated hard working Sheffield residents.

Thank you

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Support of the club and girls

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 00:02

To: licensingservice

Subject: Support of the club and girls

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 09:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in its area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

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Yours sincerely,

S141

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Closure

From

Sent: 22 May 2019 10:20

To: licensingservice

Subject: Closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Listen!

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Listen!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino license

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 12:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino license

To whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a regular visitor to the city of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

S144

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW: Spearmint Rhino

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 13:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

I am writing to show support for Spearmint Rhino Club and all the staff who work hard to build careers at the club.

Both my younger sisters work at the club and have done for many years. They love their jobs, the club and all the staff they work with.

As a family we have never had any concerns or worries with the club and feel 110% happy that both girls will be looked after when at work.

Myself, my mum and friends have all visited the club over the years on various nights out in Sheffield and can assure anyone that we were treated exceptionally. All staff in the club are friendly and very well looked after. The atmosphere in the club each time is lovely and it makes a very enjoyable experience.

Kind Regards

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino is the freedom Women should have to do the job they choose in a safe environment.

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 13:49**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino is the freedom Women should have to do the job they choose in a safe environment.

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

S147

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 14:07
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 13:58

To: licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 16:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 18:19

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 18:24

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 20:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. **Filming** women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Support the right of women in Sheffield to work in a safe environment

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 20:14

To: licensingservice

Subject: Support the right of women in Sheffield to work in a safe environment

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 21:25

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 21:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino license

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 00:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 09:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 09:45

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

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Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Save Sheffield's Strip Clubs!

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 09:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save Sheffield's Strip Clubs!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 09:50**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Strip Club Licensing

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 09:58

To: licensingservice

Subject: Strip Club Licensing

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards



McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Renew the license for Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 10:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Renew the license for Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Workers at Sheffield's only licensed strip club love their jobs. They offer flexible hours which work around health/family/academic/other career commitments, good pay on average, a fun working environment and supportive atmosphere made up of a tight knit community of colleagues, management, door and bar staff and performers, increased body confidence, financial means to support families, academic and creative pursuits and travel, and the chance to meet people from a wide range of backgrounds.

Closure of the club will push performers further afield to look for work which will break up a close and supportive community and force them to spend more on travel, completely take away the incomes of waged workers at the club (door, bar, management), many of whom are the main earner/support families, have children or are carers. Closing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield will lead to fewer licensed clubs in the UK, creating a more competitive working environments in the remaining clubs, push workers into more dangerous and higher contact forms of stripping or sex work, which is unregulated and will involve more risky activities and negatively economically impact Sheffield. The proposed closure ignores the fact that workers within the industry are already unionising for better working conditions (through United Voices of the World trade union), not to mention it will adversely impact the mental health of those affected and take away worker's independence and ability to support themselves and their families.

I hope you will consider all of the above points when making your decision.

Regards,

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 10:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 10:53

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 12:36

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Renewal of Spearmint Rhino license

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 12:38

To: licensingservice

Subject: Renewal of Spearmint Rhino license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Please renew spearmint rhinos licence

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 12:38

To: licensingservice

Subject: Please renew spearmint rhinos licence

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Regarding the future of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 12:40

To: licensingservice

Subject: Regarding the future of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 12:45
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Please protect these safe and secure jobs!

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 12:51

To: licensingservice

Subject: Please protect these safe and secure jobs!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:01

To: licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Strippers are workers, and all workers deserve respect!

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Strippers are workers, and all workers deserve respect!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. The women who work there deserve to be able to earn money and support themselves and their families, without moral restriction of how they do so. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Workers should not lose their financial livelihood just because of false-"feminist" outrage!

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:06

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

S174

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: The closure of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: The closure of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 13:37**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

SIAA

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 13:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 13:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts for the people who work there, most especially including the dancers.

Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is neither feminist nor ethical. Nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 14:06

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in its area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Club

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 14:19

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Club

I am writing to show support for Spearmint Rhino Club and all the staff who work hard to build careers at the club.

Two of my daughters work at the club and have done for many years. They love their jobs, the club and all the staff they work with. They are both extremely hard working and are very proud of what they do, as am I.

As a Mother I have never had any concerns or worries with the club and feel 110% happy that both girls will be looked after when at work.

I have personally visited the club whilst my daughters were at work and can assure anyone that I was treated exceptionally. All staff in the club are friendly and very well looked after. The atmosphere in the club is lovely and it makes a very enjoyable experience.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 14:20

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Renew the License for Spearmint Rhino

From: Sent: 23 May 2019 14:36

To: licensingservice

Subject: Renew the License for Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them - and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative, less safe venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing**From:** Eve Anderson [mailto:into_pole@yahoo.co.uk]**Sent:** 23 May 2019 14:50**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in its area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 14:55**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Dear Sir/Madam,

24 MAY 2019

S18571
16/5/2019

I write in strong opposition to any attempt to close down Spearmint Rhino Club Sheffield.

How can anyone justify campaigning to close the club without saying how women, deprived of this source of income, should support themselves and their families?

It is a fact that endemic low pay and exploitative conditions are rife in other jobs commonly done by women, in fact sex workers earned more per hour than even nurses and midwives.

Discrimination, sexual harassment and workplace injury are common across all jobs. The cost of child care is prohibitively high which may account for why the majority of sex workers are mothers.

I know of a Spearmint Rhino worker who has an autistic daughter, her income is about to be cut because she is being moved over to Universal Credit.

She is trying to pick up more shifts at the club to cover the shortfall but is terrified of being found out and social services coming to take her children. Under what circumstance would the

5/15/12

campaigning against strip clubs be a reasonable response to her situation?

When will the opposition drop its elitist "we know best what is good for you" attitude towards women and support campaigns for a living wage across the board so no one is driven into prostitution by poverty, and for discrimination and decriminalisation so sex workers have rights like other workers?

Yours sincerely,

~~R. M. W. Ainsworth~~

(University of Sheffield)

P.S. My daughter works at the club
and I am fully supportive of her and the club.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From:**Sent:** 23 May 2019 22:49**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Support Letter for Spearmint Rhino SEV renewal
Attachments: New Microsoft Office Word Document.docx

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 01:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Support Letter for Spearmint Rhino SEV renewal

Please see attachment for my support letter for Spearmint Rhinos SEV renewal,

Thank you

Sheffield Licensing Services
Block C
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD

To whom it may concern,

SUPPORT FOR THE SPEARMINT RHINO RENEWAL 2019 SEV,

I am the licensee and again holder of the SEV at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield along with ----- . I have recently return back to club after taking some personal time off and was the General Manager, Licensee and SEV (when it was introduced) holder at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield from 2004 until 2018. In this time when I was General Manager we have had no issue your with yourselves or the police and have had the SEV renewed every year since it started.

I am very passionate about the performers at the club and believe everyone has a choice to do want they want (be it age, race or gender) as long as it there choice and has no harm on others. The fact that the performers themselves are campaigning to keep the club open speak volumes – which can be seen in the Sheffield Star, front page and centre page feature – 23.05.2019. Also the performers have created their web page - www.saveourstripclubsheffield.co.uk , as again they want their voices to be heard.

The fact the feminist groups involved in revoking the SEV will not even talk or listen to the performers, with the excuse that they are already damaged!! A number of performers have tried via twitter @not_buyingit - to ask for a meeting, only to have their comments remove and then blocking them from their twitter page!!! Why is this? Surely they would want to speak to as many performers as possible and hear their views!! What's more why hasn't/isn't the feminist group involved in revoking our SEV, not trying to revoke the Swingers Club – La Chambre SEV or shutting down the massage parlors (which can name) around Sheffield!! If they were that passionate about their views then they would be acting to have these venues shut down! So my question is why aren't they!!

Over the last few years we have done everything asked to keep our club open. From removing signage from the front of the building during the day, not be able to advertise in newspapers, nor hand out flyers on the street etc and still we are fighting to keep the club open. What other venue or high street retailer would or have these retractions on their business? They wouldn't but we have and again we have done everything asked and it still not good enough.

Along with performers, we have 20 employed members of staff from management, bar staff, security, DJ's cleaners who also have the right to work where they choose, without the fear of losing their job on a yearly basic. Most of which have worked at the club for a number of years and rely on this as their main income to support their families and along with the performers see each other as one big family.

If you would like to speak more about this then please email / or call me on my personal number - ,

Thank you

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 22:45

To: licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Licensing of Spesrmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licensing of Spesrmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spesrmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From:**Sent:** 23 May 2019 21:54**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

As someone who has personally worked in a strip club i can say that this one in particular is a safe environment to work in . Women and men who try to police what other people to do to make ends meet , feed their children or make any kind of income while harassing and blackmailing people who are just trying to work have no moral high ground .

Strippers and sex workers have spoken . We live in this environment everyday . I have found more support and friendship in a strip club than i have working in a retail job . I can control the hours i work and have the freedom to move whenever i want .

I wouldnt have been able to go to university and become an engineer without working in a stip club . I would have been able to succeed without the income i was getting paid in my minimum wage job earning 5.50 an hour .

please do not put my name on any public forum as this is a private letter to support who are worth it

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Stop Spearmint Rhino Closure**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 21:44**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Stop Spearmint Rhino Closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Listen to the public!

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 19:42

To: licensingservice

Subject: Listen to the public!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Hard working people

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Hard working people

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: KEEP THE STRIP CLUB

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 21:47

To: licensingservice; licensingservice

Subject: KEEP THE STRIP CLUB

To whom it may concern,

Please could you keep the strip club, the feminist group are trying to shut it down, me talking with the majority of people, honestly don't think it's a threat to anyone, especially dancers, these clubs have been going for decades and still should.

Many thanks

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save the Club

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 22:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save the Club

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 19:11

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino.

I was shocked and saddened to hear of the actions of the Women's Equality Party in relation to Spearmint Rhinos and its employees. Although of course I recognise that the video showed breaking of license regulations, I would argue that is more of a fault of restrictive licensing than anything else and should not cause the workers to suffer anymore than they already have.

Sex work is work. It has always and will always be a part of human life in some form. Rather than arguing about how to eliminate it (an impossible aim that only harms those who work in this industry) the goal of any progressive council should be how to make that sex work the safest it can be, with the highest standards possible. These standards and how the industry is regulated should be first and foremost driven by the workers, not by those who claim to speak for them.

Unions and license laws protect workers and every worker deserves access to them. Sheffield workers need protection and support, no matter their job and how looked down on it might be.

Please consider the voices of the people who work in this industry, and explore the many countless sources of information about this topic of sex work. Sex and sexuality is nothing to be ashamed of and can be treated as a service just as many other physical services are.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Let Spearment stay open

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:59

To: licensingservice

Subject: Let Spearment stay open

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 20:52**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Save Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 20:05**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: killers42m@gmail.com

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 22:00

To: licensingservice

Subject: killers42m@gmail.com

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Closure

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:28

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino license

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Perri1992@hotmail.co.uk

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 16:38
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Taking away such places leaves many women without a job, a job that many enjoy and have left precious employments of their own will to peruse full time.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhinos

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 16:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhinos

I am contacting you with regard to Spearmint Rhinos.

I do not understand the people objecting to the licence request of the club when there are two gay saunas, a swingers club and a brothel trade without any interference.

I also know someone who works there and am confident if lewd acts were taking place within the club she would resign and blow the whistle herself.

The club serves a demographic within Sheffield made up of students and young people who enjoy visiting the club as part of their night out.

Therefore I request that you do renew the licence for the club and allow the people who enjoy working there to visit the club.

Many thanks

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Sheffield Strip Club

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 15:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Sheffield Strip Club

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there. I believe we should listen first to the workers themselves before casting judgment about what we or others perceive about their life and their situation. These workers are free, conscientious individuals who deserve the freedom to work in ways that they believe are conducive to their flourishing.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. The strip club allows for workers to engage in work that they find valuable in a setting that provides more protections than they would get elsewhere. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health, and their financial well being.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Sex work is still work

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 15:11

To: licensingservice

Subject: Sex work is still work

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Keep Spearmint Rhino open!!

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 08:02

To: licensingservice

Subject: Keep Spearmint Rhino open!!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Closure of the club will:

- Push performers further afield to look for work- break up community, spend more on travel
- Completely take away the incomes of waged workers at the club (door, bar, management) many of whom are the main earner/support families, have children or are carers.
- Lead to fewer licensed clubs in the UK, creating more competitive working environments in the remaining clubs
- Push workers into more dangerous and higher contact forms of stripping or sex work which is unregulated and will involve more risky activities.
- Negatively economically impact Sheffield
- Ignore the fact that workers within the industry are already unionising for better working conditions (through United Voices of the World trade union)
- Break up a close and supportive community
- Adversely impact the mental health of those affected
- Take away worker's independence and ability to support themselves and their families

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Assistance**From:****Sent:** 24 May 2019 09:11**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Assistance

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: stephsimpsonwrites@gmail.com

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 09:20
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: In favour of this

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: In favour of this

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Don't demonise sex workers

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Don't demonise sex workers

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Don't take away sex workers' livelihoods!

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 11:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Don't take away sex workers' livelihoods!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: spearmint rhino licence

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 11:47

To: licensingservice

Subject: spearmint rhino licence

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing in support of the spearmint rhino club in Sheffield, which is currently awaiting a decision on its licence renewal. It is a safe venue of legal entertainment. The group lobbying against it, to my knowledge, simply have an agenda against the sexual entertainment industry, hence they have chosen a well known brand as a high profile target.

As a former resident of Sheffield for many years, I know many of the contractors and employees attest to the club being a great place of work. If it were to lose its licence to operate, the lives of those people would only be worse off. It provides a good or often second income to many staff, in an area hard hit in the recession. The generic calls from the lobbying group should not drown out those who actually work in the venue.

Kind regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Licensing. Sheffield.

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 11:42

To: licensingservice

Subject: Licensing. Sheffield.

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

The girls who work there need their workers rights protected - if you decide to shut down this place you're taking away a steady income and a safe environment in which to dance.

Please listen to sex workers if you want to help as we know what is best for us regarding our work and how to stay safe. Ask our opinions not those of club managers and certainly not those of supposed feminist organisations who oppose our work based on morality and the view it is a sexist industry.

It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: Spearmint rhinos

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 11:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhinos

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in regards to the licence renewal of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I hope that by reading the letters from employees of the club such as myself, you will be able to see the importance for Sheffield to keep its only strip club.

I have been working at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for 4 years now. I began working as bar staff initially as I had very low self esteem and didnt feel as though I would fit the conventional dancer criteria. I quickly learned that strip clubs were places where women of all variations could come to earn a living and be worshiped for their femininity and uniqueness. Alongside working on the bar, I was also working two other jobs in order to save up for a deposit on my first house. I was working 90 hours a week and regularly running on very minimal sleep which lead to a diagnosis of chronic IBS as a result of the stress I was experiencing.

I now work solely as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Having no cap on my income gives me the opportunity to stay on top of my finances without streaching myself too far while the flexible work hours allow me to take as much time off as I may need when dealing with a flare up. Alongside being a massive asset in building my self esteem, working at this establishment has put me in contact with other employees I now consider life long friends. How many other jobs have so many benefitting factors?

It is baffling to hear there are demands that Sheffield (home of The Full Montey) becomes a stripless city and that the reasoning behind is because opposers want dancers to 'escape' the industry yet they have failed to realise dancers are freelancers. If you close down one club we will simply move to another and instead of removing dancers from the industry they will just be making our commute longer, more expensive and put our safety at risk. Feminism depicts that every woman should be free to do whatever she wishes to do with her mind and body. I am offended that we are not considered to be able to think for ourselves and know whats best for us.

To also hear arguments that the objectification and sexualisation of women outside of strip clubs is a bi-product of the stripping industry is infuriating as it fails to consider that women have always and will still be objectified without their consent in public for free. Women will always be gazed upon and desired because the female anatomy is an amazing, life providing work of art. If we are going to be subjected to this completely natural human instinct, why not profit from it in a safe and controlled environment?

It is widely known that people are driven into all kinds of jobs as a result of economic conditions. SWERFs (sex work exclusionary radical feminists) will never abolish the abuse and exploitation of actual vulnerable women by attacking the dancing community, only by attacking these conditions. If these people are so concerned with how others choose to make a living, why aren't they focused on combating low pay, zero hour contracts and discrimination in other jobs many marginalised women find themselves in?

In summery, this conducted sting operation that threatens the livelihood of me and my fellow dancers has

3215 P2

only driven us to unionize nationwide and seek support from the public where the response has been overwhelming. We want the WEP to realise that they can't stop people choosing to have a career in the stripping industry on the basis that they don't agree with it. The art of strip tease needs to be tolerated and the voices of the feminists, Dancers, staff and customers need to be heard so that this profession can continue to be moderated and safeguarded.

Sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: Closure of spearmint

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 11:35

To: licensingservice

Subject: Closure of spearmint

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

I have friends that work for spearmint rhino and they do it for the love of the job and the enjoyment of using their bodies in the way they want to. It promotes body confidence and self confidence!! It's an amazing place

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: Regarding Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 24 May 2019 11:33**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Regarding Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Workers at Sheffield's only licensed strip club love their jobs which offers:

- Flexible hours- work around health/family/academic/other career commitments
- Good pay on average
- Fun working environment
- Supportive atmosphere
- Tight knit community of colleagues, management, door and bar staff and performers
- Increased body confidence
- Financial means to support families, academic and creative pursuits, travel
- Meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds

Closure of the club will:

- Push performers further afield to look for work- break up community, spend more on travel
- Completely take away the incomes of waged workers at the club (door, bar, management) many of whom are the main earner/support families, have children or are carers.
- Lead to fewer licensed clubs in the UK, creating more competitive working environments in the remaining clubs
- Push workers into more dangerous and higher contact forms of stripping or sex work which is unregulated and will involve more risky activities.
- Negatively economically impact Sheffield
- Ignore the fact that workers within the industry are already unionising for better working conditions (through United Voices of the World trade union)
- Break up a close and supportive community
- Adversely impact the mental health of those affected
- Take away worker's independence and ability to support themselves and their families.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: Support for Spearmint Rhinos

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 10:51

To: licensingservice

Subject: Support for Spearmint Rhinos

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield.
I believe that this establishment is a necessary and professional place to work and visit.

As a female I have felt welcome and safe in the premises. The ladies who work there have been completely professional and good natured. I have been here with groups of girls, men and a mix. I have never seen anything untoward and I have never seen any violence unlike many other venues in Sheffield.

It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 10:41**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:43

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Keep Spearmint Rhino open

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:49

To: licensingservice

Subject: Keep Spearmint Rhino open

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

▪

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Club closure

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 13:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Club closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Renew Licence for Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 13:27

To: licensingservice

Subject: Renew Licence for Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Please don't close strip club

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 13:11

To: licensingservice

Subject: Please don't close strip club

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Licensing**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 16:26**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield License

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 16:00

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield License

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

I am an anthropologist with close to two decades of research into sex work, prostitution and human trafficking. I am a member of my country's anti-trafficking council and also of my state anti-trafficking council. Sex work is not the same thing as trafficking and in almost 20 years of research into this, I have seen no compelling evidence that legalized sex work somehow contributes to trafficking. In fact, the one thing every trafficker PRAYS for is the criminalization of spaces like Spearmint Rhino, as that means that the illegal and hazardous venues they run will be the only outlet for sex workers left.

One should note that the prohibitionist politics of the War on Drugs have done NOTHING to eliminate or mitigate drug use. In fact, there is very good reason to believe that these politics have just increased illegal profits, police corruption, and violence. Decriminalization policies throughout Europe and the Americas show that prohibitionism does not work when it comes to reducing the personal and social damages of drug use.

Why in heaven's name would Sheffield council think that similar prohibitionist politics will have a positive effect when it comes to sex work?

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Women own their bodies

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 15:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Women own their bodies

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Letter of Support
Attachments: Letter of Support.docx

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 15:29
To: licensingservice
Subject: Letter of Support

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I hope this email finds you well. Please find my letter of support attached.

Kind Regards

Letter of Support

To whomever it may concern,

I am writing this letter to show my support to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and Leicester and the strip club industry in general.

I currently work at a Spearmint Rhino club and have done so for the past year and a half. Before coming to SR I worked in 6 other clubs throughout the 4 years that I have been dancing for. I look forward to going to work and feel a 100% safe and looked after whenever I'm at the venue or when going to or leaving my work place. I know I can rely on management and know where to turn for advice or if I have any issues or problems. This wasn't always the case with other jobs I had, before becoming a dancer.

In the past four years I built many great friendships, not just with fellow dancers but with other members of staff too, and met some wonderful people thanks to my job. The thought that people who I deeply care about and myself are in risk of losing our jobs, due to the activities of a so called feminist group deeply saddens me.

The service we provide is completely harmless and innocent, helps people relax and unwind after a long day, and is a great way to celebrate and have a good time. I am an entertainer and do not engage in prostitution or offer "extras" and never have. I am not forced to do what I do and my earnings do not get taken off me by an abuser, a "pimp" or a trafficker. I take pride in my work and see potential in it, just like all the other girls who CHOOSE (because we are not forced!) to become a dancer.

Being a dancer helped me tackle anxiety, gave me confidence, independence, free time and financial stability. Like in any other line of work we rely on our income. You must take it into consideration how closing down platforms for adult entertainment, such as SR, will affect the thousands of people's lives who work in the industry. This is not limited to dancers only but bar staff, DJs, door staff and management too. Many of us have families with children or other family members financially relying on us. Clubs closing down and putting people out of work will have a serious negative effect on our and our families' lives.

I would like to ask you that before you make any decisions please consider the above mentioned points. It is my body, therefore it is my choice and right to work as a dancer.

However, if you do still fear that we are in danger I urge and encourage you to get in touch with real strippers (I would be more than happy to answer any questions you might have regarding the topic), who have first-hand experience of what this lifestyle is really like. This will help you destroy stereotypes and will hopefully help you see our industry in a different light.

I would also like to voice my strong disapproval of the recording of dancers, without their knowing or their consent. I find this kind of behaviour malicious and out of order.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope it will help you make the right decisions. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Do not close Spearmint Rhino.

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Do not close Spearmint Rhino.

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 17:12**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Please do not close spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Please do not close spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 15:50

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 16:39

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

I think it's time that people stopped and had a think, Spearmint Rhino aren't mistreating their staff they are well looked after and the girls working their are just like you and me working to earn a wage. They're not forced to commit lewd sex acts and maybe just maybe if yourselves and the people constantly taking offence and complaining put as much effort into locating the seedy pop up brothels then you'd be doing a far better job actually protecting people what need your help

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 17:35**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint rhino

To whom this may concern,

I writing this email in support of spearmint rhino as I really don't understand the issue here or why your even accepting it.

We have stirp/poledance clubs all across the country there's nothing wrong with it and as long as they're working with in respective guidelines and laws I'm sure there should be no problem.... It's not like its pushed in your face they aren't dancing in huge open windows for all to see it's not like you can't avoid it if you don't want to see it. It's becoming more and more popular and is an art I have done pole fit classes an can assure you it's very hard those girls work hard at something they love doing. We are always pushing people to work but here this will put nearly 20 people out of work and for what because somebody had nothing better to do than pick on something they didn't like it's 2019... We have worse places running in Attercliffe!

Kind Regards

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:20**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:21

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

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While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:25**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:24

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:25**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:26

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 18:30

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

The club is doing no one any harm ... if the girls do not want to work there, they can always leave. A service is being provided here ... do not forget the people who go to the club range across society, including the disabled (yes, the disabled too). There have been no problems resulting from the club being open, which is more than can be said for some of the other night spots in Sheffield!

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 23 May 2019 19:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Good evening,

I've never been to spearmint rhino and I never will. I have absolutely no issue with lap dancing bars as it is a way for ladies to make good money. I don't think it is for pseudo-intellectual and self righteous busy bodies to tell consenting adults what to do or not to do.

Losing spearmint rhino would be waste of business rates and well paid jobs. I doubt anyone would let the unit if it were vacated.

Don't let busy bodies tell people what to do or think. Will they create jobs for the employees to move to? Of course not.

Every major city has a lap dancing bar. If people are offended by it, then they just shouldn't go.

Kind regards,

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 20:41**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not **perfect**, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 21:47**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 23 May 2019 22:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:**
Sent: 23 May 2019 21:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:41**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

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I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 11:57

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 11:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 13:03

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 24 May 2019 13:46**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Re: Spearmint Rhino

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 14:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino**From:****Sent:** 24 May 2019 16:49**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them. I know many people who choose to work there and love working their. It is a shame that those people can't do the job they love because people who don't have the same opinions will not allow them. It is insane that these women are not given a choice when women faught for year to be able to speak their minds and have a say in their lives.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 16:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:39

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

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Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject:

FW:

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 18:07**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject:

FW:

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 19:09**To:** licensingservice**Subject:**

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in its area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most **impact**. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino potential closure

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 19:17**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino potential closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 21:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S261

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 22:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject:

FW:

S262

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 21:52

To: licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearment Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S263A

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 23:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

The objections come from people who have a personal moral distaste for strip clubs. They are using supposed licensing breaches as a smokescreen to cover their own prejudices. For this reason, and as mentioned above, please disregard these objections.

I would also like to make the following points:

Workers at Spearmint Rhino, which is Sheffield's only licensed strip club, love their jobs which offers:

- Flexible hours- work around health/family/academic/other career commitments
- Good pay on average
- Fun working environment
- Supportive atmosphere
- Tight knit community of colleagues, management, door and bar staff and performers
- Increased body confidence
- Financial means to support families, academic and creative pursuits, travel
- Meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds

Closure of the club will:

- Push performers further afield to look for work- break up community, spend more on travel
- Completely take away the incomes of waged workers at the club (door, bar, management) many of whom are the main earner/support families, have children or are carers.
- Lead to fewer licensed clubs in the UK, creating more competitive working environments in the remaining clubs
- Push workers into more dangerous and higher contact forms of stripping or sex work which is unregulated and will involve more risky activities.
- Negatively economically impact Sheffield
- Ignore the fact that workers within the industry are already unionising for better working conditions (through United Voices of the World trade union)
- Break up a close and supportive community
- Adversely impact the mental health of those affected
- Take away worker's independence and ability to support themselves and their families

Please support these workers and renew Spearmint Rhino's licence.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S263B

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 23:32
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,
I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.
Kind Regards,

Subject: FW: Letter in support of Spearmint Rhino

S264

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 04:58
To: licensingservice
Subject: Letter in support of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: The Closing of Spearmint Rhino

S265

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 12:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: The Closing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Preserving what is right!

S266

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 10:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: Preserving what is right!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhinos

S267

-----Original Message-----

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 10:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhinos

Hi there,

I would just like to express my support in keeping the Spearmint Rhinos open.

I have been in a few times over the years and it is generally much better than other venues that I have been to.

Reading the articles in the Star, I have personally never experienced any "sex acts" other than the obvious implied "acting" of the dancing.

The prices are reasonable for what it is and it's a nice place to go after the pubs have closed and the staff and girls are quite friendly and not too pushy, like you sometimes find elsewhere.

I would imagine the reported behaviour to the councillors that's been in the news is a couple of staff taking exception to the rules, so it doesn't seem fair to punish the rest of the staff. I would just ask that you to keep that in mind that it seems the majority of the girls there are playing by the rules, and it is their main source of income so would potentially ruin their lives if the club was to be shut down.

Kind regards,

Subject: FW: Sheffield Strip Clubs

S268

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 10:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: Sheffield Strip Clubs

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S269

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 11:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Peoples lives will be effected by the closure of such clubs, which would be detrimental to the council if they have to support people who are willing and able to work, but the opportunity to do so is removed.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: sonia.ewa.nowak@gmail.com

S270

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 09:36
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Renew the license for Spearmint Rhino

S271

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 21:55
To: licensingservice
Subject: Renew the license for Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject: FW: Letter of support for Spearmint Rhino

S272

From:

Sent: 25 May 2019 19:47

To: licensingservice

Subject: Letter of support for Spearmint Rhino

Hi my name is ### and I have been a Manager at Spearmint Rhino for 18 years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here and have the utmost respect for how we treat our staff and dancers, we actively ensure that the rules of our SEV are adhered to and that dancers and employees have a safe and enjoyable environment in which to work.

I fully support our clubs, they are all professionally ran with great support from senior Management.

Regards

Finch Shimla (CEX)

Subject:

FW:

S273

From:

Sent: 25 May 2019 17:21

To: licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Licensing

S274

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 01:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

S275

From:

Sent: 25 May 2019 22:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to stay anonymous.

I am writing to you to ensure that my opinion is heard on balance along with the poorly informed negativity around the Speamint Rhino Club. I am supporting Spearmint Rhino with the renewal of their license in Sheffield.

I have been a dancer on both a part time and full time basis, alongside my education and other employment for the last 5 years. At no point during this time have I felt pressured, taken advantage of or disrespected.

Dancing is a choice I made, and over the years has taught me more than any university or other job role. It has greatly improved my social skills, allowed me to meet people from all walks of life, and offered me financial security and indepenence in the process.

The fact that an argument of feminism is being used against the club is quite frankly insulting. **Feminism** is about choice, and the social, political, and economical equality of the sexes. Threatening our right to work as self employed professionals in one of the few industries where women earn more than men is the exact opposite of feminism.

I would suggest the so called feminists in this discussion lower themselves to actually come and speak to some of the women they are patronising and insulting. Perhaps that way they may see the damage they are doing to a community of hard working professionals.

Yours sincerely

Subject: FW: Licensing

S276

From:
Sent: 25 May 2019 22:01
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the **dancers** at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: URGENT

S277

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 09:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: URGENT

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Licensing renewal for Spearmint Rhino

S278

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 09:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing renewal for Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

S279 P1

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 10:35

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hope the day finds you well.

I am contacting you in regards to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and the current discussion as to the renewal of its licence.

I have never been to Spearmint Rhino Sheffield (Or SR Sheff as I believe it is being popularly referred to) and have in fact never visited any SR venue at home or abroad. I would further state that I have rarely attended any lap dancing venue.

I can relay that my first experience was in Birmingham at an establishment called Legs 11 during a stag party. I was the best man and tradition dictated that I assure the groom to be is taken to an establishment as this as a rite of passage.

I was approached by a girl a little while after entering and invited to partake in a lap dance. I was I am afraid totally naive as to the format so I kindly informed her that I did not want one at the moment and asked if she would be interested in having one of the chocolate minstrels I was indulging in. A somewhat foolish thing to ask I agree but she took pity on my obvious lack of knowledge of the format and sat to give me some tips. This turned into a twenty minute conversation with a very pleasant girl who was working there as a job while she completed her teacher training.

And that was one thing she was quite clear about it, it was a job that she enjoyed but it was a job and what she was providing was a performance.

I am not going to even try to argue that lap dancing is an art form.

A good few years ago (and not enough in my opinion) a male could go to town and night and make a conquest with a female. He would be celebrated for his conquest and the female would be deemed a tart, slag or worse. We now live in a world where a female can equally make her way to town searching for a conquest without due name calling. This is equality and the recognition that both sexes have within them sexual desires.

Similarly male strip nights are unbelievably popular and frequently sold out where and when they take place.

Strong arguments are being made that SR Sheff does not have its licence renewed. Some of these arguments such presented by the Zero Option are presented in a rational way and yet on their very about page they present extremes of argument from the defence of Lap Dancing in General.

Other sites go further as to suggest lap dancing promotes such things as Incest and Paedophilia.

I am forever baffled by extreme arguments on either side of arguments, that lap dancing is only "A bit of fun" (As aforementioned the very focus of Zero Options about page) is a meaningless argument but so is to accuse Lap Dancing as a incitement to Paedophilia and Incest.

I can also imagine that the accusation of prostitution to be deeply offending to the people who chose to work at SR Sheffield as a job.

The sexualisation of a human being is To be quite honest A perfectly natural thing for both the male and female. To suggest that this sexualisation does not exist in bars and nightclubs is ridiculous especially when they lightly address male strip events.

With somewhat Victorian values they it is addressed that Men need reminding that the people working there are human beings and yet ignore the right of the people working there to choose it as a profession or role they enjoy. That they like the performance aspect of their job. That they perhaps enjoy it is missed completely and actually presents them as part of the problem.

So perhaps I was wrong not to address it as an art form as it is indeed a performance by the people who choose to work and perform their as jobs ... And they are ordinary people which is often forgotten ... Just people who choose this as their job.

It is their right to be able to choose their role and not renewing their licence affects them as much as anyone else. And while if the licence is not renewed they will be out of work and the Zero Option people and their ilk can celebrate a great victory

A great victory of achieving nothing It has removed individuals from their profession, done nothing to stem a natural human desire and failed to address a person's choice to whatever they damn well want with their bodies.

The recent alleged claims as to the breeches at Spearmint Rhino I would also vehemently request be taken into consideration only as alleged and also in due consideration that ANY organisation that is bound by rights can have breeches. A government body can breach, a hospital can breach, and organisation can.

As such I feel if the alleged breaches occurred they only be considered in regards to any organisation and that they be allowed to re train and work within the limits of their regulations.

I would also further point out that the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino club has proved economically sound throughout its tenure. We have lived through uncertain times and every day seems to see the closure of a new shop or business. For Sheffield to remain an economically sound place we need businesses that provide rates, employment and stability.

The location of the club also exists in what must be called one of the safer areas at night. Its existence has done nothing to impact the safety of those close or within the local area.

Please do not fail to renew SR Sheffield's licence.

The failure to recognise the human sexuality and to blame the people who work there is not a step forward, it is a huge step backwards to a bygone Victorian age where it will once again be the woman's fault.

Yours with many kind regards

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S280

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 12:01
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S281

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 12:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S282

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 12:32
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Sent: 26 May 2019 12:26
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S284

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:03
To: licensingservice
Subject: Save spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

S285

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:09
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show my full support for the Spearmint Rhino club in Sheffield. I personally have been a dancer for the past four years at various different clubs, currently working at Spearmint Rhino Leicester. I choose to work there because the company runs safe, regulated and friendly nightclubs. Anything said to the contrary is simply misconstrued information from people who have not worked personally within the industry. Their concerns claim to be in the interest of the dancers, but if you want to help the dancers, we should be the ones who are listened to.

We love our jobs. They allow us to work flexible hours in order to earn a wage around other commitments such as child care, full time study and our own small businesses. The job itself is empowering not just for those reasons but for more personal reasons; self esteem, body confidence and even has improved my once crippling social anxiety.

The idea that the job is anti feminist and objectifies women to fulfil a male fantasy, simply isn't true. Our customer base varies hugely from groups of men, single men, single women, couples and the LGBT community. It is about entertainment for all, and an inclusive atmosphere.

To take women from a safe and regulated work environment when they have job satisfaction is to take away any power and control they have over their bodies and income. From a group who claim to be feminists, they are fighting the wrong fight and it is simply a misguided witch hunt. It would be completely anti-feminist to listen to their claims.

Being a dancer teaches us life skills, sales skills, physical fitness, creative freedom, social skills and has given me friendships for life.

I hope you consider this letter and know I wholeheartedly support the club and the industry. Listen to the voices who are living within the work place and not those who make assumptions, often **incorrectly**.

Thank you for your time.

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

S286

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:18
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club, Spearmint Rhino. As a dancer at Spearmint Rhino, I am in favour of the SEV license renewal:

Closure of the club would have many negative impacts for example, the waged positions such as the management, door, bar, DJ and cleaning staff. The dancers at Spearmint Rhino, like myself would also lose their jobs causing stress. For some dancers, closure of the club would mean having to travel further to work elsewhere.

I feel unbelievably safe at Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield. I am surrounded by friends and the amazing staff. I work there full time on my own free will and is my favourite job I've ever had. Working at Spearmint Rhino has made me into a confident woman within myself and whilst talking with other people.

Finally, I would like to express how disgusted I feel about the feminist group who have payed other people to film the dancers in the club. Filming people nude with out their consent is not acceptable.

I can't believe that such horrid people live and are willing to go out of their way to effect the dancers mental health.

Kind regards,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S287

From: Sarah
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S288

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

My name is ***** and I have danced for 9 years and spent the majority of that time at Spearmint Rhino in Bournemouth.

I am not here through any means of coercion or because I can't do anything else as a means to earn money, I am here solely out of choice. The reasons for that choice include the flexible hours it allows me, the chance to travel and do this job in different areas, the strong friendships I have made in the dancer community over the years and the steady and sometimes lucrative earnings.

I dance in a safe and controlled environment with strict rules that must be adhered to by both the dancers and the patrons. If strip clubs were forced to be closed I feel entertainment venues would go underground where these controlled environments wouldn't be adhered to and brothels would be used more frequently. Is that a better alternative than light hearted fantasy adult entertainment?

The woman's groups that attempt to close these establishments have never reached out to us, the dancers, or attempted to ask us how we feel doing this job. They are attempting to take this choice away from us without giving us a voice.

I request that my personal information is kept private and not accessible to the public.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This e-mail message and its attachments (if any) may contain confidential, private and/or privileged information. This e-mail message and its attachments (if any) are intended for a specific recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail message (and its attachments - if any) or responsible for the delivery of this e-mail along with any attachments hereto to such recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail message and its attachments (if any) is strictly prohibited and may be a crime under applicable law. No confidentiality or privilege is waived or lost by any misdirection of this e-mail message and its attachments (if any). If you received this e-mail in error, please immediately delete it, its attachments (if any) and all copies of the same from your computer system, destroy any hard copies of it and notify the sender by both telephone and return e-mail.

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: In Support of Spearmint Rhino staying open

S289

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: In Support of Spearmint Rhino staying open

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Licensing

S290

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 13:42
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Closure

S291

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 14:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area. Its closure would take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S292

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 14:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are **already** unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not **acceptable**, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: spearmint rhino

S293

From: Leon [<mailto:leonmutare@live.com>]

Sent: 26 May 2019 15:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S294

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 14:41
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Sex work is still legitimate work.

Yours sincerely,

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 15:38
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S296

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 15:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Respect women's rights! Their body, their choice!

S297

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 16:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Respect women's rights! Their body, their choice!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in its area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - Approve the Licence

S298

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 16:19

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - Approve the Licence

I want to register my opinion about strip clubs in my city of Sheffield.

I would like you to approve the licence renewal for Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and not impose any further restrictions.

I know it is within your power to reduce the restrictions within the licence and ask you to please do so. It is a lap dancing strip club requiring a sexual entertainment licence not a church tea dance. There is more sexual body contact allowed at a tea dance than currently allowed under the sexual entertainment licence for Spearmint Rhino, which can't be right.

"Not Buying it", "WEP" and "Zero Option" are political lobbyists that have outdated moral oppressive views that they seek to impose on society, through illegal activities.

If you want to deny these groups the opportunity to constantly question your licencing monitoring then reduce the restrictions on the activities of consenting adults in an adult sexual entertainment establishment. The demand for this kind of entertainment will not go away by closing the club. It would only push it underground into unregulated, unsafe and probably illegal environments.

Please do not let your decision be influenced by "fake news" reports of two dodgy ex cops who are prepared to illegally video girls at the club.

I have been to the club quite a few times and have spent time in the VIP suites but I HAVE NEVER WITNESSED OR BEEN OFFERED SEX ACTS AS THESE DODGY COPS HAVE ALLEGED.

Why are these policemen no longer on the force and were they part of the systemic conspiracy making false allegations as part of the Hillsborough Disaster cover up.

If you revoke the licence as a result of the illegal actions of these lobbyists then you will be encouraging more of these illegal activities.



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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Club closure

S299

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 17:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Club closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save Spearmint Rhino

S300

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 17:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Save Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: licensing

S301

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: licensing

Hello

I wish to remain anonymous.

I am writing this email to let you know that i am in full support of the Sheffield licensing. I have been a lap dancer for almost 5 years and i have to say this job has fully transformed my life for the better in so many ways. I fell into the job as i heard about a friend of a friend who was doing it and she had paid off many debts with help from the job. I was bored of my day job and after doing lap dancing for just a few months i decided to take the leap and leave my 9-5 day job and focus on dancing. I am more confident now and i love what the job entails, with meeting different people and the whole social aspect of the job is great! I have been to many exoctic countries in the past 4 and a half years and i now have my own house which i am tremendously grateful for and i know i wouldn't be as happy as i am now or in the good position i am in in life if it wasn't for lap dancing.

Thankyou

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S302

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:08
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

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Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S303

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 19:01

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

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Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S304

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 19:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

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Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Hearing
Attachments: sr letter .docx

S305 P1

From:]
Sent: 26 May 2019 19:48
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Hearing

Dear Council staff,

Hope all is well. Attached to this email is a letter from myself in support of renewing the license for Spearmint Rhino; I hope the points made therein will be considered in the hearing.

Thanks and best wishes,

--

PhD Candidate
Department of Philosophy
University of Sheffield
45 Victoria Street
S3 7QB

I don't expect you to respond to my email outside your working hours. I respect your working pattern and I am looking forward to your response when you are at work.

Dear staff at Sheffield City Council Licensing,

I am writing to you in three capacities today; first as a local resident, second as a PhD researcher working on Objectification, and third as a friend of a couple of the workers at Spearmint Rhino. I am writing to offer you my views, professional and personal, on why Spearmint Rhino's license should be renewed.

Location

I live within a few hundred yards of Spearmint Rhino. I walk to and from work past it every day, I used to work nights, so have often walked past in the middle of the night and early hours of the morning. I have never felt unsafe around that area. On the contrary, I am glad to know there is somewhere nearby that I know to have security present, and compassionate staff. I often feel unsafe walking down Brammall Lane after a football match or down West Street during Varsity, but no-one has yet suggested cancelling sports or relocating them to a safe distance from any passers-by. Further, there is, as far as I'm aware, there is no evidence of greater crime near the venue. Also regarding the location: the complaint that Spearmint Rhino is too near to Hallam Hubs is unreasonable, as Spearmint Rhino was there before Hallam bought the Hubs building. Finally, this shouldn't need to be said but: students are adults and are capable of making their own decisions; the idea that seeing a strip club near their uni will be a bad influence is paternalistic and insulting.

Exploitation

Next, I would like to make a few notes on the 'exploitation' claims that were made by purportedly feminist groups at previous licensing hearings. Last year, a point was made about women occupying lower paid positions than men in the venue, which is obviously a problem; a problem shared by virtually every institution in this city, including both universities and the council. Next, concerns were raised about the wellbeing of the workers. Notably, these concerns were raised by people who had never worked in the venue, and *no current workers* were consulted on this. The current workers are the (only) experts on the working conditions. Not asking the workers if they experience exploitation, and whether they want their venue closed down, and assuming someone else knows better, denies their agency and is dehumanising. It implies you see them as incapable of making sensible decisions: this is an infantilising and misogynistic. Last year at the hearing, one person described the situation in strip clubs as "consent being muddled by the handing over of money" – a criticism which can be made of *all paid work* or none. On this point: part of a commitment to believing women when they say they have been sexually assaulted is believing them when they say they have not been. Feminists must care about consent to sexual contact, and this involves believing women when they say that consent is present, as well as when they say it is absent. It is extremely harmful and offensive to suggest that the workers experiences of real sexual violence, and their work, are the same thing; some of these women will inevitably be survivors of violence and to tell them their jobs are the same as when they were really raped is disgusting. This claim is connected to the claim that women's options are so limited, that consent to this kind of work is not really valid. But again, this can be levelled at all kinds of work, particularly minimum wage work, and if women's options are limited the answer is not to *limit them further* by closing down legal venues.

Furthermore, if there was a problem with exploitation, or poor working conditions, the solution would not be to shut the venue down (this only makes things worse, by pushing the workers into a precarious financial position), the solution is to improve the rights of the workers. (Relatedly, the rights of the workers have now improved, as they have been unionising in order to strengthen

themselves in the face of attacks from the carceral feminist groups). Consider the University of Sheffield: casual workers at the university are exploited, and MPs such as Louise Haigh have been rightly speaking out against this treatment and the impact of casualisation in general. Notice, no-one has suggested shutting down the university as a result of this exploitation. I hope that if workers at Spearmint Rhino are exploited, then Haigh and others will similarly offer help in campaigning for labour rights, rather than shutting it down.

Objectification

The word 'objectification' gets thrown around a great deal in these discussions, featuring with regularity in last years' hearing, and I those using it don't seem to have coherent conception of the phenomenon. When objectors to the license last year referred to 'objectification' they can be understood as making one of two claims: (1) that the workers themselves are objectified or (2) that the existence of strip clubs contributes to women's subordinate status in general. Let's address these one by one.

i) The workers are objectified

One claim that was made last year was that the workers were conforming to stereotypes about how attractive women should look. This was referred to as objectification, but this is a misapplication of the term. I'll deal with it here anyway before moving on to actual objectification. The criticism of Spearmint Rhino workers for meeting a stereotyped aesthetic buys into two harmful ideologies: firstly, it commits the mistake of prescribing to women how they should and shouldn't dress. This is something we feminists have been fighting against, so for self-proclaimed feminists to make prescriptions about how 'real women' should look is bitterly ironic. Secondly, it subscribes to a 'purity' ideology, which relies on the premise that there is something shameful about women using their bodies for their own benefit, and feeds into slut-shaming and victim-blaming more widely.

Now, on to actual objectification; There are a few possible definitions of objectification, but in the feminist literature most seem to turn on reducing a person to her appearance or body parts and on paying less attention to her other attributes. This happens to us constantly, and is often unwelcome and unpleasant. However, there is very important point in the 'often' here: objectification is not *necessarily* harmful. Sure, it is harmful a lot of the time, but it is not in every single instance, and it is my job as a philosopher to work out *when* it is harmful, and what makes it so. Myself and others argue that objectification is harmful *when it is non-consensual*. To motivate this, consider the following cases: both will count as objectifying on this understanding, but only one is harmful.

Squeeze 1: At a party, a man discreetly squeezes a stranger's bottom, to communicate that she looks sexy. She did not consent to this and is unhappy.

Squeeze 2: At a party, a man discreetly squeezes his partner's bottom, to communicate that she looks sexy. She consented to this and is pleased.

These cases are nearly identical, a key difference being that one is *consensual* and one is not. Given what we as a society agree about sex in general, this should be intuitive: *that non-consensual sexual contact will be harmful, when similar consensual contact need not be.*

One could respond at this point "wait there is another difference; the man in squeeze 1 was a stranger". However, prior relationship between parties cannot be the difference-maker here. To see this, imagine if in squeeze 2 the woman had asked her boyfriend before the party "please don't

touch me sexually this evening, I'm not in the mood", and imagine he still squeezed her bottom at the party. In this case, the prior relationship still exists, but he has definitely done something harmful. This is because she *did not consent*. Similarly, sexual contact between relative strangers can be completely harmless, as long as you are not committed to archaic ideas that casual consensual sex outside monogamous long-term heteronormative relationships is somehow improper.

When someone leers at us at a bus stop, or catcalls us, or spends our job interview staring at our breasts; that is harmful objectification. But when we consent to another person engaging with our bodies in a particular way, that is not harmful. When the workers consent to a customer looking at their bodies, this is not a harm in the same way that any of us consenting to our partners looking at our bodies is not a harm. The workers value the distinction between what they have consented to and what they haven't. To behave as if this distinction is not relevant is to dehumanise the workers, and relies on the myth that some women are always appropriate objects to violate, and that their consent is irrelevant.

The attitude of some of the Spearmint Rhino workers is 'well misogyny is everywhere, so I'm going to be objectified either way, I'd rather do it on my terms and get compensated for it'.

ii) The existence of strip clubs contributes to women's subordinate status in general

It is entirely plausible that various media that display women's bodies in an objectifying way contribute to sexism generally. However, this has nothing to do with Spearmint Rhino. First, Spearmint Rhino *does not advertise* outside the venue. Secondly, and more importantly, there is no reason to believe the (mere) existence of strip clubs does damage to women's status in society on scale even remotely comparable with that of car adverts, clothing adverts, romantic movies and TV shows. If you want the really big contributors, those who have a pervasive and pernicious impact on how men view and treat women, you want Mercedes, Bic, BMW, American Apparel, and every chocolate, beer, and clothing company; you want to shut down every television show and movie which romanticises men harassing women (which is virtually every drama or romcom ever). *There is absolutely no unique contribution from Spearmint Rhino to patriarchy.*

Furthermore, whatever the contribution to sexism in general, it is actively anti-feminist to sacrifice one group of women, particularly an already marginalised group (women in the sex industry) for the sake of others.

Finally, regarding how the workers have been treated. I would like to take this opportunity to forcefully condemn the shocking behaviour from anti-sex work groups and the council. First, it is inexplicable that the council have not invited workers to speak in their own defense at past license hearings. Allowing claims about the workers to be thrown around each hearing without an attempt at hearing what the workers *themselves* actually experience is both foolish and dehumanising. Second, the behaviour of groups Not Buying It and Zero Option has been disgusting on social media and their websites: they have been insulting and attacking the workers, describing them in dehumanising ways like "implants wrapped around a pole", and shutting down any attempt the workers have made to communicate amicably. Lastly and most importantly I was deeply saddened and angered to hear that these groups, along with the Women's Equality Party, have utilised private detectives who violated the workers by filming their bodies without their consent, and sharing that

amongst themselves, and publishing details on the internet. This is a gross violation of their boundaries, and is tantamount to revenge porn and sexual harassment, and has made the workers feel anxious and afraid as they don't know who might've seen their bodies without their consent.

I hope you take all of this into account for the hearing, and I would love to be kept informed on any developments if possible.

Thanks and best wishes,

Subject: FW: Keep Spearmint Rhino's open!

S306

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 20:01

To: licensingservice

Subject: Keep Spearmint Rhino's open!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also **take** away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. **Filming** women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S307

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:13
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a **natural** part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S308

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S309

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 20:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Plea letter
Attachments: Striper letter.docx

S310 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: Plea letter

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To whom it may concern,

I have recently been informed that the licence for Spearmint Rhinos in Sheffield is up for dispute. I am saddened as a woman that in this modern day in which we strive for gender equality that this subject is even deemed worthy of the council's time.

Although I do not commonly frequent the club, I am in close contact with a number of the dancers there and think it ludicrous and prehistoric that people are bringing into question the livelihood of these women. For many, if not all of the ladies who work at Spearmint Rhinos, it is their sole source of income; allowing them to pay their bills, care for their families, and generally be a positive contributor to their community and the economy. To jeopardise that by considering revoking the licence is not only cruel on these women and their families, but also poor business sense when it allows all of these ladies to pay into a system, which is already chronically underfunded, rather than possibly relying on that system to support them financially.

In addition to the financial implications, the lack of gender equality displayed by this motion is disgusting. These women have chosen a career which allows them to have pride in their bodies and earn a living in a way which suits them. I do not see similar motions for the "dream boys" or other such shows to be cancelled, only those which showcase female dancers. The only differences I can see between these shows and Spearmint Rhinos are as follows: one show is in a fixed place whilst one tours the country, and one features males whilst the other females. This may be an oversimplification of the matter but, whatever fundamental issues are being raised against the renewal of Spearmint Rhino's licence should also be raised regarding male dancing, as they are not, I can only assume this is predominantly gender based decision. If this is the case, and the licence is only in question because the dancers are female, then it becomes an issue regarding gender discrimination.

I hope the concerns these women are experiencing over the uncertainty of their livelihood can be brought to rest swiftly due to the lack of any sort of logical basis to them. I also plead you not to repeat the undue stress being placed on these hardworking women again by threatening their income for a reason which has already been addressed previously. They are expressing their free will over how they support their families and contribute to society and enjoying the job as well. I beg you do not remove their choice from them purely because they are females already stigmatised by sections of society.

Yours Sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW:
Attachments: rhinos ple letter.docx

S311 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:36
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

To Whom it may concern

My name is _____ and I have now been working for Spearmint Rhino for two years , working this job has helped me so much in many ways for an example dancing has helped me out of my debt problems in a stress free way knowing I don't have to worry about whether my pay check is going to be on time or worrying about how many hours I've worked that month to make sure I am able to cover all my bills. I have also recently become engaged and started to plan my wedding for next year, without dancing I would never be able to afford my wedding or my honeymoon because wages these days don't even cover the cost of living without working yourself to death. I used to work in a local student night club in Sheffield right around the corner from where Spearmint Rhino is located and I can honestly say that I am treated better as an individual worker at Spearmint Rhino, I feel valued as a member of the team and not like I am disposable for once. Which are my reasons for leaving my old job and becoming a dancer at this club I never felt like I was enough, I was never praised or told that I was a valued member of the bar team the whole 9 years I worked behind the bar even though I pretty much did everything in that venue.

Here at Spearmint Rhino we are valued, we are looked after and we most deffiently feel part of a team and I Love my job here we feel like one big family and I love that. There is such a high level of trust from us all, everyone working at Spearmint Rhino is truly amazing and I couldn't ask for a better management team any issues us girls might have are resolved as quickly as possible in an outstanding professional way. From the minute I stepped into this venue for an interview I could tell that this was a very good club to work for it felt very comfortable and professional. I was given all the information I needed about how the club worked and the rules, a full guided tour of the venue and an introduction to everyone who worked they're from bar staff to the girls and the doorman. After my interview I went and spoke to the girls already working here and they were very friendly lovely girls, and this made my decision final to work here.

We are not tied to working here we are able to work when we want, we work to suit us. some of us are students some of us are full time mums and some of us care for family members that aren't able to care for themselves! I've never had a job that fits around me and my needs so perfectly as I have said previously, I Love my job here and everyone that works here please think

S311 P3

about the repercussions of what would happen to closing this club down and putting us all out of a job

Many thanks

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Flipnimages@gmail.com

S312

From: Selina
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Flipnimages@gmail.com

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence

S313

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 20:55

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

My name is . I am the son of who is a dancer at Spearmint Rhino. I have seen such a change in my mum since working at Spearmint Rhino. She is so much more relaxed about money. She seems to love going in to work to be with her friends and has done loads more social things with friends outside of work too, which she really deserves.

I know that my mum would never work in an environment where she felt threatened or in danger. She is way too smart for that. My mum is so kind and giving and has spoiled me and my sister which she absolutely loves doing. I just can't wait to return the favour.

If I was worried about my mum working in such a place, I would be the first one to say 'shut it down' but my mum is happier than she has ever been. Please can you consider all of our views on this and grant Spearmint Rhino their licence.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S314

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: SEV Venue Spearmint Rhino

S315

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: SEV Venue Spearmint Rhino

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the proposed closure of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and the negative impact that the proposed closure would have on the workers. Fundamentally, I believe the closure of the club would be anti-feminist and a reflection on how little people fully understand about the industry. Whilst I do sincerely believe that the feminist organisations have the best intentions in respect to protecting the women in the establishment and the safety of women in society, the people campaigning for the closure are out of touch with the women that they are trying to help.

Painting the image of the club's workers as individuals lacking autonomy is damaging to the feminist movement, and further adds to the 'damsel in distress' portrayal of women in society. Speaking to many of the workers at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield, it is a job that they feel suits them and that they enjoy. Many of the workers have other careers outside of the industry and are very successful. The choice to work in the club is not one forced upon them and they do so because of various reasons, such as feeling liberated or because of the close friendships that they have made with other workers in the club. The mainstream idea that workers in gentlemen's clubs are there because out of pure desperation stems from a 'Hollywood' perception that people who do not frequent such establishments buy into.

Whilst recently it has been alleged that licensing laws within the clubs were broken, these licensing laws were not consulted with the club's workers initially. Personally, I have never experienced such acts in the club and sincerely believe that it is an isolated incident that should be taken very seriously by the club's management. However, the nature in which this was uncovered I do find abhorrent. As a feminist organisation, sending males into the establishment to video record the workers of these clubs without their consent not only breaks GDPR, but is a complete violation of the worker's rights. I'm sure that an investigation into the illegality of the investigation carried out by the alleged 'feminist' organisation will take place.

Finally, further than seeing this as an abstract moral feminist issue, it is paramount to understand that these are real women's lives. Many of the women who work at this club have been working happily in the industry for over a decade. It is now their careers and is how they feed their children, pay their mortgages and live the happy lives that they do. By closing down the club you are taking away their livelihood and could potentially be forcing them into more dangerous, unregulated sex work.

Whilst I am in full favour of a thorough investigation into the alleged activity, I'm sure you will see reason and renew the license of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for the sakes of the staff. Furthermore, I hope that you will review the licensing laws of the club with the essential input of the women that work there, who, when I have spoken to, have many great ideas on how to make improvements to the club for the women that work there.

Kind Regards,

Subject: FW: Support of spearmint rhino

S316

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 21:43

To: licensingservice

Subject: Support of spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: SEV license

S317

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: SEV license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Renew Spearmint Rhino's License

S318

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 21:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Renew Spearmint Rhino's License

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

I ask that you prioritise the voices of Spearmint Rhino dancers when making this decision that will affect their livelihoods, particularly their concerns that the loss of Spearmint Rhino's license will destabilise their support networks and possibly put them at risk in less regulated fields.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Supporting

S319

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Supporting

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Petition

S320

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:55
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Petition

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

It should be monitored and regulated and controlled for the safety of both the staff and the patrons, not closed.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact and also illegal.

Yours sincerely,

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Subject:

FW:

S321

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 21:53

To: licensingservice

Subject: catriona.e.murray@gmail.com

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S322

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:04
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are **already** unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence

S323

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 22:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino support

S324

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:12
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino support

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and **fighting** for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. **Filming** women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Renewal

S325

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:12
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Renewal

To whomever it may concern,

I am writing this email in regards towards the renewal of the license of Sheffield's only strip current. As a resident of Sheffield, I am in favour of the SEV license renewal. This is because the closure of the club would have many negative impacts such as the lose of paid jobs which would impact many local families including those of the women who work as dancers there.

At no point have any of these women, have said that they are not there of their own free will and they do not enjoy their job. By forcing the club to close, can force many of these women into riskier unregulated work which can affect their mental and physical wellbeing but it also breaks up the supportive community of colleagues and friends which again will have detrimental effects.

Although, on a whole, the strip club industry is not the best, dancers across the UK are banding together to unionise and fight for their workers rights. Removing a regulated venue does nothing to support them and makes it hard for them to fight for their rights and the right to work. It is increasingly essential to listen to those who work in the industry and know first hand the conditions they work in and what can be made better to help them.

Lastly, the tactics used by self described feminist groups are deplorable as it is not acceptable to film women in the nude without their verbal consent or knowledge and it is not acceptable to pay others to do so. Groups who are concerned with women's right must respect the rights of the women who their campaigns and actions impact the most. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject these activities and for the action to be taken against those who commissioned such footage.

Kind regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Concerning the proposed closure of Spearmint Rhino's

S326

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:19
To: licensingservice
Subject: Concerning the proposed closure of Spearmint Rhino's

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

I would also like to add that the moralistic panic of these SWERF's disproportionately effects women of colour, LGBT individuals and other marginalised groups. Where is the progress, the freedoms that we are so often told make our country great, if individuals cannot support their families because their profession is considered obscene?

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S327

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: Save spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

S328

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place. Closing the club will simply result in pushing women into more dangerous and unregulated forms of sex work

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save our stripclub!

S329

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Save our stripclub!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

My name is ***** ***** and I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino. I have been dancing now for just over two years. I am a single mother of two and an award winning sex and relationship coach. I love and value my job so much at spearmint rhino because it has changed my world for the better. We have all been tirelessly campaigning to raise awareness

- I no longer have to worry so much about money.
- I love being self-employed as I can choose when I want to work.
- I always feel safe and well looked after by management and door staff.
- I feel completely empowered doing this job.
- I love connecting and helping customers that come in (I give a lot of free therapy!)
- I adore the women that I work with. They are so supportive, strong and intelligent!
- I can provide a lifestyle for my children, where in the past I have always struggled financially.
- This job promotes body confidence.
-

Please can you grant us our license so we can continue to do a job that we love.

Your Sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: In support of spearmint rhino's license renewal
Attachments: SexWorkersRightsPolicy (1).docx

S330 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:50
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: In support of spearmint rhino's license renewal

FAO The chief licensing officer of Sheffield City Council

I am writing to you on behalf of Sheffield Hallam Students Union (The HUBS) to express our support as an organisation, led by the students of Sheffield Hallam University, of the license renewal of Spearmint Rhino. This includes a full objection to the University itself using our location and existence, among other things, as their reasoning to objecting to the club's license renewal. Sheffield Hallam Students Union represents all 30,000+ students of Sheffield Hallam University, who are all automatically members of our union, and this letter should be taken as support of all 30,000+ of these students, as well as all staff at SHSU.

As the Women's Representative for 2018/19, elected by the student body to represent them, I have been working extensively on policy to support sex workers' rights. Our sex workers' rights policy was passed by Union Council, a representative board of students, elected by students, in November 2018. I have attached a copy of this policy for your attention.

I would also like to draw your attention to a number of other reasons why we object to a letter sent by the university in April 2018, and any further objections raised by them.

The university cites the location of the club as it's main reason for objection to the license renewal, with many sub-reasons. I would like to debunk these.

With reference to the students' union, the university objects to Spearmint Rhino remaining open. This is clutching at straws - the union is rarely open past 11pm, and the club does not open until 10pm. Any students walking past the club to reach the union or library will just see this as they would walking past any club. In fact, clubs that they may walk past in the centre of the city will often have less security on the doors and be much more rowdy.

I have been a student in at the university for five, nearly six, years, and have never heard a single complaint from students about the club. Most don't even know it's there, or think it is already permanently closed due to it not having a sign on display during the daytime.

The university also mentions the UTC being located nearby. This is a moot argument when the club is never open during school hours and has no signage or advertising.

In a similar vein, when the university mentions students walking past the club to access prayer rooms and counselling/medical services, this is also pointless when these and the club are never open at the same time, and the club is incredibly discreet. In addition to this, wanting to shut down a legitimate legal business just because it may offend a handful of people due to their religion is morally wrong.

The university repeatedly mentions families using the areas public spaces - they will not be doing this after 10pm at night. The university also repeatedly mentions their campus plan, proving that their reasoning for wanting the club closed is not anything to do with citizen and students' welfare, but

instead wholly to do with them wanting the space for their own expansion and development. They aim to serve their own agenda only; ignoring the wishes of their students.

The current campaign to revoke Spearmint Rhino's license is vindictive and not at all representative of modern feminism. The campaign has violated the consent of the women working in the club, and should be investigated and discredited itself just for that. Resources would be much better spent investigating sexual harassment and assault on the streets of our city and in clubs/bars where sexual entertainment is not licensed.

Women have a right to do with their bodies as they please, and the work of the women in Spearmint Rhino is not bringing harm to anyone, least of all themselves. Removing their safe space to work will only put them in more danger. SHSU supports the full decriminalisation of sex work for women's safety and autonomy, as detailed in the attached policy document.

I have visited the club during opening hours, and can say that I felt safer there than I ever have in any other club in town. I was welcomed, and there was more security than I've ever seen anywhere else. The women were all professional and from having worked with them on the campaign to keep the club open, I can honestly say that they are all intelligent, free-minded women who deserve to be listened to. As of yet, they have not been, with too many people thinking they can speak on their behalf and decide what is good for them whilst knowing nothing about their reasons for working in this industry, their experiences, thoughts, and opinions.

I urge you to listen to the workers of spearmint rhino, to myself, and other supporters, and to keep the club open.

On behalf of all staff, students, representatives and elected officers at Sheffield Hallam Students Union,

Respectfully,
SHSU Women's Representative

Co-signed by:
SHSU President
SHSU Welfare and Community Officer
SHSU BME Students' Representative
SHSU LGBT+ Students' Representative

--
Women's Representative SHSU
Level 5 Journalism BA, SHU

POLICY DOCUMENT

COMMITTEE: Union Council
SUBJECT: Sex Worker Rights
APPROVAL DATE: 06/11/18
RENEWAL DATE: 05/11/21
CONTACT: Women's Rep

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION NOTES:

1. Sex work refers (but is not limited to) escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcamming, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex.
2. The current regime of austerity, and cuts to services and support have disproportionately affect trans women, trans migrants and trans people of colour.
3. Whilst sex work is not illegal in the UK it is still criminalised, sex workers who work on the street can be picked up on soliciting or anti-social behavioural order charges, and sex workers who work together indoors for safety can be charged with brothel keeping.
4. The rise in living costs, debt, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some students do sex work alongside their studies in order to get from month to month.
5. Regardless of the reasons for entering into sex work, sex workers of all backgrounds deserve to have their rights protected.
6. Transgender Europe's recent report declares that 88% of murdered trans people in Europe are sex workers (<http://transrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/TvT-PS-Vol16-2017.pdf>).

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION BELIEVES:

1. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex (and introduce what is known as the 'Nordic Model') are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT+, right-wing fundamentalists and radical exclusionary feminists.
2. Often, legislation of this kind is brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes, when in reality they are laws which aim to control what people can and can't do with their own bodies, combined with dangerous anti-immigration initiatives.
3. Criminalising the purchase of sex puts sex workers, especially those who work on the street, in danger.
4. Decriminalisation reduces police abuse, harassment and violence against sex workers.

5. Organisations that support the decriminalisation of sex work include the World Health Organisation, UN Women, Amnesty International, the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, Human Rights Watch and NUS Women's and LGBT+ Campaign.
6. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION RESOLVES:

1. To support and campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To support sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, SWARM, Sex Workers Alliance Ireland, and SCOT-PEP, who work to improve the lives of sex workers across the UK and beyond.
3. To campaign against any attempted to introduce the Nordic Model in the UK.
4. To adopt a sex positive and anti slut-shaming attitude through further campaigns and policies.

Subject:

FW: PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SPEARMINT RHINO - VERY IMPORTANT.

S331

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 22:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SPEARMINT RHINO - VERY IMPORTANT.

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: To whom it may concern

S332

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:58
To: licensingservice
Subject: To whom it may concern

To whom it may concern,

My name is ***** and I have danced for 12 years and spent the majority of that time at Spearmint Rhino in Bournemouth.

I am not here through any means of coercion or because I can't do anything else as a means to earn money, I am here solely out of choice; I graduated from university 4 years ago and have a degree in special effects for film and TV. I could easily go in to that as a career but choose not to. The reasons for that choice include the flexible hours, and the steady and sometimes lucrative earnings. Being a dancer has also given me the opportunity to buy my 1st home at the age of 25; this is all thanks to dancing. I feel the woman's groups should really come in to the clubs and talk to the girls, instead of just presuming we are in some kind of need.

I dance in a safe and controlled environment with strict rules that must be adhered to by both the dancers and the patrons. If strip clubs were forced to be closed I feel entertainment venues would go underground where these controlled environments wouldn't be adhered to and brothels would be used more frequently. Is that a better alternative than light hearted fantasy adult entertainment?

The woman's groups that attempt to close these establishments have never reached out to us, the dancers, or attempted to ask us how we feel doing this job. They are attempting to take this choice away from us without giving us a voice.

I request that my personal information is kept private and not accessible to the public.

Spearmint Rhino dancer

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S333

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 23:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Submission re: Spearmint Rhino's SEV application

S334 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 23:56
To: licensingservice
Subject: Submission re: Spearmint Rhino's SEV application

To whom it might concern

I am making this submission on behalf of United Voices of the World the union in support of the Spearmint Rhino SEV application.

United Voices of the Word (UVW) is a members-led, campaigning trade union representing some of the UK's most marginalised and precarious workers. Since 2014, UVW members won significant victories for low waged and migrant workers in the service industry, securing a living wage, safe working conditions, dignity and respect for thousands of workers.

Since 2018, UVW has been organising with strippers working in clubs across the UK. We have been representing workers at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield since early 2019 and make this submission on behalf of our members working at the club.

UVW is extremely concerned by the potential loss of jobs in the event of the SEV application being rejected by the Council. The club currently engages 25 dancers, as well as bar staff, DJs, security and cleaning staff, all of whom depend on the club for their income, including many supporting family members. A rejection of the SEV application will result in the closure of the club and a loss of around 40 jobs. Our members are extremely anxious about this potential and significant loss of earning and the consequences this will have on their ability to pay for housing, bills, food and university fees.

We request that the committee considers this very serious and grave effect on workers livelihood and their economic survival.

The loss of the license will predominantly and disproportionately affect women (making around 75% percentage of the club's workforce), who are at a direct an immediate risk of being pushed into poverty and more precarious, unregulated and criminalised forms of work in the sex industry, where they will not be able to access trade union representation and legal protections.

We request that the committee considers this prospect very seriously, including the risks to women's safety and the wider effect this would have on their families and communities.

We are aware of the recent unlawful attacks against our members by groups such as Not Buying It, taken explicitly in order to harm workers and revoke the club's SEV license. While we contest the accusations and alleged 'findings' in the illegally obtained videos, we also wholeheartedly object to the political motivation behind the campaign, which silences women and undermines their rights as workers.

We request that the committee follows government guidelines, stating that SEV licenses should not be granted or revoked on 'moral grounds', and maintain its impartiality when considering the application.

Having organised with dancers at Spearmint Rhino over the past few months, we are aware that some aspects of the club's work require improvement, none of which include concerns around the terms of the SEV license. We are working with members to identify and raise concerns around contractual issues, which fall within trade union remit, as well as supporting them in organising around wider issues in the club and the community.

UVW is currently in advanced negotiations with Spearmint Rhino over trade union recognition in the chain's clubs across the UK. A recognition agreement will ensure that strippers gain collective bargaining rights over issues concerning pay and condition and benefit from all the legal protections afforded to union members, including legal representation. Spearmint Rhino strippers are looking to make demands around holiday pay, sick leave, adequate training, setting up a formal and effective grievance and complaint procedure and around issues regarding management conduct.

Organising to ensure workers' rights for Sheffield strippers will only be possible if the club remains open.

We therefore ask the committee to consider this application favourably and grant Spearmint Rhino Sheffield its SEV license.

We are happy to meet the licensing committee and council members to discuss all the above in more detail.

Yours in solidarity,

Trade Union Organiser
United Voices of the World

www.uvwunion.org.uk
www.facebook.com/uvwunion
[@uvwunion](https://www.instagram.com/uvwunion)

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S335

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 00:08

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save spearmint rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

S336

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 00:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the licensing renewal due at Sheffield 'Spearmint Rhino' and wish to stay anonymous.

I fully support the renewal of the clubs license, as a dancer who has worked in the industry for 8 years. Dancing has enabled me to save money, travel, and become the person I want to be, all because of my career allows me the freedom to do so. I was never forced into dancing to pay the bills or my tuition fees, and every night I actively choose and look forward to my work.

I am a university graduate, free spirit, and would absolutely identify as a feminist. It's important that these spaces exist for pro choice and positive expression of the female body.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - Letter of Support
Attachments: Letter of Support for Spearmint Rhino SEV.odt

S337 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 08:42
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - Letter of Support

Dear Sheffield Council Licensing,

I am writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield, to offer my support of the dancers' campaign to maintain the license of this SEV (also see attached letter). I am an academic, based at the University of Lincoln, who has an expertise in erotic dance (see for example Colosi, 2010; Colosi, 2015; Hubbard and Colosi, 2015); my support is evidence-based, I would therefore urge you to take this into account when making your decision about renewing the license of Spearmint Rhino.

Firstly, the research I have conducted suggests that erotic dance, including lap-dancing, is a stigmatised form of precarious labour; this stigmatisation continues to impact upon the lives of the workers (dancers) in different ways (see Colosi, 2010); opposition to SEVs is a consequence of the stigma associated with this work (see Hubbard and Colosi, 2015). Secondly, where the licenses of SEVs are denied or revoked, as well as exposing women to poverty through unemployment, those who wish to continue to work as dancers, but are unable to find work in SEVs, may have no alternative but to seek work in unregulated spaces of erotic dance, increasing their risk of experiencing further exploitation. There is evidence to suggest that those working in unregulated spaces of erotic dance are exposed to more risks, including non-payment of labour, and increased incidents of sexual and physical violence (see Colosi, 2010).

Given the evidence, I would again urge you to take this into account when considering the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, to ensure that these women are not exposed to increased risks, poverty and further marginalisation.

The views expressed in this letter are independent of the University of Lincoln, and do not necessarily reflect the University's position.

Yours Faithfully



Programme Leader for Sociology

School of Social and Political Sciences
University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, Lincolnshire. LN6 7TS
tel: +44 (0)1522 882000

lincoln.ac.uk [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/lincoln.ac.uk) [twitter.com](https://twitter.com/lincoln.ac.uk)



26/05/19

Sheffield City Council

Town Hall

Pinstone Street

Sheffield

S1 2HH

Dear Sheffield Council Licensing,

I am writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield, to offer my support of the dancers' campaign to maintain the license of this SEV. I am an academic, based at the University of Lincoln, who has an expertise in erotic dance (see for example Colosi, 2010; Colosi, 2015; Hubbard and Colosi, 2015); my support is evidence-based, I would therefore urge you to take this into account when making your decision about renewing the license of Spearmint Rhino.

Firstly, the research I have conducted suggests that erotic dance, including lap-dancing, is a stigmatized form of precarious labour; this stigmatization continues to impact upon the lives of the workers (dancers) in different ways (see Colosi, 2010); opposition to SEVs is a consequence of the stigma associated with this work (see Hubbard and Colosi, 2015). Secondly, where the licenses of SEVs are denied or revoked, as well as exposing women to poverty through unemployment, those who wish to continue to work as dancers, but are unable to find work in SEVs, may have no alternative but to seek work in unregulated spaces of erotic dance, increasing their risk of experiencing further exploitation. There is evidence to suggest that those working in unregulated spaces of erotic dance are exposed to more risks, including non-payment of labour, and increased incidents of sexual and physical violence (see Colosi, 2010).

Given the evidence, I would again urge you to take this into account when considering the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, to ensure that these women are not exposed to increased risks, poverty and further marginalisation.

The views expressed in this letter are independent of the University of Lincoln, and do not necessarily reflect the University's position.

Yours Faithfully

Subject:

FW: Spearmint Rhino

S338 P1

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 08:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you in support of Spearmint Rhino's license renewal, who operate a legal business in Sheffield, under tight restrictions and are yet again under attack from campaign groups 'Zero Option' (ZO) and 'Not Buying It' (NBI).

As chair of the LGBT+ Hub of Sheffield's Equality Hub Network, I can confirm that when ZO presented their campaign to the LGBT+ Hub it was universally rejected (minus two abstentions from SCC employees). I was also present at the Women's hub when the SEV debate took place, where again although there was a split, ZO was again rejected by the majority (87%). I am aware that the topic has been debated at the other hubs (BAMER, Disability, Age, Religion) and, while there was some split, none of whom would give a majority backing to ZO.

While the ZO/NBI campaign groups claim to be challenging the license renewal based on equalities and standing up for women and marginalised groups, the marginalised groups at the equality hubs have very clearly said that they do not support these campaigns.

I also spoke this week with a number of the workers from Spearmint Rhinos at a panel event they hosted (something the ZO/NBI groups have repeatedly refused to do) and met a group of articulate women who were incredibly clear that stripping is their choice for a variety of reasons, and that they support womens choice not to do that line of work if they dont want to, but request the same respect from others for those who do want to do it.

They also spoke of the distress caused to them not by customers or management, but by the campaign groups who have secretly filmed them and shared footage with an undisclosed number of people/organisations. I am absolutely horrified that groups, (especially those who claim to be feminists and have been involved in campaigns against upskirting, revenge porn etc) have paid men to film women in a state of undress without their consent. I back the calls of the workers and their union for this footage to be destroyed and to not be accepted as 'evidence'.

On a personal level over the past 20 years I have been a student at Hallam, worked for two charities within a block radius of SR, and been a regular at the Rutland just a couple of doors down, so have spent more time in the immediate vicinity of SR than I have in my own home and possibly more time than anyone else in the city (and certainly more than objectors who have been actively encouraged to post objections from outside the city who likely have never stepped foot on the street). I am aware that the crime statistics show that there is not an issue in that area, but would also confirm that as a young(ish) woman that I have never had an issue, indeed the presence of the SR doorstaff actually makes me feel safer when I am waiting for my taxi home outside Rutland of an evening. There are areas in the town centre (e.g. West St, Division St) where I have repeatedly been hassled, witnessed violence and felt unsafe, Brown St is not one of these areas.

I would also like to highlight the recent case against Peterborough council where a similar campaign group took the council to court over their SEV licensing policy. The judge not only rejected their campaign but ruled that it would be unlawful to restrict legal business by applying a 'nil cap' city wide, stating that the zero option could be applied within a specific locality to manage the spread of businesses across the city, but could not be used to bypass the law. I would urge the council to consider their decision in the light of this recent test case.

If SFN/NBI groups wish to see a change to the law, then that is what they should campaign for, but law change is outside of the powers of Sheffield City Council, and I therefore back the SR workers and the consulted marginalised groups in supporting the license renewal of a lawful business.

Regards

LGBT+ Hub Chair
Sheffield Equality Hub Network

Subject: FW: Sheffield Strip Club closures

S339

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 10:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Sheffield Strip Club closures

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Keep spearmint rhino open!

S340

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Keep spearmint rhino open!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S341

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 11:45
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S342

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 11:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

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Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and **fighting** for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are **already** unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

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Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Licensing

S343

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 13:29
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

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Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

S344

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 14:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Licensing

S345

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 14:22
To: licensingservice
Subject: Licensing

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: In support of Spearmint Rhino

S346

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 15:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: In support of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in its area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

Subject: FW: Strip Clubs

S347 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 16:07
To: licensingservice
Subject: Strip Clubs

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you out of concern of the potential closure of Sheffield's last licensed strip club. In a world where women have just lost their bodily autonomy in the states, and are fighting losing battles all over the world, do not let Sheffield become part of the problem. I personally know men who visit this club, and women who work there. My friends enjoy their work, they feel empowered, they feel safe. Do not take that away from them. Please. Outlined below are points made by people working at this establishment, I hope you consider this before making your decision-

- Workers at Sheffield's only licensed strip club cite the benefits of their jobs as being:
- Flexible hours- work around health/family/academic/other career commitments
- Good pay on average
- Fun working environment
- Supportive atmosphere
- Tight knit community of colleagues, management, door and bar staff and performers
- Increased body confidence
- Financial means to support families, academic and creative pursuits, travel
- Meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds
- Closure of the club will:
- Push performers further afield to look for work- break up community, spend more on travel
- Completely take away the incomes of waged workers at the club (door, bar, management) many of whom are the main earner/support families, have children or are carers.
- Lead to fewer licensed clubs in the UK, creating more competitive working environments in the remaining clubs
- Push workers into more dangerous and higher contact forms of stripping or sex work which is unregulated and will involve more risky activities.
- Negatively economically impact Sheffield
- Ignore the fact that workers within the industry are already unionising for better working conditions (through United Voices of the World trade union)
- Break up a close and supportive community
- Adversely impact the mental health of those affected
- Take away worker's independence and ability to support themselves and their families
- The tactics used by women's rights organisations:
- Objectify performers
- by ignoring our voices- we have not been consulted on what would 'help' us, and the organisations have declined to speak with/work with us.

- by describing us as being 'bought and sold' rather than *selling our services and time* like in any other industry (dancers, models, manual labourers, therapists)
- Reducing us to stereotypes and objects 'damaged strippers' 'sexual objects'
- Violates our right to privacy, treating our naked bodies as tactics for use in political strategy
- Reduces us from complex human beings with complex experiences to 'symbols' for women's oppression
- Excludes strippers from feminism. We aren't the 'right kind' of 'respectable' woman and therefore our views and needs (and rights as women to choose our own career, to choose who sees us naked) don't matter to these organisations.
- Blames women, and punishes women (taking away our jobs, revenge porn tactics) for male sexual violence and harrasment
- Describes dancers fighting for their right to work as 'brainwashed' by the 'pimp lobby' instead of capable of making their own choices and forming their own opinions
- Breaches the law and our rights
- Contravenes GDPR regulations
- Breaches our consent over who can view our nude bodies
- Violates our right to privacy
- Negatively harms our mental health, perpetuates strategies of sexual violence by creating non-consensual footage of us nude
- Due to social stigma, if distributed or shown publicly has the potential to harm our social lives, mental health and careers
- The tactic of filming is reminiscent of revenge porn and also strategies undertaken by Peter Stringfellow to attempt to close rival clubs, disrespects the humanity, rights and wishes of the women
- filming potentially constitutes revenge porn/ voyeurism under UK law
- For those who are concerned about the stripping industry more generally and aren't sure about it: there is ongoing work across the country as more dancers are starting to unionise for better working conditions. We are and will be involved in this fight and will support other dancers and clubs too!
- For those concerned about house fees, commission, slow nights etc. many workers say that they choose this work with a full consideration of the pros and cons.
- Many dancers draw comparisons with other self employed workers such as a hairdresser or beautician not working out of a salon- sometimes you get no bookings in and earn no money! They describe learning to manage money accordingly, and describe that they choose to pay the club in order to have a safe and controlled working environment with cctv, door staff, supportive colleagues and management.
- In cases in the industry where workers dance because they have no other option, it seems better to fight for workers rights across the board in the industry rather than focus on shutting down individual clubs where such workers without other options would have to potentially take on more dangerous and higher physical contact work.
- Dancers in Sheffield are working with and represented by United Voices of the World trade union who are fighting for improved conditions across the whole industry.
- Where there are concerns about the specific venues, it is important to listen to workers concerns and wishes: not to close the club but to address, investigate and remedy any allegations of misconduct or exploitation. Strippers (and workers from many industries) are coming together to articulate their collective interest and voice collective concerns.

Kind regards,

Subject:

FW: [REDACTED]

S348

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 20:48

To: licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a Sheffield native I am in favour of the SEV license renewal; the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there. My friends who work in the club have frequently reported feeling completely safe at the venue, and fear being pushed out and forced into less safe and less respectful clubs in other cities. I worry that taking away this secure and legal establishment will push women into dangerous and risky unregulated sex work.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. It is nobody's place to tell women what they should and should not do with their own bodies, and that includes the opinions of other women who mistakenly believe they are "helping" workers by shaming and policing their bodies in the same way they call men out for doing. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S349

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 20:39
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S350

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 20:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield.

S351

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 19:49

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield.

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino needs to keep its license

S352

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 19:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino needs to keep its license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Support for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal
Attachments: Spearmint Rhino letter of support.docx

S353 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 19:38
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: Support for Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Hi all,

I hope you will please read and consider my attached letter regarding Spearmint Rhino's licence consultation.

Many thanks,

Dear all,

S353 P2

I am contacting you on behalf of your connection to Sheffield City Council's Licencing Committee decision on whether to renew Spearmint Rhino's licence. **I would like to write in favour of my renewal of the licence, and ask you to please consider the decision fairly, with an open mind and from all perspectives.**

I am writing to you as a young person who considers Sheffield their home – I have grown up in Sheffield, gone to school here, attended university here, worked across different industries here before working for several councils across Yorkshire, including within the Licencing service; so I understand the pressures and politics behind issues such as this which I can appreciate are sensitive, complex and controversial.

I am also writing this as someone who knows personally some of the employees at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

I understand the ongoing discourse around Spearmint Rhino club and its licence renewal, and have heard about the underhand tactics used by objector groups to try to shame the club and its employees. I feel this was very unfair and the club's licence is being questioned for reasons unjustified and unbalanced.

As far as I am aware the dancers working at Spearmint Rhino have not been contacted or engaged with by these groups opposing the club's licence. I maintain everyone has a right to voice their opinion and it should be respected, however it seems like all of the opposition to renewing its licence are either groups who have had no experience of the industry and no direct engagement with the women working within it, or they are large organisations looking to profit from its closure. How can opinions be taken seriously without any first-hand research, experience or consultation? It is narrow-minded opinion not based in fact or evidence, and that should not dictate decisions made by local government. Of course all opinions should be considered, but they should be equal and from all sides. I urge you to not be swayed and let the conversation be dominated by the power of large institutions who want to gain from the club's closure. It must be fair to all those who work in and are affected by it. Neither of those opposers seem like a sensible basis for a decision to be made upon.

There should be a proper consultation with the dancers and employees themselves as it is them being directly affected, it's their livelihoods, and importantly their wellbeing and apparent 'exploitation' being called into question. That is fairness and democracy. There should also be proper consultation with surrounding businesses too as well as those publicly opposing its licence.

Spearmint Rhino has been in the city for years and within that time has not caused any trouble and has complied with the council fully.

Whilst Spearmint Rhino has a central location it is extremely discrete and understated. Having lived and worked here for years and having attended Sheffield Hallam University at the central campus myself, I can honestly say I would walk past every day and barely notice it day or night, and never heard of any issues. That is the same view you would get from students of the university too. It makes absolutely no impact on who chooses to study in Sheffield or at Sheffield Hallam and has no

impact on their time at university. I don't think it is shocking for an entertainment club to be in a city centre. It's commonplace in many towns and cities.

It's important that it remains in the city centre and not hidden away somewhere as this contributes to it being a safe workplace for women, particularly when they are working at night. It would inevitably make it less safe if it were to move outside of the city centre, thinking about these women getting to and from work in the early hours. You will be aware there are enough issues around safety for women in (but not exclusively) the night time economy, including using taxis, so by closing down this club or asking it to move premises would be directly targeting the safety of women in a world where their safety is already extremely compromised and far below that of men.

I also think we need to celebrate the diversity of our economy and all the organisations and people who work within it. This club operates completely legally, local people work in it and are customers of it, it pays taxes to the council, it contributes to the local economy and therefore it should not be excluded from the local community or shunned out of sight. It's 2019, we need to accept that this is a business that people enjoy using and promote its safe and respectful use.

As I mentioned I personally know some of the dancers at Spearmint Rhino so I've talked to them about their experiences working there and have heard nothing but positive feedback, with the good management being mentioned too. They have said they feel safe, well looked after, very supported by all the other staff, part of a community and they are happy and enjoy going to work there. Especially in comparison to their experience in other workplaces. It really does sound like best practice is taking place at Spearmint Rhino, with the safety and wellbeing of its employees being held highly by managers. Whilst talking to the women myself I thought the management and working environment sounds better for staff at Spearmint than a lot of other companies in other industries! We've all heard stories of how poorly treated staff are in the retail and hospitality industries, it seems a shame to shut down a business that is treating its staff right and so many other companies could learn from in that regard.

The women that work there have created a lovely and diverse community, formed from women from a variety of ages, backgrounds and ethnicities. This employment is providing many with a higher income and a quality of life they didn't have access to before, allowing them to support their children (both monetarily and with more time to spend with them), of which around half the dancers who work there have. It also may enable women to undertake other jobs in important but typically lower salary roles, for example as social and care work in the NHS, or to undertake other opportunities such as university study which perhaps they wouldn't be able to without this supplementing them. I highly encourage you to go and speak to these women and find out their stories yourself. Find out why they do it, how it benefits them and what could happen if they lose this employment.

It's 2019, women are still living in a society where their safety is threatened daily, where they have less freedoms than men (particularly in the night time economy), gender discrimination still exists, male privilege still exists, the gender pay gap still exists. We shouldn't be telling women what they can and cannot do with their bodies, we should be educating them and empowering them to make

their own decisions. If they enjoy working in this environment and are enjoying the benefits, that is their decision which should be respected and supported.

The role of the council and particularly Licensing is to ensure citizen safety. These women are not being forced to do this and they aren't being exploited. They are enjoying a safe working environment, a positive and feminist community with excellent management and working practices, operating in a legal and regulated way.

Whilst I don't know myself, there may well be other clubs in the UK which aren't working to such a high standard, and I'd be saddened to hear if any were exploiting women, but from my research and experience of Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield, this isn't one of them. This club contributes positively to the night time economy and looks after its workers. Resource should instead be focussed around regulation and support for women working in this industry in Sheffield, or to support women who may be being exploited in other companies / industries.

These are hardworking women of Sheffield; revoking this licence will have a negative impact on their lives and could push them to other cities with poorer practices or potentially unsafe and unregulated work. This would be a real shame and a disaster at the hands of council. The full consequences of this decision and the reality of its impact must be considered.

With the massive uncertainties already facing our country presently, this now creates even more damaging instability for these women who are wondering whether they will still have employment in a few months' time. And have that same fear each year you question this licence for no provoked reason. Please don't make a very misinformed and illogical mistake for the sake of political ease. We need to be educating and having discussions about these topics, working closely with clubs to improve their practices and put women's safety at the heart of the matter rather than simply shutting them down and displacing the women.

I urge you to renew the licence of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and provide more stability regarding its long term licence for the employees who work there.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: READ THIS- DISREGARD EARLIER VERSION
Attachments: SEV Spearmint Rhino Dancer Representation [REDACTED] v2.docx

S354 Revised

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 23:55
To: licensingservice
Subject: READ THIS- DISREGARD EARLIER VERSION

To whom this may concern,
Please see an amended version of my representation regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield as a dancer.
Please let me know if I need to amend it to add my legal name (***** ***) instead of my performer name.
Kind regards

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: SEV Spearmint Rhino Dancer Representation
Attachments: SEV Spearmint Rhino Dancer Representation [REDACTED].docx

S354 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 21:24
To: licensingservice
Subject: SEV Spearmint Rhino Dancer Representation

To whom it may concern,
Please find attached my representation regarding the upcoming SEV license renewal for my place of work:
Spearmint Rhino Sheffield.

I am using my performer name but please do let me know if you would rather I use my legal name and address, and I will amend my letter accordingly.
Kind Regards,

To Whom it may concern,

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, and I am writing to support the renewal of the SEV license for my workplace.

Summary:

1. Closure of the venue would take away income from 40+ employees, predominantly women, many of whom support children or dependants.
2. There is a great amount of support from local residents, students, businesses, political and campaign groups, academics and feminists.
3. There is no reliable evidence linking SEVs with increased sexual violence. More independent research must be done before something as drastic as closing a venue happens on these grounds.
4. Arguments against SEVs are clearly rooted in moralistic views on sexuality and classed and gendered notions of respectability, despite Home Office guidance that "Objections should not be based on moral grounds/values".¹
5. Strip Club performers have high levels of job satisfaction.²
6. Feminist groups have undertaken tactics of consent violation reminiscent of revenge porn against female performers at Spearmint Rhino. I urge Sheffield City Council to condemn and thoroughly investigate these activities, and for the licensing committee not to condone these actions by using any evidence obtained in this way.
7. Where there are concerns within the venue, closure would be a mistake: there should be opportunity for remedy. After 15+ years of compliant operation, 40+ workers should not be penalised or harmed by loss of income by actions of one or few.
8. Workers at Spearmint Rhino are unionising through United Voices of the World Trade Union for improved working conditions and to save their workplace. They are some of the first strippers to do so. Management is so far supportive of this movement.
9. The whole industry is watching: this is an opportunity for Sheffield City Council to support better working conditions and worker's rights through unionisation across the entire industry. There can be no workers rights without a workplace.

Job Satisfaction

While worker's enjoyment of their job is not an explicit consideration for licensing decisions, it is important in this context, where myself and my colleagues are described as homogenously 'exploited' in order to support the closure of our workplace. I enjoy so many aspects of the job, as do many other performers:³ I love performing, pole dancing, sewing my own outfits and making accessories for other girls, meeting new people that I would never ordinarily meet and learning from their careers, experiences and perspectives. My work is valid and can frequently be fulfilling. Our work as performers involves physical labour (dancing, performing), aesthetic labour (upkeep of a normatively 'beautiful' appearance, wearing our outfits and heels), emotional labour (companionship, maintaining a friendly and fun disposition) as well as more broadly providing

¹ Home Office, 2010. Sexual Entertainment Venues Guidance for England and Wales

² Sanders, T. and Hardy, K., 2013. Sex work: the ultimate precarious labour? Teela Sanders and Kate Hardy assess sex work within wider processes of 'flexibilisation'. *Criminal Justice Matters*, 93(1), pp.16-17.

³ A 2013 study found "Almost three quarters (74.1 percent) of dancers reported high levels of job satisfaction. No dancers rated their job satisfaction as poor." Ibid.

feelings of intimacy, connection and practising empathy. Many of these forms of labour are also found in other work: caring and therapeutic professions, manual labour, modelling, entertainment and hospitality industries.

Through my experience as a dancer, I have learned to love my body exactly as it is through appreciating a variety of women's bodies, to be confident and proud of who I am and my capabilities and personality. I have become more friendly and confident in my daily life too, I can more comfortably socialise and get to know people, build friendships and I am just generally more secure in myself. Most days I am excited to go to work, even on quiet nights I have a great time with my colleagues. I am frequently impressed by the love, humour, openness, solidarity and warmth expressed within our group, especially when facing conflict and the difficulties we are currently embroiled in. I am so proud of my friends and colleagues who have dedicated an enormous amount of time to this campaign, and to supporting each other through it all. As a disabled student, without the flexible, well paid income I am able to access as a performer at Spearmint Rhino, it is likely I will have to withdraw from my studies and leave Sheffield after nearly five years in this wonderful city.

The most fulfilling aspects of my work itself has been where I have had meaningful conversations with clients. I have comforted someone who's partner was experiencing a severe mental health crisis, drawing on my own experiences to provide empathy and warmth. I have offered advice and guidance to a parent whose child had recently come out as LGBTQIA+, enabling them to express unconditional support to their child. I have spent a night supporting someone who had been affected by suicide. I have spoken with somebody struggling with undiagnosed mental health conditions who had never disclosed their struggle to anyone else. I have spoken to multiple army veterans who have experienced horrific violence and bereavement due to war and conflict.

I pride myself in these experiences, and having been able to support someone who often has nobody else they feel comfortable talking to, and who do not find formal talking therapy accessible. I feel fulfilled in my work when I feel that I have been able to provide someone with a safe ear, and more simply, where I have provided entertainment that brings joy and connection into someone's life, and been paid well for it! Human sexuality is completely natural, and frequently ties into a wider human need for connection and love, as well as the more basic drive for fun, enjoyment and entertainment in all its forms.

Campaign

This year, we dancers have formulated a comprehensive campaign collectively in order to save our club. We want to demonstrate we are not passive or voiceless and we are willing to fight for our workplace. This campaign has involved regular meetings with dancers, local businesses and collectives, academics, local residents, political and campaign groups and other supporters. Through this we formulated a series of events⁴ and resources: on the 21/5/19 dancers collaborated with Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) Students Union Women's Officer, Gabby Willis to host a public 'Ask a Stripper Anything Panel/Q&A' event at SHU students' union. This event was intended to address myths and misconceptions around the industry, as well as dispel stigma against those working in the industry. It was a welcoming and fun atmosphere and we received some really positive feedback from attendees who described the event as "well set up and a really comfortable experience for both women and attendees I feel.", which included local residents, students, feminists and SHU staff.

⁴ <https://sites.google.com/view/sossheffield/events>

Following this, on the 22/5/19, at Sheffield University, supporters and dancers hosted a placard making event, with multiple media organisations in attendance. One dancer has produced a website: www.saveourstripclubsheffield.co.uk. There is also a Facebook page: SOS Sheffield Solidarity. A local academic and supporter has produced an open letter to Sheffield City Council which currently has over 950 signatures: <https://platform.organise.org.uk/campaigns/open-letter-to-sheffield-council-spearmint>.

Treat others as you would like to be treated:

I would, as a stripper, like to be listened to, respected, and treated as an autonomous human whose views, experiences, hopes, desires and dreams matter. That the opponents of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield fail to respect our capacity to choose, and actively seek to restrict the (safe and legal) choices available to us, is not feminist. By speaking 'for us', such groups neglect to listen to our voices, our lived experiences, and respect our financial, physical and mental wellbeing. Strippers are not seen as able to produce independent thought: we are described as "brainwashed by the pimp lobby"⁵.

The implication that women cannot make choices in the absence of some unseen patriarchal influence perversely reinforces the notion that feminists seek to subvert: that women are not free to make their own choices.

Evidence of Alleged License Breaches

In recent months, 'Not Buying It', a feminist group purporting to "challenge sexual exploitation"⁶ collaborated with several other feminist groups: Women's Equality Party, One Billion Rising and Zero Option Sheffield on the commissioning and dissemination of the alleged contents of a potentially illegal and undoubtedly immoral invasion of privacy, filming performers at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield in the nude, at work non consensually, and in contravention of GDPR. This operation has also targeted other clubs across the country.

This action was reminiscent of sexual violence many women experience regularly. Such actions are the more hurtful because they were undertaken by our feminist sisters who claim to desire to support and save us from violation and exploitation. The aftermath of this 'feminist sting' going "under enemy lines"⁷ included an implication that video footage would be released online, or be shown publicly. This has massively impacted my colleague's and my own mental health. **Paying men to film women's nude bodies, especially in a sexualised context, without their knowledge or consent is abhorrent and cannot be justified.** This action is described by stripper and activist Stacey Clare as "highly reminiscent of the criminal act of [revenge porn](#).... the act of sharing private sexual materials with the intention of causing distress".

"There can only be two outcomes of the sting operation: either the dancers caught on camera lose their jobs, or the club closes in which case all the dancers lose their jobs. **There can be no question**

⁵ "Rakoff claimed that feminist support for the clubs show how "comprehensive the infiltration of the pimp lobby has been" <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sting-at-spearmint-rhino-lays-bare-feminist-split-over-sex-work-g9ffxwnm>

⁶ www.notbuyingit.org.uk/about-us-2/

⁷ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sting-at-spearmint-rhino-lays-bare-feminist-split-over-sex-work-g9ffxwnm>

that sharing this material with the council is intended to cause distress.”⁸ Moreover, there is a potential that sharing this footage would out workers to friends or family members, with negative repercussions.

While feminist objectors to the industry are rightly concerned with sexual violence against civilian women, they seem to have no qualms with funding, being associated with or condoning **consent violations and tactics of sexual violence being used against strippers if it furthers their political cause**. We are women, feminists, human beings, we refuse to be collateral damage in the war for women’s liberation.

I urge the council to condemn this action, and to take necessary measures against all persons or groups involved in the commissioning, storing and dissemination of such footage. Moreover, the licensing committee should avoid condoning this action by refusing to use evidence obtained in this manner to inform licensing decisions.

After 15 years of compliant operation, I also argue that, considering the potential wide reaching negative impact upon families all across Sheffield and further afield, including a predominantly female workforce, and the impacts on unionising efforts locally and nationally, the venue should be given a chance to remedy any alleged breaches, or demonstrate that they have already undertaken remedial measures.

Furthermore, licensing procedures must involve and consult **current workers**, who are experts on their own industry, and must be allowed to voice their own needs.

Public Sector Equality Duties, Nil Cap and Nature of the Locality

‘Not Buying it’ refute ‘pop up’ strip clubs but push for implementation of a ‘zero club’ policy and the closure of all licensed and legal clubs despite the fact that there is no reliable evidence that strip clubs inform sexual violence against women.⁹ The study used to defend this opinion,¹⁰ failed to exert even a rudimentary command over statistical analysis, clumsily mistaking correlation for causation and failing to take into account other variables such as change in population density and makeup. Such ‘zero option’ campaigns make it harder to address concerns about working conditions within the industry. The focus on restricting the number of SEVs “shifts political focus away from workers’ rights and issues of worker exploitation”.¹¹

Regarding the campaign for a nil cap on strip clubs linked to arguments of the ‘inappropriate nature of the locality’, our venue is closed during other local business and institutions operating hours, moreover, the presence of an educational institution does not make sexual entertainment inappropriate: university students are adults, and university students work in the club. Education and sexuality are not mutually exclusive, they can coexist, and indeed in the same geographical locality.

⁸ <https://www.dazeddigital.com/life-culture/article/44368/1/womens-equality-party-not-buying-it-secretly-filming-strippers-spear-mint-rhino> Emphasis added.

⁹ Magnati, B. 2011. The impact of adult entertainment venues on rape statistics in Camden: a re-analysis.

<https://www.scribd.com/document/47185652/Green-Paper-Camden-Lilith-rape-stats>

<http://strippingtheillusion.blogspot.com/2012/03/we-need-to-talk-about-lilith.html>

¹⁰ Eden, 2007. The Lilith Project.

http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk/userfiles/file/uploads/Inappropriate_Behaviour.pdf

¹¹ Colosi, R., 2013. Over ‘sexed’ regulation. p.242.

Similarly, concerning local businesses in the cultural quarter such as art galleries and cinemas: the arts and sexuality and sensuality are frequently wedded. Concerns about strip tease as seedy (where burlesque, sex scenes in cinema, or nude oil paintings are not) or 'lowering the tone' of an area are implicitly, and sometimes explicitly, classed. Research in this area also demonstrates that where women claim to avoid walking near clubs, this unease has been found to be "more related to morality and disgust than fear."¹² Such "disgust appears prompted by the disavowal of respectable standards of sexual behaviour and comportment",¹³ and reflects classed and gendered notions of disrespectable masculinities and femininities. As such, "Opposition expressed to lap dance clubs can be interpreted as part of an attempt to police the boundaries of middle-class respectability".¹⁴ Furthermore, I'm not aware of any evidence that our customers increase crime in the area, and indeed the presence of our door staff may provide a reassuring presence on an otherwise quiet street.

Regarding the alleged normalisation of objectification and male entitlement to our bodies: Feminist campaigns against us objectify us through almost all of Nussbaum's seven criteria:¹⁵ instrumentality, inertness, fungibility, violability and denial of subjectivity and autonomy.¹⁶ Objectification is present in all layers of society: a model is objectified by the very nature of her work, but must not be blamed for male sexual violence. Therapists suspend their own emotions and personal issues while working, as do other workers in hospitality or entertainment industries. We consent to and receive payment for for objectification in the same way these other workers to, and I argue that strippers and sex workers should not be forced out of safer working conditions (facing real danger and harm) to protect civilian women from some hypothetical form of abstract harm that is not evidence based.

Feminist objectors also neglect that this industry offers an opportunity for the terms of a consensual encounter to be directly expressed, indeed it is expected that they be discussed and asserted by workers, in contrast to many other gendered and sexualised encounters. I begin all my dances with the question of whether a customer has bought a lap dance before, and regardless of their response I direct them to sit in a certain way and say "you know the rules don't you? Hands by your sides and no touching". When these rules are broken I can remind the customer of the agreement and they often apologise profusely and leave the encounter having experienced a woman asserting her boundaries with actual consequences (the ending of a dance, and the customer being asked to leave). This work has empowered me to voice my boundaries, and offered me the rare experience of certainty of having those boundaries positively enforced by people who are concerned with my wellbeing and welfare. **This actually directly counters male sexual entitlement: we are empowered to exert immediate consequences over those who feel entitled to attempt to violate the boundaries of women.** Moreover, customers are curious and frequently care about our wellbeing, they want to know about our working conditions, our safety, our income, our relationship with other dancers and with management.

¹² Hubbard, P. and Colosi, R., 2015. Respectability, morality and disgust in the night-time economy: exploring reactions to 'lap dance' clubs in England and Wales. *The Sociological Review*, 63(4), p.783

¹³ Ibid. p.787

¹⁴ Ibid. p.797

¹⁵ Nussbaum, M.C., 1995. Objectification. *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 24(4), pp.249-291.

¹⁶ I offer a more in depth explanation which can be accessed here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/sos/sheffield/the-campaign-against-us#h.p.q5pFpnbActH> on the www.saveourstripclubsheffield.com website.

Objections based on Moral Grounds/Values

Despite assertions that workers in the industry are often from already marginalised communities, the undercover tactics undertaken by feminist groups, of 'rescue' by exploiting imagery of and reference to our nude bodies without the consent or consultation of those concerned actually 're-marginalises' us and our 'subaltern' voice is further repressed, solidifying our "invisibility, and our illegitimacy as commentators"¹⁷ on issues that affect us directly. We become symbols for use in feminists' debates rather than people with voices. This exclusion from mainstream feminist discourse on stripping and sex work extends to policy making, where there is "little acknowledgment of the sex-workers' narratives in existing policies (O'Neill, 2007)."¹⁸

These vicious **campaigns against women working in the stripping industry are, moreover, directly linked to the precarious and 'exploitative' conditions they seek to abolish.** Feminist campaigns against strip clubs in the 2000s and 2010s led to stricter licensing regulations and the introduction of "Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 [reclassifying] lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues"¹⁹ spurring clubs to bring in house-fees, fines and higher dancer-to-customer ratios to recoup the increased costs of licensing.²⁰ These are the conditions now cited as representing the 'fundamentally exploitative' nature of the strip club industry. Conceding to these 'feminist' demands by closing more and more licensed clubs creates a competitive environment in remaining clubs, further afield, for workers to feel pressure to do more than they are comfortable with, and at the very least makes us work harder to access an income, spending more time with customers we could otherwise avoid.

Feminist groups objecting to our venue and the industry more broadly claim you can't simultaneously enter an industry through economic need, as well as finding it empowering. This demonstrates an inability to understand nuance. **Jobs can be great one day and rubbish the other or even both at the same time, or completely neutral.** What feels more empowering than keeping a roof over your head and feeding your children, and often have fun while doing it? Our work allows mothers to spend more time with their children, and to be able to afford better lives for their kids.

Moreover, a lot of us are very skilled at our jobs and earn a good living. We enjoy it for many reasons. Many of us use our jobs to fund our educations, alternative careers, creative endeavours, travelling and supporting families. We should have the right to choose, and closing this venue would close an avenue by which we can afford these endeavours. Hypothetical 'exit plans' won't help us when we are already on a road towards a career such feminists find 'respectable' and would actually hinder our progress towards these academic or creative endeavours and other careers. Not buying It claim to have systems in place by which they work with women in the industry to provide help as well as meaningful exit plans and financial and career support. Their website claims "We are working with women from the industry to raise awareness and devise exit plans"²¹

However, they actually admit that **they refuse to work with women currently in the industry,** or who wish to continue work in the industry, as they claim online, because they view lap dancers as

¹⁷ Smith, M. and Mac, J., 2018. *Revolting Prostitutes: The Fight for Sex Workers' Rights*. Verso Trade.p.5.

¹⁸ Colosi, R., 2013. Over 'sexed' regulation and the disregarded worker: an overview of the impact of sexual entertainment policy on lap-dancing club workers. *Social Policy and Society*, 12(2) p.243.

¹⁹ Home Office. 2010. Sexual Entertainment Venues Guidance for England and Wales

²⁰ Mac and Smith, 2018. *Revolting prostitutes*. p.187

Smith, P. 2014. 'East London Stripper Collective is standing up for strippers rights' *Vice*, Vice.com

²¹ www.notbuyingit.org.uk/background

brainwashed by the 'pimp lobby'²² and unable to make our own decisions, but also, more concerningly we apparently hurt their feelings by 'name calling'²³. Not Buying It directly concede this: "Lap dancers call objectors to strip clubs sexually repressed, hysterical²⁴ 'sex work' haters and then *wonder why we don't work with them*".²⁵ This neglect actively silences our voices on how to end violence against us and excludes us from the conversation completely. We are treated as voiceless and objectified by the very people who claim to want to save us from objectification. We are described as objects bought, sold and used, we are "products"²⁶ and our work is reduced to women "wrapping their implants around the nearest pole"²⁷ **instead of human beings with complex and varied experiences, who simply want the right to work and the right to work safely. We want rights not 'rescue' especially not from ill-informed outsiders.**

Harms Resulting from License Revocation

The focus on protecting women by shutting clubs is misplaced and will likely push women into more dangerous work: "Where the licenses of SEVs are denied or revoked, as well as exposing women to poverty through unemployment, **those who wish to continue to work as dancers, but are unable to find work in SEVs, may have no alternative but to seek work in unregulated spaces of erotic dance, increasing their risk of experiencing further exploitation.** There is evidence to suggest that those working in unregulated spaces of erotic dance are exposed to more risks, including non-payment of labour, and increased incidents of sexual and physical violence."²⁸

While it is the case that stripping is often not the only thing a woman can do, it is also the case that women choose work in the industry for varying reasons and should be allowed to do so safely. **Finding our work morally distasteful is not enough cause to stop us doing it** and directly harming us in the meantime. Beyond loss of livelihood, 'stigma kills'.²⁹ It's well evidenced that stigmatising language and policy informs violence against women under the guise of protecting us because fundamentally it denies our agency, personhood and voice. It pushes us further into the margins.

It emboldens men who want to enact violence against strippers and sex workers (and derivatively, all women) because we are described as objects, as fundamentally damaged, disposable and lacking autonomy: our voices are suppressed, and we are disrespected by feminists and the patriarchy alike. **We will never move beyond hegemonic patriarchal violence and oppression until we listen to the**

²² "Rakoff claimed that feminist support for the clubs show how "comprehensive the infiltration of the pimp lobby has been" <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/sting-at-spearmint-rhino-lays-bare-feminist-split-over-sex-work-g9ffxwnm>

²³ www.notbuyingit.org.uk/myth-buster/

²⁴ This is a false claim to a character attack. The quote reference concerns Stacey Clare of the East London Stripper Collective critiquing Sasha Rakoff's (CE of Not Buying It) descriptions of strippers as damaged and victimised and Rakoff's use of "stigmatising language and such inflammatory language which is aiming to kind of try and *whip up this sort of hysteria* within the public." Emphasis added. Lap dance objectors were in this context not described as *being* hysterical but as contributing to public hysteria with inflammatory language.

²⁵ BBC (2019) 'The feminist strippers who hate feminists BBC 5 Live.'

www.YouTube.com/watch?v=wWjQWYbq1S8 Emphasis added. This video was posted by a YouTube channel under the name 'Not Buying It' and is linked to on the Not Buying It website

²⁶ <https://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Myth%20Buster%20Starter.pdf>

²⁷ <https://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/sites/default/files/Myth%20Buster%20Starter.pdf>

²⁸ Dr Rachela Colosi, University of Lincoln. <https://www.uvwunion.org.uk/news/2019/4/womens-equality-party-covert-filming>

²⁹ Mac and Smith. 2018. Revolting Prostitutes. p.216.

voices and experiences of all women. Not just those who behave within patriarchal norms of modesty and 'respectable' behaviour.

It is clear that those trying to end the strip club industry are not concerned with helping us but see us as enemies. Such campaigns reinforce stigma and objectification of us, painting us as homogenous brainwashed victims and objects of abuse rather than autonomous political subjects who are able to make choices for ourselves and our families including asserting our worker's rights. We are objects and symbols of oppression rather than subjects who choose.

It is also clear in this kind of discourse that the **actual and direct material harms experienced by a woman in the industry whose club risks closure takes a back seat to hypothetical harms experienced by all women.** We must take seriously the concerns of those who believe that stripping harms women, but we must also respect the gravity of the harms that have been done by revenge porn-esque tactics against us, as well as the loss of community and livelihood we face if our workplace is closed. Whilst 'evidence'³⁰ that strip clubs inform sexual violence against women, has been rigorously debunked³¹, I emphasise the need for more independent and reliable research into the area, to fill current gaps in the literature, and in order to make more rigorous, informed and evidence-based policy and licensing decisions. Current section 27 policy is not "sufficiently evidence based"³² and "overall the worker, who should not be put in jeopardy by legislation, is in fact subjected to further risks and marginalisation as a result of Section 27."³³

I will be writing my MA thesis on this area, and hope, as part of a PhD, to work to develop a more thorough understanding of strip club licensing, seeking to contribute towards the most well informed policies, licensing procedures and strategies of harm reduction. SEVs are licensed in order to regulate them, and protect workers, and broader society from harm. **Therefore, whether workers and others would be harmed by a license being revoked, is a relevant consideration for the licensing committee.**

Strippers Union (UWW)

Sex work and stripping is a rational strategy for many people to obtain the resources they need to live a good life under present economic conditions and political structures. Our work offers a high pay/ low-time ratio, flexibility and a minimal barrier-to-access avenue to support ourselves and our dependants. Stripping feeds families, pays rent and mortgages, pays tuition fees, and enables many to be emancipated from difficult or abusive situations. It is one of the more accessible forms of income for disabled women, in light of recent changes to benefits.

³⁰ Eden, 2007. The Lilith Project.

http://www.womenssupportproject.co.uk/userfiles/file/uploads/inappropriate_Behaviour.pdf

³¹ Magnati, B. 2011. The impact of adult entertainment venues on rape statistics in Camden: a re-analysis.

<https://www.scribd.com/document/47185652/Green-Paper-Camden-Lilith-rape-stats>

<http://strippingtheillusion.blogspot.com/2012/03/we-need-to-talk-about-lilith.html>

The Eden study failed to exert any command over statistical analysis. It was funded by 'Object':

³² Colosi, R., 2013. Over 'sexed' regulation and the disregarded worker: an overview of the impact of sexual entertainment policy on lap-dancing club workers. *Social Policy and Society*, 12(2), p.242

³³ Ibid.

Moreover, many of us enjoy our jobs: a 2013 study found “Almost three quarters (74.1 percent) of dancers reported high levels of job satisfaction. No dancers rated their job satisfaction as poor.”³⁴

While I was fortunate enough to enter the industry out of some genuine active desire to do this work, there are those who choose to strip solely out of economic need. As such, I implore the licensing committee to consider the potential impact of closing my workplace for those people.

Restricting the choices of someone with already few choices is a recipe for disaster, and these are the people that need the unionisation of the industry most: they need to be part of collective decision making, and they need worker’s rights. The closure of this venue would disrupt these unionising efforts: dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. For some this would mean more risky, high contact forms of sex work. It is hard to fight for worker’s rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all. It is paramount, here, to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Sheffield Could Lead the World

This is a pivotal moment for the stripping industry, and make no mistake, the whole industry is watching. **Strippers are unionising**. If we are successful here in making our voices and needs heard, and rights respected, this will impact not only myself and my colleagues, but workers in venues across the country, and as Spearmint Rhino is an international chain, potentially across the world.

The precariousness of the way our venues are licensed- the way we have to battle year upon year to justify our right to work against increasingly vicious and sexually violent ‘feminist’ campaigns against us, is precisely the reason why many dancers across the industry have not spoken out or pushed for better working conditions in the past. We are afraid to push for positive change, lest we and all our friends and colleagues lose our jobs.

As a result, our voices are completely suppressed. We can't talk about our real lived experiences. We are disempowered by those who purportedly seek to 'empower' us by taking away our income. We should not be afraid to speak out in case it adds fuel to the fires of those who wish to take our livelihoods away from us.

Any concerns about individual venues **must** be taken seriously, and this is a moment where we can show the entire industry that strippers will not be penalised for speaking out or fighting for better conditions, by losing their workplace altogether. There can be positive change, and we can access justice and worker’s rights. These include daily concerns to do with health and safety, holiday and sick pay, as well as dealing with house fees, fines and management procedures and structures.³⁵ Dozens of people, waged (door, DJ, bar, management and cleaning staff: 15+) and unwaged (performers: 25+) must not lose their jobs and ability to support families and other dependents because of alleged actions of one or few people.

We should not have to defend the very existence of our work and industry itself before we can even try and improve our working conditions. Dancers stand together collectively: while the majority of us

³⁴ Sanders, T. and Hardy, K., 2013. Sex work: the ultimate precarious labour? Teela Sanders and Kate Hardy assess sex work within wider processes of ‘flexibilisation’. *Criminal Justice Matters*, 93(1), pp.16-17.

³⁵ <https://www.uvwunion.org.uk/strippers>

S354 P11

have had overwhelmingly positive experiences, if there is even one person who has a concern, we take her seriously, we respect her experience, and we fight with her for remedy. **While many of us find our work to be empowering, fun, positive and fulfilling, the same requirement is not asked of a checkout worker, cleaner or a bricklayer to justify their right to work.**

In light of this representation, therefore, I request that the licensing committee grant a renewal of Spearmint Rhino's SEV license.

Kind regards,

Subject: FW: spearmint

S355

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 21:22
To: licensingservice
Subject: spearmint

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S356

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 22:07
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I am writing to support the renewal of Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield. As a stripper with 8 years experience of the job, I know that most everything that is said about strip clubs by outsiders is wrong.

I started stripping at 38 and therefore have had extensive experience of other industries and walks of life. I confidently feel that strip clubs and pubs offer a valuable service in today's society. They are islands of person-to-person interaction in a sea of misleading person-to-screen sexuality, allowing clients to interact with real women with cellulite and caesarean scars, not airbrushed, 2D constructs of femininity.

They also give young adults a rare chance to learn about boundaries, something that porn does not teach. Bear in mind that many of those young customers will go to the university nearby. They need to be shown that sexuality needs to be handled with care, which is what strip clubs provide. Demonising strip clubs is not only out of step with the way most people under 30 think now, it takes away an opportunity for this to be happen.

The feminist groups who have illegally filmed strippers at work have not done their research. There is no evidence to say that strip clubs in today's world cause sexual harassment, objectification etc; while this might have been true 30 or 40 years ago, it most definitely isn't now.

And anyone who researches the true nature of the interaction between client and stripper will realise that it is never as outsiders characterise it. Additionally, claims that strip clubs cause disruption in a local area are not born out by empirical research by night time economy specialists.

Trying to legislate against erotic or sexual entertainment is a **losing battle** because the demand will never go away. If you take away this venue, it will only push the industry into unregulated spaces. You have a duty of care towards the safety of your constituents and promoting the development of such unlicensed venues is a contradiction of that duty.

The workers at Spearmint Rhino, as well as management, are unionising, which can only be better for society as a whole. Please recognise this and make sure that you include workers and customers in your deliberations, even though, when society forces us all to be in the closet, it is hard to reach these constituents.

I do hope you'll do the right thing.

Best wishes,

Proud stripper by choice

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S357

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 22:16
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

The closure of the club will for mean unemployment, or a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionizing and fighting for their workers' rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them, instead detracting from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and redirecting their attention to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, not allow it to cloud their judgment, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S358

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 22:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am an ex-resident of Sheffield, and am deeply saddened to hear about the hostile treatment of the woman of Spearmint Rhino, due to the private investigation carried out by so called "feminists".

One of my best friends has been working at the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino club for a few years, and I can honestly say it has changed my views on the industry. Since my friend has worked at the club, it has given her the security and confidence that no other job has been able to provide. The club has provided a safety net and a community for my friend and countless other women, as I know everyone at the club (performers, bar staff and bouncers) all look out for one another.

It is unacceptable to allow these women to be degraded in this way by people who are claiming to be protecting their rights. They have made these women feel scared at the prospect of losing their livelihoods. I would be concerned that taking this safe space away from the honest and hardworking women would put them in a vulnerable position.

I hope the campaign will make the council take notice of how hard working and intelligent these women really are. I have always viewed Sheffield as having a forward-thinking and understanding community who are willing to put themselves in the shoes of their neighbours and I hope this will continue to be the case.

Kind regards,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S359

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 22:59
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

A friend of mine has been working at the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino Club for several years now and it has provided her with a secure and substantial income that was previously out of her reach. This income, coupled with the amazing support provided by her fellow staff members, has helped her confidence to grow and allowed her to live the life she wants due to the financial security and flexible working hours.

I was extremely distressed to hear of the injustice imposed on the girls at the club by people pertaining to support equality and rights for women. The fact that investigators were sent in to film people whilst at work without any consent is wrong and it seems the main intention was to demonise the industry and not to protect anyone.

I believe the Clubs licence should be renewed due to the safe and reliable work it provides many of Sheffield's amazing residents and this work should be allowed to continue without the threat of being filmed without consent.

Regards,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S360

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 23:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I write regarding Spearmint Rhino Sheffield's licence. As a longstanding resident of Sheffield, who indeed lives very close to the venue, I am in favour of the SEV license renewal.

I have never heard from another local with complaints about the club's presence in our area. I also want to defend the right of all the staff to provide for themselves and their families through employment of their own choosing. I do not believe that worker interests are ever served by action/organisation where there is not either leadership or decisive influence by the workers concerned. The workers at Spearmint Rhino participate in their own forms of organisation as workers (through the United Voices of the World union) and should not have their own labour politics disregarded to please those who are not engaged in their industry.

The staff of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield consistently assert that they do their work of their own volition, and that the employment conditions, pay, camaraderie, environment, and work satisfaction motivate them to continue working there. I believe there are many workplaces throughout our region and the country whose workers would have far fewer good things to say about their jobs, which would never face the threat of closure in this way.

Most other workers are not at risk of their lawful occupation being taken away due to the preferences of people who do not participate in their work as either a provider or consumer. And, where there are allegations of incidents having taken place in breach of licence, a business must be given the chance to remain in operation and address these issues in a timely fashion, as is the case in other industries.

I condemn the tactic of filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge. This vigilantism is an attack on privacy which would never be accepted were another group of women concerned. I urge the council to condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

To summarise, the staff of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, a longstanding and legal business in our community, should be treated with the same consideration and respect as other staff who work in our community, and as such have a right to be listened to. This means keeping the club open.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

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Subject: FW: Letter in Support of Spearmint Rhino

S361

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 23:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Letter in Support of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

S362

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 23:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S363

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 23:57

To: licensingservice

Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Yours sincerely,

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APPENDIX F

Petition - Support

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Letter for Spearmint Rhino hearing - 945 signatures

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:08
To: licensingservice
Subject: Letter for Spearmint Rhino hearing - 945 signatures

Dear Council staff,

I am writing to convey to you an open letter regarding the Spearmint License hearing, currently signed by nearly 1000 people. Please let me know if this is the incorrect mechanism by which to draw your attention to the letter, and if so what I should do instead.

The letter, with its list of signatories, is available at this link <https://platform.organise.org.uk/campaigns/open-letter-to-sheffield-council-spearmint#signers-container>

Alternatively, you can read the full text pasted below this email.

Thanks so much for giving this your attention!
Best wishes,

LETTER TEXT:

Dear Sheffield Council,

We the undersigned are writing to express our support for the workers at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield, where the licence is currently up for renewal, and for the rights of all workers in the sex industry at large. We believe that:

- Sex work is work, and that following Amnesty International and the World Health Organisation, workers in the sex industry are best-served by laws and policies that seek to maintain their employment rights and involve them in meaningful participation in any discussion of law and policy that affects their lives and safety.
- That the workers at Spearmint Rhino should be a priority group for the council to consult on licensing issues.
- That sex work should not be stigmatised as uniquely or especially oppressive to women in the context of widespread misogyny and male violence against women.
- The argument that Spearmint Rhino is harmful to its employees and to women and other minority groups in the vicinity of the club serves to refocus attention away from the real perpetrators of that harm (men who harass women, and who are subject to the already-existing legislation that prohibits that behaviour).
- Refusing to relicence Spearmint Rhino would force the closure of the club and result in job losses, potentially leading to people seeking alternative work under more dangerous conditions.
- Sex work is legal, and advocating to take away women's choice to do safe, legal work is anti-feminist and anti-worker.

Spearmint Rhino's workers deserve agency over their bodies and economic security. We support their rights and freedom to choose and call upon the council to renew the license, including any additional measures which have been put in place to ensure the safety of the workers.

We therefore call upon the council to renew the licence for Spearmint Rhino and to consult with the workers there about whether there should be additional license requirements attached to the licence which would ensure their health and safety.

We also ask the council to consider the above arguments in all cases where licences for lap dancing clubs and other similar businesses come up for renewal.

Signed,

OPEN LETTER: RENEW THE LICENCE FOR SPEARMINT RHINO SHEFFIELD

958 of 2,000 signatures

Open letter

Dear Sheffield Council,

We the undersigned are writing to express our support for the workers at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield, where the licence is currently up for renewal, and for the rights of all workers in the sex industry at large. We believe that:

- Sex work is work, and that following Amnesty International and the World Health Organisation, workers in the sex industry are best-served by laws and policies that seek to maintain their employment rights and involve them in meaningful participation in any discussion of law and policy that affects their lives and safety.
- That the workers at Spearmint Rhino should be a priority group for the council to consult on licensing issues.
- That sex work should not be stigmatised as uniquely or especially oppressive to women in the context of widespread misogyny and male violence against women.
- The argument that Spearmint Rhino is harmful to its employees and to women and other minority groups in the vicinity of the club serves to refocus attention away from the real perpetrators of that harm (men who harass women, and who are subject to the already-existing legislation that prohibits that behaviour).
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- Sex work is legal, and advocating to take away women's choice to do safe, legal work is anti-feminist and anti-worker.

Spearmint Rhino's workers deserve agency over their bodies and economic security. We support their rights and freedom to choose and call upon the council to renew the license, including any additional measures which have been put in place to ensure the safety of the workers.

We therefore call upon the council to renew the licence for Spearmint Rhino and to consult with the workers there about whether there should be additional license requirements attached to the licence which would ensure their health and safety.

[Add my name to the open letter](#)

We also ask the council to consider the above arguments in all cases where licences for lap dancing clubs and other similar businesses come up for renewal.

Signed,

In randomised order:

Rosie

Misha Kyncoch

Sophie Cohen

Tadas Zakevicius

Danielle Furneaux

Amy S

Eleanor Coppard

Barnaby

Kirsteen Hardie

Ellie James

Paul Taylor

Ash

Pearl Saatzer

Beth Lou

Kyla

Alexandra Sareh

Constantine Regan

Natalie Morris

Charlotte Pacey

Mia Sanderson

Abi Herbert

Anna Mason

Alison Carr

Christina Edwards

Olivia Harvey

Beth Bramich

Jacquie Jones

Chloe

Lynton Demaar Sampson-Budd

Charles Philpot

Kay Guccione

Meg Hartman

Stacey

Alice Mintern

Archie Jeff

Add my name to the open letter

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Nick Drake
Hilary Jiggins
J Maycock
Chloe Froggatt
Charlotte Isobel Heaton
Nyree Clark
Jazzie
Natalie Morton
Ellis
Hannah Boast
Millie Carr
Nick Henry
Jon Diesel
Jasmine
Clara Peiró Timoner
Daniel Abbotts
Isobel Salisbury
Graham Marsden
Zanne Bisse
Aimee Patten
Danielle Furniss
Ben Swithen
Rosie James
Chris Marks
Liz Sloan
Kieron Howarth
Elinor Williams
Sandy Sidhu
Malwina
Michelle Gordon
Gemma
Lacey Jones
Stephanie
Lesley Gabriel
Lilly Baston
Robyn Wilson
Eleanor Dougherty
Jack Gamble
Katie Corbett
Sophie
Rosie Wright

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Page 1262

Bee Marsh
Ellen
Aaron Mitchell
Simon Butler
Harper Stephens
Pansy Cheung
Rachela Colosi
Sarah
Emily Hunnybun
Katie Jayne Pope
Corinne Deakin
Akeem Balogun
Mark Roberts
Amber Bergstrom
Markson Omare
Jasmine
Tony Prince
Donna Heathcote
Mary Frankly
Tonyn
Katrina Klassen
Charlea Murphy
Stuart Mccabe
Chelsea Ferguson
Mike Taylor
Eleanor Murphy
Samantha Mountain, Ex Bar Staff
Lauren O'Connor
Lee Rodgers
Solo Shariff-Hickey
Stacey Clare, East London Strippers Collective
Heather Paterson
Grace Cohen
Ellie Pickersgill
Jennifer Ibbotson
Harriett Henderson
Gracie
Ady James
Eden Ladley
Alexandra Sareh
Sara Baceviciute
Gareth Holmes

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Elizabeth Swan
Jonathan Benson
Amy Hankins
Tom Brown
Dr. Katy Fox-Hodess
Gareth Lloyd-Cape
Leah M
Martin Swindell
Charlotte
Courtney Powell
Lola
Beth T
Ruby Day
Rachel
David Lee
Sab
Kevin Kissane
Rosie James
Patricia Margaret Bromehead
Deyar
Mrs. Billie Mcintire, Ma, Lpc, Lac, Chtt
Nic Jones
Camille Melissa
Rebecca Mallowan
James Rose
Sam Booth
Marlon Catwell
Antony Brown
Ryan Macdonald
Evie Brill
Hannah Richardson
Veronica
Harriett Henderson
Hanna Demel
Rose Anderson Bate
Hayley Wheeler
Phoebe Wade
Amanda Thomas
Jordan
Dianne Hayes
Alexander Skipp

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Malcolm Wood
Sarah Belsham
Jan Currie
Joseph Butler
Billie Kemp
Philip Overend
Laura
Ollie Wood
Ellen Clark
Ben Car
Suzy Henry
Jasmine O'Dean
Sampa Mulenga
Megan Blomfield
Shelly Fraser
Anna Seamarks
Andy Bolton
Angelique Sullivan
Caitlin Strachan
Itziar Urrutia
Kelsey
Brooke Harris
Jemma
Marta Julia
Nicola Heath
Tia
Noah Martin
Kerttu Muona
Arnika Bhupal
Kelly Barnes
Tracy O'Donnell
Michael Greenwood
Kallie Summers
Caitlin Fitzpatrick
Markus Williams
Emily Joy Harris
Hannah Widdop
Claire Crownshaw
Aryeh
Ben

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Sean Cassidy
Donna Ramsey
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Steve Barnes
Dan
Lisa Ellaway
Aubrey Watkins
Saskia
Kay Guccione
Becca
Cam Galloway
James Richardson
Terri
Nils Olsen
Laura
Spencer Foster
Sinead
Kirstie
Sophie Rees
Zoe Kinross
Beckie Brackett
Dale Parker
Katherine Spence
J Bentley
Clair Fordyce-Gray
Katie Wilson
Fabienne Collignon
M Brady
Dianne Hayes
Daniel Rice
R Jefferson
Katie Matthews
Rebecca Boam
Jason Gummer
Lewis
Gage Felstead
Erin Cullen
Sophie Swift
Francesca Feeley
Jesse Kernan
Josh

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Georgia Stubbs
Eloise Speight
Sidonie Brough
Kathryn W
Harvey James
Emily Lewis
Nathan Jordan
Zoe Bingham
Ashley Hirst
Shiri Shalmy
Lucy Nelson
Islay Hodgkinson
Belle Scher
Caleb
B Parsons
Shafiq Ali
Jess Meacham
Sophie Bailey
Alexis Anderson
Emily Smith
Rachel French
Marc
Christian Russo
Lee Cox
Andrew
Dave Hannah, A defence contractor
Sasha Williams
Carley
Joanne Rosenthal
Fanny Tantrum, Dancer
Gemma Johnson
Sarah
James Mckenna
Rebecca Hanna
Dominic Beatson
Jodie Hanagan
Siena Russel
Amanda Willoughby
Nicola Heath
Toni Rose Trigg
Vicky Ledger
Mary-Jo Brayford

Add my name to the open letter

Lucy Huzzard
Marina
Dave Hamblett
Lynton
G Whitehouse
Lisa Foster
Ian Morris
Mrs. Billie Mcintire, Ma, Lpc, Lac, Chtt
Simon Mottershead
Holly Haynes
Sophie Spray
Miriam Clavane
Jade Carr
Joel Thorpe
Kathleen Astbury
Lucy Harbron
Marina
Korina Steed
Elise C
Brian White
Ella Smith
Mark Burrell
Amanda Howard
Ovidijus Grigas
Annalisa Toccara
Petros Antoniou
John
Eve Williams
Yiota
Clive Bird
Robert Michaels
Demi Hunter
Zak Jane Keir
Lauren O'Donoghue
Laura Bennett
Tracey Woods
Damien Mamwell-Holme
Kelly Graham
Katie Wilson
Gabby Willis
Seenah
Chris Russell

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Page 1268

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Karlos Samuel
Jessica Gamble
Adam
Greg Robinson
Phil Wrighton
Michael Scarborough
Roia Mchugh
Mark Gleadhall
Ellen
Kathryn Housley
Anna
Katie
Joana Nastari
Andrea Dunkley
Pixii Denise Jeffrey
Daisy-Ann Francis
Jessica Grant
John Hearn
Sunshine Wong
Amy
Marjan Wijers
Salema.Yasmin@Yahoo.Co.Uk
Elizabeth-Jade Farrow
Inot White
Sarah Houchin
Rachel Burton
Stefanie Leigh-Ford
Nina Rose
Laura Lunn-Bates
Clare Gallagher
Vera Rodriguez, funding
Natalie Bough
Ernae Windham
Beth
Lauren Brannon
Alex Warren
Lorna Nicholson
Joanna
Caitlin
Sarah Grieve
Anna Rose

Add my name to the open letter

Dr Gemma Ahearne
Sean Swain
Sam
Michael Mckenna
Alana Wilde
Sean W
Vanessa Martinez
Doris Lowman
Natalia
Chloe Patterson
Alan Bishop
Daryn Miller
Katie
Jasmin
Preston Rittenhouse
Emily
Diana Howard
Jodie Porter-Crowe
Rod Currie
Leah
Jan Currie
Stuart Mcmillan
Hayley Mcmillan
Kieron Thomas
Sarah Lade
Leo Capella
Courtney Steele
Lewis
Blake Barlow
Alan Smith
Liz Dabner
Danica
Scarlett Jones
Andrew Jenkins
Toni Trigg
Lizzie Rose
Ted Steptoe
Amy Palmer
Marguerite Sharp
Joseph R
Raven Nielsen
Jay Garnett

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Hannah
Daniel Abbotts
Charlie Porter
Hannah Torpey
Pixii Denise Jeffrey
Jason Ackland
Olivia Cosgrove
Leanne
Adam Delaney
Caoimhe Mader Mcguinness
Elliott O'Rourke
Stacey Lea Clarke
Meredith
Georgia Blackmore
Clara Peiró Timoner
Alice Punch
Chloe Froggatt
The Chauffeur
Kaiya Mccoy
Linda Robinson
Jenna Al-Ansari
Ciara Shrager
Bebe Giselle Deville
Siobhan Brophy
Paul Taylor
Luke Amos
Oscar Barany
Holly
Saskia Hagelberg
Anthony Wragg
Nadja Voorham
Tim Caddy
Anne Errelis-Phillips
Lyn Kinder
Philippa Simpson
Jack Pattison
Lucy Hurt
Richard Girard
James Lloyd
Demi Hunter
Caitlin

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Mhairi
Adam Wragg
Debbie Brannan
Claire Riley
Ak
Jade Green
Tittie Longstocking, Myself
Sarah
Megan Washington
Natasha Brown
Jodie Hanaga
Holly Combe
Carmen D'Cruz
Ian Meetun
Karen Budd
Elsie-May Gribbon
Sophie Whitmill
Angela Graham
Emily
Walter Howard
Kris
Miss Katie Barrass
Bethan
Joe White
Lauren O'Connor
Nancy Dawkins
Bevan Richardson
Hope Falconer
Katie
Michelle Doran
Chelsea Walton
A Hughes
Nadia Jama
Esmeralda Cifuentes-King
Bella Alionyte
Justine Fernandes
Niki Adams
Amy Joanne
Billy Moir
Gemma Gilson
Claire Johnson
George Colton

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Rosie Wright
Nico Black
Georgina Mcghee
Peyton
Chris Griffiths
Amber Vaske, Silks
Chris Haywood
Claire
Scarlett Smithies
Siân Williams
Cheryl Asquith
Ash Collyer
Hannah
Rosie Huzzard
Sam Browse
Clare
Tamara
Megan Warrender
Ray Khan
Alex Calderbank
Thaddeus Gregory Blanchette
Rene Schwartz
Charitie
Andrew Rogers
Lisa Davies
Danielle Amaning
Laura Ziup
Glenn B
Natalia Mole
Lisa R
Adrian Slatt
Michelle Chambers
Arther Hastings
Gemma Lowbridge
Chloe C
S Brown
Eamon Andreias
Caelan Reid, Sheffield Labour Students
Molly Simmonite
Adele
Stuart Reaney

Add my name to the open letter

Zee Zaman
Terri Wilson
Lexi Lundberg
Leo R
Jessica Thorpe
Pete Dunsby
Victoria Roberts
Louise Mellows
Aidan Hardy
Victoria Billingham
Pip Williams
Athena Rees
Shian Denovan
Mark Seddon
Leah Helliwell
Scott Green
Jay
Kinga Cichon
Rob Charleston
Lizzie Milton
Jen Slater
B
Pippa Johnson
Chris Townsend
Alana Wilkinson
Poppy
Andy
Brooke Hoyt
Leah Jones
Wil Cornish
Isaac Tandler
Stephanie
Kathryn Blagg
Oliver
Vera Rodriguez
Misha
Tasneem Alsayyed
Suzanne
Harry Stansfield
Kathryn Twelvetree
David Moys
Alexander Schulenburg

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Harriet Donovan
Leeroy Wheeler
Chris Carter
Caroline Hurt
Eden Shortman
Rebecca Williamson
Benjamin Prizeman
Jen Tidman, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Rhianne Keyser
Travis Ward
Harriet
Des Jones
Richard Kirk
Tillie Gupta
Dan Smith
Demaine Boocock
George Bunn
Joe Coupe
Beth
Tiffany Ferguson
Hannah Spellacy
Debra Watson
Sarah Mcmamara
Daxton Perkins
William North
Tracey Hoole
Evie Cockayne
Josh Masson
Ambra Vaske
Evie Cockayne
Lauren Macluskey
Ellen
Ria Naisbitt
Gina O'Connor
C Court
Jean Watson
Malcolm Wood
Nicky Marlow
Michelle Bagshaw
Rachael Mccoy
Beth Amos
Katrjn Bradford

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Martha Bryce
Stuart Taylor
Lucy Allison
Joni E
Melanie Lagronova
James
Rod Currie
Alexander Opel
Martin Smith
Grace Thambyrajah
Oliver Godby
Stefanie Barnes
Stacey Clare
Mattu Mannah
Eliza
Rosie Carter-Rich, Cinema
Sadie Base
Gabrielle Patterson
Emily
Martin
Jessica Schoonmaker
Tom Scott
Julie Cook
Megan
Gary Asbridge
Luke Hawksbee
Rebecca White
Matthew Greenhough
Daniel Heywood
Layla Rose
Lily Hadfield
Vee
Minesh Parekh
Lauren
Taja Bright
Hannah
Demaine Boocock
Antonia
Simon Hutton
Amber

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Chloe
Tiegan Renshaw
Lily B
Leah L
Karen Wilson
Catriona Murray
Sam Addison
Jamilah Wood
Daniel Hussey
Aimee Larkin
Graham Gregson
Melanie Lagronova
Tracy Molloy
Kirsty Searcy
Georgina Ryan
Michael Murphy
Annette Holbourne
Bex Smith
Kellyanne Lawson
Rebecca Bowler
Chloe
Jodie Browning
Brandon Knight
Jude Anderson
Sidonie Brough
Kathryn Baker
Helena
D J Rose
Alice Finch
Dawn Davison
Mark Wheat
Rajesh Fernandez
Richard Harrison
Aj Edwards
Heather
Bill
C Callaghan
Carl Rylander
Charlotte Widlake
M. Bux
Sam Littlewood

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Emma Kitt
Rochelle
Olivia Wells
Nicola Heath
Lily Quantock
Brooke Nemetsky
Iris Hoigaard
Lynzi Brown
Kaylee Logan
Vicky Davies
S Currie
Denay Wheeler
Rachael Mrvos
Madeleine Emily Day
Daniel Whitaker
Rachel
Antonia
Katie
Kaylee Logan
Danielle Davey
Georgia Moreland
Richard Willo
Selma Rayon
Steve Hendry
Alex
Jessica Risque, central chambers
Siena Russel
Natalia Campos-Martínez
Lily Lawford
Charlotte A
Kathryn West
Emma Webster
Erica Moore
Meredith Warren
Ana Davim
Georgina Ryan
Jan Currie
Elle Stanger
Stavroula Koilakou
Alice Wilson
Sukhi Singh
Emma Nagouse

Add my name to the open letter

Phoebe Wade
Meredith Warren
Matthew Rowe
G Barber
Titty Man
Maeve Wolff
Virginia Dawe-Woodings
Matt Heywood
Charlotte Faulkner
Ryan
Ginny Dawe-Woodings, St. George's University London
Heather
Jay
Howard Wilmot
Mark Mcleod
Lermae
Matthew Parsons
Jenny P
Joe Parker
Rosa Conley
Emily
Martyna Fryszkowska
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Lauren Mee
Joseph Kelly
Jamie Bingham
Verity Sibley
Katie Foy
Claire Riley
Sonia
Mr Mark Buckley
Maria Green
Antony Brown
Emily Reed
David Jeff
Stephanie Ann
Josephine Sirotkin
Amy Kathryn
Terry Browning
Sonia
Evie Helen Cockayne

Add my name to the open letter

Abby Wensley
Amelia Harrison
Tom Hollingworth
Vera Weghmann
Diana Zeferina
Mhairi S
Shannon Blandford
Lynton
Adele
Hannah
Leia Grant
Chloe Brantley
Tony Bell
Michael Sargeson
Kirk Bytheway
Madison Bean
Jenna Johnson
Debbie
Meagan Smith, Rudtmim
Lewis
Sophie Cocker
Vivian Twist
Gracie Adams
Glenn B
Ubal Araque
Dawn Fletcher
Brynn Alred
Katie
Nicola Daley
Thom Smith
Niall M.
Claire Burditt
Rowen Faith
Sarah Everidge
Alex
Thomas Longden
Kerry Duncan
Billie
Grant Walton
John Hearn
Rhiannon Roberts
Annette Lewis

Add my name to the open letter

Sabrina Beck
Chris Bamford
Anthony Wragg
Chloe Walls
Sophia Chapman
Natasha Hampson
Rosa Vince
Tyrone Wilson
Gracie Adams
Daniel Gascoigne
Anne-Marie Toal
Victoria Knight
Heather Paterson
Alison Walton
Susie Piccaver
Stephen Lawler
Ben Parkes
Terri
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Emily Williams
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Debra Babineaux
Graham Marsden
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Pauline
Marlon Catwell
Liam Collins
Gemma Allison
Madeleine Hennessy
Karl Lewis
Rory Armstrong
Dai Evans
Antony Longley
Esme Worrell
Frances Cooper
Billy Laser
Kate Philips
Vicky Hackney-Williams
Kitty Turner
James Michael Yeoman
Ashleigh Birch
Julia Downes

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Gill Mayo
Adam Gouldin
Gloria Dawson
Chris Coulter
Hollie Ward
Hollie Eustace
Leah Jones
Marc Askew
Amy Newton
Karim Ayoubi
Stefan
Shaun Phillips
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Adeline Berry
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Rachel
Aislinn Forrest
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Joseph Kiggins
James P
Daniella Jeff
Rachael Liversidge
Bonnie Jackson
Laura
Chloe Bennett
Rosie Walters
Lucinda , Stripper
Caitlin White
Toby Mckenzie-Barnes
David Sheffield
Zoe Block
Lewis Sheppard
Grace Gadd
Natasha O'Neill
Jordan
Dean Butler
Christopher Madden
Fay
Diana Howard
Melanie Lagronova

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Zak
Simone
Andy Gray
R Crawford
Maddy Rose-Key
Cameron Radford
Suzanne
Erin
Josie Salmon
Lucy Hodge
Charlotte Wells
Stefan
Lorraine Baker
Jason Wayland
Julie Duncan
Alexandra Sareh
Natalie Morris
Tim Darker
Ana Raluca Constantin
Tara Appleyard
Danni
Malorie S
James Coppard, Sheffield Hallam University
Katie A
Tom Mcgrath
Sophie Wilson
Victoria Houle
Kara Noblett
Sasha
Bethan Cook
Josh Berlyne
Elissa Bradshaw
Sandra Cooper
Holly
Rosa Howarth Kennedy
Nadia Jama
Moya O'Rourke
Charlotte
Christopher Morton
Jaime
Rachel Holland

Add my name to the open letter

Clive Bates
Jamil Ismaili
Shauna Maguire
Billy Laser
Craig Tuffnell
Astrid Taylor
Mitch Smith
Miriam Miller
Joshua Scrivens
Rhianne Keyser
Scott Booth
Ellie Wilson
Matthew Cull
Tee
Hannah Beres
Rebecca
Corinne Deakin
Hannah Kemp
Tracey Jeff
Katie
Charlotte Anchev
Brianna Cistrunk
Russell Hughes
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Robert Montgomery
Carys Thomas
Georgia Blackmore
Meghan Chapman
M. Morrison
Mark Roberts
Gaz Neald
Tilly Bates
Neale Gibson
Ruth Milsom
Scarlet
Mandy Hudson-Green
Charles Stephen
Lewis Sheppard
Natalya Bex
Bec Drakenhall
Sofia Connors
A Bostock

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Michael
Jazmin M
Ebony
Siriana Abboud
Hannah
Robert Montgomery
Jo King
Millito
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Deborah Doherty
Shay Mccoy
Kinga Cichon
George
Kathleen Wilson
Caeley Elcock
A Hayes
Martin Farrelly
Lucy Burbidge
Kirsten Neil
Amy Farebrother
Dan Gregory
Frances Mcgee
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Page 1286

APPENDIX G

Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board Comments

91

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: URGENT - CONSULTATION - RENEWAL OF SEV LICENCE SPEARMINT RHINO - SSCB RESPONSE

From: Hague Julie
Sent: 28 May 2019 08:22
To: licensingservice
Cc: Horsefield Victoria; Gilbert Tina
Subject: RE: URGENT - CONSULTATION - RENEWAL OF SEV LICENCE SPEARMINT RHINO - SSCB RESPONSE

Dear Licensing Authority

Further to my comments below regarding the safeguarding measures operating at Spearmint Rhino, I have been informed by the Operator that there is an inaccuracy in my comments, in that CCTV does operate in all private dancing booths. Could you please disregard therefore my comment in the last sentence of section 2.b. below.

Many thanks and my apologies for my misunderstanding.

Julie

Julie Hague
Licensing Manager, Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board

Floor 3, Howden House, Union Street, Sheffield S1 2SH

0114 2736753

07354 219662

julie.hague@sheffield.gov.uk

www.safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org

From: Hague Julie
Sent: 23 May 2019 15:10
To: licensingservice
Cc: Horsefield Victoria (Victoria.Horsefield@sheffield.gov.uk); Gilbert Tina
Subject: FW: URGENT - CONSULTATION - RENEWAL OF SEV LICENCE SPEARMINT RHINO - SSCB RESPONSE
Importance: High

For the attention of the Licensing Authority

Dear Licensing Authority

Thank you for consulting on an annual basis, regarding the application to renew the above SEV licence. I am the responding on behalf of the Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board and Safeguarding Adults Partnership, because my role involves working in partnership with the Police, Council, other statutory agencies to regulate licensed premises and promote good safeguarding practice, to reduce the risk of children and vulnerable people being harmed. My role involves visiting a variety of premises including sex entertainment venues, massage parlours and adult saunas and I provide advice and recommendations to the Licensing Authority for policy and

procedures relating to, or within, safeguarding at licensed premises including Sexual Entertainment Venues.

My comments regarding the application are as follows:

1. I can confirm that during the past 12 months, neither the Safeguarding Children Board nor the Safeguarding Adults Partnership has received complaints about the above premises.
2. I visited the premises on 22.05.19 to establish (i) what measures are in place to prevent young people under the age of 18 accessing, or working, at the premises and (ii) what existing safeguarding practice is, to support self-employed performers, venue staff and vulnerable customers. My observations and findings from this meeting, which was attended by the venue Director Jon Specht and Manager Peter Mercer are as follows:
 - a. The safeguarding measures were consistent with other licensed premises of this nature and I did not observe any unusual practice.
 - b. The Challenge 25 age verification scheme was evidenced and records are maintained. Door staff responsible for enforcing the scheme and other security measures are SIA registered and trained. CCTV is extensive, however it does not cover private dance booths, which are monitored by designated security staff.
 - c. The venue has a male and female manager on site, to support self-employed performers with welfare issues. Arrangements and guidance for safe transport were evidenced, including the provision of taxi telephone numbers. However general welfare information was not easily accessible to performers; welfare managers contact details are not on display in staff areas for performers to use, nor is information available to help performers who may wish to access welfare support. I also note that there is currently no training available to general managers, to help them recognise and respond to vulnerability. I have advised the premises management that welfare provision for self employed performers and other staff should be improved and an agreement was made that managers will (i) attend vulnerability training and (ii) display welfare information for self-employed performers and other staff to access, should they wish.

Julie Hague

Licensing Manager, Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board

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APPENDIX H

Equality Impact Assessment

11



Print this page

Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation

Approved

Approved by Johnston Annemarie

MAKE CHANGES TO THE FORM

Equality Impact Assessment

Introductory Information

Reference number
569

Proposal type
 Budget Project


Project name
Sexual Entertainment Venue Renewal Application – Spearmint Rhino

Decision Type

Type of decision

- Cabinet
- Cabinet Committee (e.g. Cabinet Highways Committee)
- Leader
- Individual Cabinet Member
- Executive Director/Director
- Officer Decisions (Non-Key)
- Council (e.g. Budget and Housing Revenue Account)
- Regulatory Committees (e.g. Licensing Committee)

Lead Cabinet Member

Dannall Lewis (LAB-CLLR)  

Entered on Q Tier

Yes No



Year(s)

14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22
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EIA date

01/05/2019



EIA lead

Johnston Annemarie  

EIA contact

Craig Harner  

Lead officer

Crofts Michael  

Lead Corporate Plan priority

Thriving Neighbourhoods and Communities

Portfolio, Service and Team

Cross Portfolio

Yes No

Portfolio

Place

Place service(s)

- Business Strategy and Regulation
- City Growth
- Culture and Environment
- Housing and Neighbourhoods Service
- Major Projects
- Repairs and Maintenance Service
- Transport and Facilities Management

Place team(s)

Licensing

Is the EIA joint with another organisation (eg NHS)?

No Yes

Brief aim(s) of the proposal and the outcome(s) you want to achieve

On the 6th April 2010, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 came into force, amending Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. Sexual Entertainment Venues were added as a category of establishment, enabling local authorities to regulate (administer and enforce) such premises.

On the 30th April 2019, the Licensing Authority received an application for a sexual entertainment venue, under the trading name, Spearmint Rhino. Spearmint Rhino provides entertainment in the form of lap-dancing in booths, pole dancing on stage, stage strip-tease and anything of a like kind. Performances are undertaken by both male and females; however, it is understood that the majority of performances are by females for males.

The Council recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate sexual entertainment venues and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the recreation, entertainment and night-time economy and provide an additional appeal to residents, tourists, visitors and the students that attend the two universities. It is the City Council's role as the Licensing Authority to regulate such premises in accordance with the law, and doing so will aim to promote:

- High Management Standards
- Public safety of staff, performers and patrons
- Safeguarding of staff, performers and patrons
- Safeguarding vulnerable persons in the locality

Applicants making an application for a sexual entertainment venue licence are expected to have read the Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy 2011 in conjunction with relevant pieces of legislation before making such an application. The policy, legislation and other such relevant materials will be considered and referred to when the Council is making a decision on applications, renewals and other such matters that are relevant.

Valid representations to the application will be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee at a hearing to consider the application. Applicants and those making representations will be given an equal opportunity to state their case in accordance with the Licensing Committee's procedure for such hearings.

The outcome of the process is that the application will be decided on its own merits, with the Licensing Committee ensuring all relevant factors are considered and given proper attention. The Licensing Committee will give clear reasons for its decision.

It is important to note that within this EIA the term 'customer' is not limited to patrons of the establishment but rather any and all persons that could potentially be impacted - the general public.

Impact

Under the Public Sector Equality Duty we have to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

More information is available on the Council website including the Community Knowledge Profiles.

Note the EIA should describe impact before any action/mitigation. If there are both negatives and positives, please outline these - positives will be part of any mitigation. The action plan should detail any mitigation.

Overview

Overview (describe how the proposal helps to meet the Public Sector Duty outlined above), Supporting Evidence (Please detail all your evidence used to support the EIA)

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) provides a framework to assist applicants and decision makers in considering applications, ensuring all relevant factors are given proper attention.

The Equality Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations.

This applies to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. The EIA seeks to address issues that are explicit to the application being considered, in this case, Spearmint Rhino.

In order to help facilitate decision making, Licensing Committee members undertake a range of training, including equality and diversity. This is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure their knowledge and understanding is of a standard in order to help them make decisions.

Impacts

Proposal has an impact on

Health	Age	Disability	Pregnancy/Maternity	Race	Religion/Belief
Sex	Sexual Orientation	Transgender	Carers		
Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors		Cohesion	Partners		
Poverty & Financial Inclusion			Armed Forces	Other	

Health

Does the Proposal have a significant impact on health and well-being (including effects on the wider determinants of health)?

Yes No

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

A report titled "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary", by the Health Improvement Principal from the Office of the Director of Public Health, Sheffield City Council in January 2018 provides an evidence summary of peer reviewed journals from the past 5 years using the terms sex industry + health and sexual entertainment venues + health. The evidence summary is attached to this EIA.

Customers

Yes No

Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment being complete

Yes No

Please attach health impact assessment as a supporting document below.

Public Health Leads has signed off the health impact(s) of this EIA

Yes No

Health Lead

Hird, Susan



Age

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

There is a potential negative impact whereby persons under the age of 18 are employed or are able to gain work in a self-employed capacity in such an establishment. However, Spearmint Rhino, does not employ, nor does it allow entrance to persons under the age of 18.

The Licensing Authority carry out inspections of currently licensed premises and have not had reason to believe that under 18's are employed by Spearmint Rhino.

The Licensing Authority has not received any substantiated complaints regarding underage access to the premises.

The Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership has not received any formal complaints relating to persons under the age of 18 accessing the Spearmint Rhino premises for any purpose (to work or as patrons or for any other reason).

Similarly, the Licensing Authority has not received any information from South Yorkshire Police or any other such organisation informing of complaints or issues in relation to access to the premises by persons under the age of 18.

The "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health summary" report found evidence by Sanders and Hardy (2015) suggesting that most people start work in Sexual Entertainment Venues under the age of 25 (73.5%), with the average age of entry into the sex industry being 23 years. Students are a key source of temporary labour for SEVs, particularly undergraduates and part-time students. Financial pressure is the main driving force for entering the industry including student debt, debt from benefit changes, and broader economic pressures. However, those working in the industry also perceived relatively high pay, shorter hours and job flexibility as positive factors compared to other employment sectors such as retail.

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

In Sheffield, the age group that has increased the most from 2001 to 2011 is the 16-24 group; 16.7% of our population is in this group. The factors which are having the most impact on this changing city profile are increasing numbers of university students and the inward migration of households with young families.

There are premises and other establishments within the local vicinity that cater for a younger audience, such as the Students' Union Hub and other such university buildings. It maybe that the proximity of the premises could have a negative impact on the young people that attend these premises; however, the operational hours of these premises differ to those of the establishment in question. The majority of these premises are not substantially used by persons solely under the age of 18.

The "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health summary" report found that students were also key consumers of SEV and sex industry services and debt and illicit drug use were predictive of consumption. However, there is no available evidence to suggest that students of the universities are key consumers of the premises.

Furthermore, the "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health summary" report found that there is a reasonable consensus of sensitive land use where SEVs would not be appropriate which includes residential areas, near schools, near universities or colleges, near religious sites, near shops or high streets, sexual trauma services amongst other places. Where land use changes they may no longer be "fit".

The area in which Spearmint Rhino is located is changing, this includes the expansion of Sheffield Hallam University.

Spearmint Rhino does not employ, nor does it allow entrance to persons under the age of 18. The Licensing Authority has not received any complaints regarding underage access to the premises.

Similarly, the Licensing Authority has not received any information from South Yorkshire Police informing of complaints or issues in relation to access to the premises by persons under the age of 18.

The Licensing Authority has carried out inspections at the premises and no issues in relation to age have been identified.

The following comments have been received by the Sheffield Safeguarding Children's Board and Safeguarding Adults Partnership in regards to the 2019 renewal application:

- During the last 12 months, neither the Safeguarding Children Board nor the Safeguarding Adults Partnership has received complaints about the premises;
- Visits to the premises were undertaken on 22.05.19 to establish (i) what measures are in place to prevent young people under the age of 18 accessing, or working at the premises and (ii) what existing safeguarding practice is, to support self-employed performers, venue staff and vulnerable customers. Observations and findings, in the attendance of Director John Specht and Manager Peter Mercer are that:
 - o Safeguarding measures were consistent with other licensed premises of this nature and no unusual practice was observed;
 - o Challenge 25 age verification scheme was evidenced and records maintained. Door staff were responsible for enforcing the scheme and other security measures are SIA registered and trained. CCTV is extensive, however does not cover private dance booths, which are monitored by designated security staff. [CCTV is now in place in all private dance booths].
 - a. There is a male and female manager on site, to support self-employed performers with welfare issues. Arrangements and guidance for safe transport were evidenced, including the provision of taxi telephone numbers. However general welfare information was not easily accessible to performers; welfare managers contact details are not on display in staff areas for performers to use, nor is information available to help performers who may wish to access welfare support. No training available to general managers, to help them recognise and respond to vulnerability. Welfare provision for self-employed performers and other staff should be improved and an agreement was made that managers will (i) attend vulnerability training and (ii) display welfare information for self-employed performers and other staff to access, should they wish.

Where the premises should advertise or exhibit inappropriate materials and/or such articles on the premises, in premises windows, on walls or in the immediate surrounding areas, there may be seen to be a negative impact. However, Sexual Entertainment Venue Standard Conditions prohibit licensees from advertising outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the city using photographs or images that indicate or suggest that relevant entertainment takes place on the premises.

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

There is a potential negative impact on people with a disability if premises not meet the standards and make reasonable adjustments (as required under the Equality Act 2010) to ensure disabled people are not at a substantial disadvantage. This can require changing practices, policies and procedures and providing auxiliary aids, or in the case of a physical feature, it includes removing or altering it.

Due to this being 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.

The Licensing Authority is unaware of any substantiated complaints received in relation to the treatment of disabled people or in relation to the access to the premises of disabled people.

Disability encompasses a wide range of factors as set out under the Equality Act 2010 definitions. There may be impact on the mental health of people working in the venues, with the "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary" indicating that the most prevalent mental health conditions are anxiety, depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders.

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Disability encompasses a wide range of factors as set out under the Equality Act 2010 definitions.

The most notable is a potential negative impact on people with a disability if a premises does not meet the standards and make reasonable adjustments to the physical barriers to access throughout the building.

Due to this being 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.

The Licensing Authority is unaware of any substantiated complaints received in relation to the treatment of disabled people or in relation to the access to the premises of disabled people.

Race

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

The Licensing Authority is unaware of the make-up of staff who work within the premises, and there is no expectation on Spearmint Rhino to record this.

The "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary" highlights a report that details there are more prosecutions for trafficking in the sex industry than other industries such as garment, agriculture and domestic service which have a much higher prevalence of trafficking.

The report does not provide any evidence, nor has there been any evidence of trafficking in Sheffield's licensed sex establishments, including Spearmint Rhino. However, ensuring staff, customers and management know how and where to report a safeguarding concern regarding potential trafficking or coerced involvement in the industry will help mitigate this risk.

Comments, objections and other such information received in conjunction to representations to past applications have not highlighted or brought about negative connotations in relation to Race.

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Sheffield is a diverse city and the ethnic profile continues to change. The proportion of residents classifying themselves as BAME has grown from 11% in 2001 to 19% in 2011. BAME adults make up 17% of the population.

There is no breakdown of ethnicity of direct customers, and we have no evidence from particular ethnic communities in relation to potential impact in the city.

Comments, objections and other such information received in conjunction to representations to past applications have not highlighted or brought about negative connotations in relation to Race.

Religion/Belief

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

In the 2011 Census, 53% of Sheffield people said they were Christian, 31% had no religion and 8% were Muslim.

It is understood that Sexual Entertainment Venues are such that they may offend or are contrary to certain faiths and beliefs.

However, the Council recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate sexual entertainment venues and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the leisure industry. It is the Council's role as the Licensing Authority to set policy and regulate such premises in accordance with the law. This particular EIA is in relation to a licensing application within the context of the current policy.

There is reasonable consensus of sensitive land use where SEVs would not be appropriate which includes near religious sites. The Licensing Authority is not aware of any religious buildings in the immediate vicinity of the premises, however, previous representations from Sheffield Hallam University refers to Spearmint Rhino being sited near to the university's Prayer Rooms and Multi-Faith Chaplaincy which attracts "a large number of students seeking a place of worship, spirituality, meditation or reflection, including Muslim Prayer Rooms".

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/values and local authorities should not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds set out in paragraph 12".

Sex

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Representations submitted by action groups, interested parties and members of the public contend that sexual entertainment venues, in particular, contribute to the "normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women".

Women's groups such as Object and the Fawcett Society have led campaigns against lap-dancing, arguing that limiting SEVs will help to improve gender equality by reducing the objectification of women (Colosi, 2013).

Perspectives to be considered include:

- In the long term, the closure of lap dancing clubs will result in the unemployment of women, particularly problematic in a time of recession, leading to issues of poverty where ex-dancers are unable to find employment (Colossi, 2013).

- Additionally, Colosi (2013) states that "this also risks pushing the stripping industry underground, with more women opting to work in unregulated environments as erotic dancers, where the physical dangers can be considerable" (p.9).

Working in a regulated environment that is subject to controls, licence conditions and visits from different organisations, including, but not limited to, the Licensing Authority, Police, Health Protection, Trading Standards etc. may have an increased positive impact for staff.

As part of the Sex Establishment Policy consultation (2017), the views of female performers (the predominant workforce in this area) at Spearmint Rhino were sought. In the main, the results reveal that the vast majority of dancers work in Spearmint Rhino to earn extra money and enjoy the flexibility in hours. The results also reveal that dancers feel safe and that the management and security staff are approachable should issues arise. The Licensing Authority has carried out quarterly inspections over the past 12 months and no issues have been raised in this regard.

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Representations submitted by action groups, interested parties and members of the public contend that sexual entertainment venues, in particular, contribute to the "normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women".

Additionally, previous and current representations have paid attention to:

- objectification of women
- gender inequality
- that SEVs are part of the sex industry and not retail and leisure
- the meaning of moral objections
- sexual harassment and violence against women and girls in Sheffield.

Women's groups such as Object and the Fawcett Society have led campaigns against lap-dancing, arguing that limiting SEVs will help to improve gender equality by reducing the objectification of women (Colosi, 2013). However, Colosi (2013) argued that: "This view is far too simplistic. In the long term, the closure of lap dancing clubs will result in the unemployment of women, particularly problematic in a time of recession, leading to issues of poverty where ex-dancers are unable to find employment" (p.9).

Additionally, Colosi (2013) states that "this also risks pushing the stripping industry underground, with more women opting to work in unregulated environments as erotic dancers, where the physical dangers can be considerable" (p.9).

There is no legislative bar or policy objective preventing a sexual entertainment venue being predominantly male in its workforce, or being visited primarily by females - sexual entertainment venues are open to all sexes. Spearmint Rhino holds both female and male nights and is visited by both male and females - there is no bar to entry for either sex, save those under the age of 18. However, the consensus in the "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary" is that the overwhelming majority of those working in the sex industry including SEVs are women, and that the majority of customers are men.

The "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary" shows research where an authors' study revealed that SEVs were not a major cause of distress to local residents, but a significant minority (1 in 10) claimed to always avoid walking near such venues: women were significantly overrepresented in this group, suggesting the presence of sexual entertainment in the night-time city does have important gendered effects. The study found women were more likely to note, and comment on, the presence of lap dance clubs than men but that this was more related to questions of morality and disgust than fear, with SEVs contribute to criminal and antisocial behaviour deemed less significant than that of clubs, pubs or takeaways.

The Council recognises that Parliament has made it lawful to operate sexual entertainment venues and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the leisure industry. It is the Council's role as the Licensing Authority to set policy and regulate such premises in accordance with the law. This particular EIA is in relation to a licensing application within the context of the current policy.

The Licensing Authority has carried out inspections on the premises and there were not issues regarding this characteristic. Additionally, Sexual Entertainment Venues in particular are highly regulated, and subject to multi-agency intervention and review, strict controls and conditions, and must operate within the remit of the legislation, government guidance and

Sexual Orientation**Staff**

Yes No

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Details of impact

Although there is no detailed local data, based on national government estimates there is approx 5-7% of people who are lesbian, gay or bisexual - 28,000 to 39,000 LGB people in the city (see LGBT Community profile).

Information provided by Spearmint Rhino states that patrons do include the LGBTQ community. However, there is no evidence to show a disproportionate impact on this group.

There is no barrier to performers in SEV premises nor customers of any sex establishment in respect of sexual orientation and no concerns have been raised with the Licensing Authority in respect of this characteristic.

Transgender

Staff

- Yes
- No

Customers

- Yes
- No

Impact

- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative

Level

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Details of impact

There is no specific local data, however the Gender Identity Research and Education Society estimates that about 0.6% of people are trans, so approximately 3,000 people in the city (see LGBT Community Knowledge profile).

There is no bar to legal entry, save that for those under the age of 18.

There is no perceived disproportionate impact in regards to this characteristic.

Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors

Staff

- Yes
- No

Customers

- Yes
- No

Impact

- Positive
- Neutral
- Negative

Level

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Details of impact

H11

The legislation gives Local Authorities discretionary grounds to refuse sex establishment licences on the grounds that the grant or renewal of a licence would be inappropriate, having regard to the character of the relevant locality and use of other premises in the vicinity, amongst other things.

There is a potential for a premises to have a negative impact based on its location; this may include:

- (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 Licensing Authority is aware of buildings in close proximity to the premises, which include, but are not limited to:

- Sheffield Hallam Students' Union
- Site Gallery
- Other such buildings of a sensitive nature

The Licensing Authority is also aware that the premises is located within the Cultural Industries Quarter.

There is no bar to legal entry for people of a particular voluntary, community or faith organisation/sector at any time.

Comments from Public Health, received in the consultation period, state that the site is no longer suitable for such an establishment due to the changed use and regeneration of the area, in particular nearby sensitive locations, including:

- The Sheffield Hallam University buildings adjacent to the site;
- The University Technology College City Centre for children aged 13-18, a short distance away on Matilda Street;
- The Site Gallery, now expanded as part of the Cultural Industries Quarter, opposite;
- The substance misuse treatment services a short distance away on Sidney Street.

The Health Evidence describes that young age or being a student, illicit drug use and mental ill health are predictive of participation in or consumption of sex industry products, which include sexual entertainment. A particular concern of proximity to student venues is that student impoverishment was seen to drive female students into working in the industry and being in debt is predictive of being both a worker and a consumer in the industry.

A representation from Sheffield Hallam University states that the premises is sited near to the Sheffield Hallam University Prayer Rooms and Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, which regularly attract a large number of students seeking a place of worship, spirituality, meditation or reflection. Also nearby are the Counselling and Wellbeing services available for staff and students of Sheffield Hallam University. The services provide specialist support, including

Cohesion

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

It is the belief of some people that sexual entertainment venues contribute towards a decline in societal cohesion, and that such premises objectify women.

The "Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary" highlights a study whereby participants associated SEVs with undesirable characteristics such as binge drinking, drug use, loitering, noise and other anti-social behaviour. The authors discuss views of customers of SEVs being threatening and risky and contrast this with the low number of reports of serious sexual assault.

It is also the belief that sexual entertainment venues contribute towards prostitution and/or crime and disorder. However, there is no evidence in Sheffield, in so much that South Yorkshire Police (who are invited to make comments as part of the application) have never and continue not to make representations in regards the application.

The Licensing Authority notes that it is lawful to operate such businesses.

The Sheffield Safeguarding Board has confirmed that no complaints have been made in relation to the premises.

See Section on Sex with regard to impact on women.

Poverty & Financial Inclusion

Staff

Yes No

Impact

Positive Neutral Negative

Level

None Low Medium High

Details of impact

Representations received as part of the consultation and in support of the venue, assert that closing the club will take away waged positions (door, bar, management and cleaning staff) which provide for many families across Sheffield. Furthermore, representations state that failure to licence the club will take away jobs for many women working as dancers, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities.

Additionally, comments suggest that the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose; leading to a negative impact on workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing

Customers

Yes No

Supporting Documentation

[Click here to attach a file](#)

SEV Evidence Summary v5.docx

Public Health_SEV Evidence Summary v2.docx

Cumulative impact

Proposal has a cumulative impact

Yes No

Cumulative impact

- Year on Year
- Across a Community of Identity/Interest
- Geographical Area
- Other

Details of cumulative impact

The licensing of sexual entertainment venues attracts wide objection from Women's Groups about the potential and perceived negative impact on women and that these venues contribute to the "normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women".

Proposal has geographical impact across Sheffield

- Yes
- No

Details of geographical impact across Sheffield

City Centre Location

Local Partnership Area(s) impacted

- All
- Specific

- Central
- East
- North
- North East
- South
- South East
- South West

Action Plan and Supporting Evidence

Action plan

Health

Reports suggest that workers in sex establishments, particularly SEVs, face higher levels of physical and sexual violence, mental health disorders and substance misuse addiction.

The Licensing Authority is not aware of any incidents related to any of these issues but, in order to mitigate this, the policy states:

We would encourage holders of SEV licences to display and make available, without charge, literature on matters relating to sexual health as may be published by the FPA (formerly the Family Planning Association) and other similar organisations, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and information about local health services.

Age

Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 makes it an offence for a licence holder to:

- without reasonable excuse, knowingly permit a person under the age of 18 to enter the establishment; and
- employ a person known to them to be under 18 years of age in the business of the establishment.

The legislation gives discretionary grounds for refusal where the grant or renewal of a licence would be inappropriate to the character of the relevant locality or to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put.

The policy states that the authority will have regard to premises that 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.

External signage must be considered by the applicant and a scheme showing the exterior design must be submitted on application for a licence.

The policy states the following also states the following:

It is a standard condition of any licence granted that consent of the licensing authority be sought for an advertisement, photograph or imagery that indicates or suggests relevant entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the frontage and any other signage on the premises itself.

It is the policy of the licensing authority not to give such consent for any such advertisement or display which has any visual depiction or suggestion of relevant entertainment or nudity whether such visual depiction be by photograph or any other type of image.

Where any consent is sought for an advertisement or display that may contravene this part of the policy it will be referred to the licensing committee for determination.

It is therefore in the interest of the operator to consider what advertisements, photographs or images they intend to use at an early stage so that this consent can be considered at the same time as the application for grant or variation of a licence as appropriate.

The licensing of premises will allow for regulation and the ability to carry out inspections and checks in order to establish that such premises are operating correctly and within the terms of licence conditions. Inspections will be carried out periodically by the Licensing Authority and, where appropriate, jointly with other responsible services such as the Police, Trading Standards and Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership.

Enforcement and monitoring of licensed premises will be undertaken periodically in order to ensure that licence conditions are being adhered to. All visits, inspections, complaints, and compliments will be logged. Where there is evidence that legislation and conditions are not being adhered to or there are issues of non-compliance, appropriate and measured action will be undertaken.

Disability

The Council will do everything possible to ensure premises are conforming to the Equality Act 2010 in relation to disability. The Council has undertaken quarterly checks over the past 12 months and has not had any cause for concern.

The Equality Act 2010 states that reasonable adjustments should be made in order that disabled people can access such places that are ordinarily accessible by the public. Spearmint Rhino as a Sexual Entertainment Venue falls under this category.

The Licensing Authority 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 training on equality and diversity to develop staff understanding, including the legal context and expected behaviours in the workplace.

There is a potential negative impact on people with a disability if premises do not meet required standards and make reasonable adjustments (as required under the Equality Act) to ensure disabled people are not at a substantial disadvantage, this can require changing practices, policies and procedures and providing auxiliary aids, or in the case of a physical feature, it includes removing or altering it.

Race

To help mitigate any potential negative impacts, the Licensing Authority will administer and enforce the licensing regime in accordance with the law.

Religion/Belief

The Licensing Authority is not aware of any religious buildings in the immediate vicinity of the premises other than those mentioned earlier in this document.

The Act permits that applications can be refused whereby they would be inappropriate having regard to the character of the relevant locality and where the grant would be inappropriate having regard to other premises in the vicinity. In this regard, the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy states that the Licensing Authority will not licence a premises that it feels is in close proximity to a church or other place or religious worship.

The law pertaining to the licensing of sexual entertainment venues empowers the local and wider community to be involved in the licensing process and provides the ability to raise representations in respect of applications, specifically in regard to location.

Sex

It is recognised that there may be a disproportionate negative impact on women, however, the Licensing Authority will ensure a regulated environment that is subject to controls, licence conditions and visits from different organisations, including, but not limited to, the Licensing Authority, Police, Health Protection, Trading Standards etc.

In order to safeguard staff, Spearmint Rhino has in place rules for customers and dancers. Rules and regulations can be found within the report.

Voluntary/Community & Faith Centres

The Licensing Authority is aware of premises of a sensitive nature within Sheffield City Centre; however, it is for Members to determine the level of impact of these premises - attention should be paid to character of the relevant locality contained in the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy, in that:

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

- 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;

Supporting Evidence (Please detail all your evidence used to support the EIA)

Documents in the writing of this EIA are listed below.

Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy

Boo, M (2017). Sex Industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary

Colosi, R. (2013). Over 'Sexed' Regulation and the Disregarded Worker: An Overview of the Impact of Sexual Entertainment Policy on Lap-Dancing Club Workers. *Social Policy and Society*, 12(2), 241-252.

Kolvin, P. (2010). Sex Licensing. Institute of Licensing, 2010.

Office, H. (2010). Sexual Entertainment Venues.

Sanders, T., Hardy, K., & Campbell, R. (2015). Regulating Strip-Based Entertainment: Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy and the Ex/Inclusion of Dancers' Perspectives and Needs. *Social Policy and Society*, 14(01), 83-92.

Whur, P. (2011, March 3). Close Encounters. Retrieved 05 15, 2017, from Local Government Lawyer: http://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6002:close-encounters&catid=61:licensing-article

Sheffield City Council Licensing Authority Complaints Database

South Yorkshire Police

Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Service

Sheffield City Council Community Knowledge Profiles

Consultation

Consultation required

Yes No

Consultation start date

30/04/2019

Consultation end date

11/06/2019

Details of consultation

The application has been dealt with in line with legislative requirements as set out in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended).

This consultation process involves the following and allows representations to be made in respect of the application:

The applicant must, within seven days after the date of the application, publish an advertisement in a local newspaper circulating in the local authority's area.

The applicant must display a notice of the application on or near the premises where it can be conveniently read by the public. The notice must be displayed for 21 days starting with the date of application.

The applicant must send a copy of the application to the Chief Officer of Police no later than 7 days after the date of the application.

A copy of the full consultation results is an appendix in Committee Report that is being submitted for a decision.

Are Staff who may be affected by these proposals aware of them

Yes No

Are Customers who may be affected by these proposals aware of them

Yes No

If you have said no to either please say why

Summary of overall impact

Summary of overall impact

The Licensing Authority realises that sexual entertainment venues are legally in existence by Act of Parliament and it is lawful to operate these. In order to safeguard staff, Spearmint Rhino has in place rules for customers and dancers.

Overall it is considered that there may be some potential negative equality impacts, in particular regarding young people, women and community cohesion. This is in part due to the location of the premises and its proximity to premises that are frequented by young and vulnerable adults. To help mitigate any potential negative impacts, the Licensing Authority will administer and enforce the licensing regime in accordance with the law.

There are also some perceived potential negative impacts in regards to health (mainly linked to the mental health of dancers) and disability. In this respect the Licensing Authority will ensure that the licensing regime is administered and enforced in accordance with the law and policy conditions.

This EIA has been reviewed and updated following the closing date of the consultation. This EIA will be reviewed and updated, if required, to reflect any conclusions from the current investigation, which is due to close at the end of June 2019.

Summary of evidence

See Above

Changes made as a result of the EIA

Escalation plan

Is there a high impact in any area?

Yes No

If there is a high impact this EIA will be escalated to Adele Robinson for corporate consideration

Overall risk rating after any mitigations have been put in place

High Medium Low None

Review date

Review date

03/07/2019

If a review date is specified, it will appear in the 'Upcoming Reviews' view when the EIA review is within 30 days.

Approved

Sex industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary

Introduction

This brief and pragmatic evidence summary is intended to support the use of evidence in determining policy on the commercial sex industry, including sexual entertainment venues and/or to facilitate policy makers in placing conditions on operations that are evidence based and/or known to work.

This evidence review can aid the development of Equalities Impact Assessments or Health Impact Assessments.

Public Health does not make moral judgements on sex work or the sex industry but concerns itself with the best evidence and best practice for protecting public health.

Methodology

A literature search was conducted by Public Health using the University of Sheffield Starplus system.

Two search terms were used:

- Sex industry + health
- Sexual entertainment venues + health

For some authors, sexual entertainment is included in the term "sex industry" and for this reason this search term has been used to broaden the available literature as there is only a narrow selection on sexual entertainment. Where sex industry, as opposed to sexual entertainment, articles are considered careful consideration has been given to key messages, if any, that are transferable to wider sexual entertainment.

Only peer reviewed journals, in the English Language from the past 5 years were selected.

No priority was given to quantitative over qualitative or mixed methods approach or over study design.

Articles from the top 50 most relevant articles were considered.

The articles selected for further review were from a similar regulatory context – UK and Europe – or from a similar cultural setting in resource rich countries – North America and Australia. However, similar is not the same and where research is very context specific caveats have been noted about transferring knowledge and applying findings more generally.

Much of the commercial sex industry research is centred in resource poor countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These articles were excluded from further review as it was the view that findings from these articles were less transferable to a UK context.

The literature search was limited by time, access and skill; what is presented is a pragmatic response to consider a fair sample of peer reviewed literature to inform a public health view. This is not a systematic review or critical appraisal of the literature.

In the table below, the articles are coded "SEV B" for 9 articles sourced under the terms "Sexual entertainment venues + health" and SEV for 25 articles sourced under the search terms "Sex industry + health". Full text of the articles is available on request. Duplicates are shown in the table.

The conclusions drawn from the articles considered ("key messages" and "findings from the literature for policy makers") are those of the author of this paper. The thematic groupings/codes used are those of the author of this paper. Generally, the notes for policy makers are based on where there appears to be a consensus across the literature, rather than a claim made in a single study. Although the aim has been to objectively present knowledge and evidence, bias is always possible and those intending to use the source are encouraged to explore the full text of articles.

Findings from the literature for policy makers

Joined up government – Planning and Licensing both have a role in regulating the environment in which sexual entertainment and sex work takes place and may take differing views. Timings of operation, discreet operation, the local environmental context in terms of sensitive land uses and "fit" of venues within that context are key considerations for Local Authorities. A lack of a joined up approach between Planning and Licensing can make it difficult for sexual entertainment venues to invest and develop their premises (SEV B1, SEV B2).

Sensitive land use – There is a reasonable consensus of sensitive land use where SEVs would not be appropriate which includes residential areas, near schools, near universities or colleges, near religious sites, near shops or high streets, sexual trauma services amongst other places. Where land use changes there may no longer be "fit", for example the opening of the Olympic Legacy Park School in Attercliffe post-dates the proliferation of the sex industry in that area but may make it no longer suitable. Sensitive land use and suitability to the local setting can be used as reasons for refusing a license or limiting hours of operation. (SEV B1-4).

Young People and students - Evidence suggests most people start work in the SEV under the age of 25 (73.5%) with the average age of entry into the sex industry being 23 years. Students are a key source of temporary labour for SEVs, particularly undergraduates and part-time students. Financial pressure is the main driving force for entering the industry including student debt, debt from benefit changes, and broader economic pressures. However, those working in the industry also perceived relatively high pay, shorter hours and job flexibility as positive factors compared to other employment sectors such as retail. Students were also key consumers of SEV and sex industry services and debt and illicit drug use were predictive of consumption. (SEV B8, SEV B9, SEV 3)

More venues/performers increase risk - The literature suggests that the greater the number of premises and performers/workers, the greater the risks that may be taken to secure

sufficient remuneration. The type of risk taking behaviour included provision of “extras” in Sexual Entertainment Venues in private spaces, arrangements to meet clients outside of SEV for the purpose of selling sex, and in the wider sex industry, agreement to condomless sex. The literature also suggests that burnout and turnover in health and welfare professions supporting the industry is high and resources are limited and overstretched. This is pertinent for policy makers in terms of the expansion of SEV and sex industry as to whether support services and staff will stretch to cover a greater number of venues or geographical spread of venues. In one study, dancers were concerned that an increase in venues lowered the quality of such venues, whereas in another study more venues meant more choice about where to work and greater ability to move away from exploitative venues (SEV B6, SEV B8, SEV 2, SEV 3, SEV 19)

Workers rights, self-organisation and self-advocacy – Those working in the industry are well placed to make recommendations to improve their working conditions and health and safety. Those involved in sexual labour are a marginalised and stigmatised workforce and although advocacy, rights and self-organised workers’ groups do exist, policy makers may need to work hard to ensure these voices are heard. Work with sex workers on rights based work is seen as a key mechanism for addressing HIV transmission but is underfunded globally. Workers human rights and social justice approaches rather than punitive, rehabilitate or rescue approaches are considered most appropriate in this space and investment in sex worker self-organisation is viewed as crucial. Workers are concerned about basic health and safety at work such as adequate heat, light, ventilation, access to drinking water as well as industry specific concerns such as the way abusive customers are dealt with and safety measures in private areas of premises. (SEV B6, SEV B7, SEV11, SEV 20)

Physical and Sexual Violence – those working in the SEV industry and wider sex industry face high levels of workplace violence, including physical and sexual violence. Regulation of such workplaces should include health and safety measures to reduce the risk of violence to staff (SEV B7, SEV 4, SEV 9, SEV 11, SEV 14)

Historic childhood abuse – a number of articles note the association between historical childhood abuse and working in the sex industry. In one study, almost 1/3 of a sample of sex workers had prior sexual abuse histories (SEV 4, SEV 14, SEV 18)

Mental Health – just over 1/3 of participants in one qualitative study had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry. Another study described the most prevalent mental health conditions to be anxiety and depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders with PTSD linked to violence in the industry or historical childhood abuse. Those working in the sex industry reported strain on personal relationships and inability to sustain personal relationships. 1 in 3 sex workers within one study sample of sex workers had prior suicide attempts and 72.3% were unhappy with life (SEV 3, SEV 4, SEV 12, SEV 14)

Sexual Health – Sex work globally is an important driver of sexual transmission of HIV due to high partner change. Decriminalisation has the best evidence for HIV prevention and is recommended by a number of global actors on health and human rights. A key policy measure should be not to use condom carrying as evidence against sex workers for criminal prosecution. Partnerships between the sex industry, police and health are key. Working in the sex industry can negatively impact on romantic relationships with non-paying partners

and this can impact on condom use in those relationships and therefore transmission risks for STIs and HIV (SEV 5, SEV 6, SEV 12, SEV 17, SEV 21, SEV 22, SEV 24)

Drug use – in one study 53.1 % of the sex worker sample reported crack use and 19.2% reported heroin as their drug of choice. Illicit drug use was also predictive of consumption of sex industry services. Sex working women were considered to require more intensive and tailored substance misuse treatment services. Drug using clients may have lower earning power, may be limited to outdoor work, and may take greater risks (SEV 14, SEV B9, SEV 24)

Debt and financial inclusion – debt and financial factors were the main driving force to work in the sex industry in one large study. In other studies, performers were prepared to take risks for higher remuneration. In one study, dancers detailed how “house fees” for performers and fines meant starting their shift out of pocket. In another study, student impoverishment was seen to drive female students into working in the industry and being in debt was predictive of being both a worker and a consumer in the industry. (SEV B8, SEV B7, SEV B9, SEV 2, SEV 3)

Indoor versus outdoor sex work – there is a consensus of evidence that indoor environments are safer and where police and health professionals provide supportive in-reach to working women, these conditions are the safest. (SEV 9)

Human Trafficking – there is a consensus in the literature that sex trafficking is conflated with commercial sex work against the best available evidence. Although the prevalence of trafficking for sex work is high at around 25%, the majority of those trafficked globally are in domestic and agricultural roles. However, 92% of prosecutions for trafficking are for sex trafficking. There is no disagreement in the literature that sex trafficking is an abuse of human rights and should be rightfully prosecuted, but there are concerns that this focus on the sex trade is used to justify excessive surveillance of immigrant women who are already marginalised, working in this stigmatised and marginalised industry. There is a clear consensus that distinction must be made between non coerced sex work and trafficking. Sex workers have in some settings taken a role as peers in screening trafficked women. Resources and rights rather than criminalisation and rescue are recommended (SEV 7, SEV 10, SEV 11, SEV 16, SEV 20, SEV 23)

Decriminalisation - decriminalisation provides the optimal conditions and best evidence for HIV prevention, access to police protection, safe working conditions and access to health services and is supported by global health organisations such as UNAIDS. Zones of tolerance and legalisation have flaws, as do “end demand” policies. However, geographically compact zones of tolerance can facilitate inreach by support services such as health. Conversely, crackdowns and fines and excessive regulation such as mandatory registration can displace the sex industry to less populous, more isolated areas which are more risky for workers (SEV 5, SEV 11, SEV 16, SEV 21, SEV 24).

Peers – peer educators were seen as helpful for both sexual health interventions, empowerment, and anti-trafficking interventions (SEV 21, SEV 22, SEV 7)

Conclusion

An evidence based health approach to the sex industry and sexual entertainment venues should be based on:

- Workers' rights and empowerment of sex workers
- Decriminalisation and geographically compact zones of tolerance
- Partnership between criminal justice, health agencies and venues/sex workers
- Tailored in-reach of drugs, alcohol, sexual health, mental health, financial inclusion services to this stigmatised and vulnerable workforce using peer-peer where possible
- Sensitive land use considerations to manage the impact of the sex industry on the wider population
- Sensible limits on the number of venues and zones in proportion to the local resource of support services (addiction, sexual health, mental health, criminal justice and regulatory services)

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January 2018

Code	Source	Summary of article	Key messages for policy makers
SEV B1	Prior, J. and Hubbard, P. (2017) Time, space, and the authorisation of sex premises in London and Sydney, <i>Urban Studies</i> Special issue article: Sex, Consumption and the City 2017, Vol. 54(3) 633–648 Urban Studies Journal Limited 2015 DOI: 10.1177/0042098015612057 journals.sagepub.com/home/usj	<p>This paper considers the different regulatory context in Sydney and London and the role of licensing, planning and environmental control departments in trying to legislate for legal land use for sex premises of various kinds.</p> <p>The authors point to the zoning of land for sex premises by "minor bureaucrats" instead of the police and often acting in silos from the police and each other.</p> <p>The authors refer to a social mainstreaming of sex as a legitimate leisure activity being mirrored in its inclusion in legal land use and therefore its movement from the urban periphery to commercial centres.</p> <p>There is discussion of "time" as well as "space" as many of these premises operate in the night time economy which may be out of kilter with other urban uses nearby. How SEVs should co-exist with other land uses is discussed in the context of a lack of reliable evidence on impact of such venues on their localities.</p> <p>Refers to LB Camden and Hackney which have nil limit SEV policies meaning no more SEVs can be opened despite in Hackney's case there being no local objections. Refers to other Local Authorities restricting siting of SEVs near other areas of sensitive land use e.g. schools, housing, high street.</p> <p>The authors cite an example from North London of licensing and planning contradictorily awarding and refusing permission within a 2 week period for the same venue for a lap dancing club – planning approved, licensing refused.</p> <p>(The authors' standpoint is that the legislation is imperfect and this leaves the regulation of SEVs open to "street level bureaucrats" as well as the state.)</p>	<p>Time use of SEVs may conflict with other local land uses and limits can be set of opening SEVs near areas of sensitive land use (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>There is a lack of reliable evidence of impact of lap dancing clubs on their localities (Hubbard, 2015 cited in Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>Local Authorities may set a nil limit despite no local objections (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>The legislation is imperfect and unclear and there may be differences of view between, for example planning and licensing (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p>
SEV B 2	Hubbard, P. and Colosi, R. (2015) Respectability, morality and disgust in the night-time economy: exploring reactions to 'lap dance' clubs in England and Wales, <i>The Sociological Review</i> , Vol. 63, 782–800 (2015) DOI: 10.1111/1467-954X.12278	<p>The authors explore attitudes and reactions to a 'lap dance club'. The authors suggest that rather than criminal behaviour this type of premise engenders moral disgust and that judgements are subject to social class and gender.</p> <p>The authors' study revealed that SEVs were not a major cause of distress to local residents, but a significant minority (~1 in 10) claimed to always avoid walking near such venues: women were significantly overrepresented in this group, suggesting the presence of sexual entertainment in the night-time city does have important gendered effects. The study found women were more likely to note, and comment on, the presence of lap dance clubs than men but that this was more related to questions of morality and disgust than fear, with SEVs' contribution to criminal and</p>	<p>Women may be more aware of lap dancing clubs than men and may consciously choose walking routes to avoid this type of premise.</p> <p>There is a reasonable consensus about sensitive sites where SEVs should not be placed.</p> <p>Not near schools/nurseries 83%</p> <p>Not near universities/colleges 46%</p> <p>Not near religious sites 65%</p> <p>Not near shops 45%</p> <p>Not in residential areas 97%</p>

		<p>antisocial behaviour deemed less significant than that of clubs, pubs or takeaways.</p> <p>The authors debate views about lap dancing and links to gender based violence and exploitation of women versus narratives of female empowerment and social class.</p> <p>The authors debate whether the clubs add to or take away from vibrancy and discuss a "moral geography" of appropriate sites for SEVs. Signage and names were significant here with a view that clubs should be "low key". However, blacked out windows can also make passers-by feel uncomfortable.</p> <p>Study participants associated SEVs with undesirable characteristics such as binge drinking, drug using, loitering, noise and other anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The authors discuss views of customers of SEVs being threatening and risky and contrast this with the low number of reports of serious sexual assault.</p> <p>The authors discuss views of staff (dancers) in SEVs as being motivated to work there by necessity or coercion versus it being emancipatory. There were also concerns that women would be asked or pressurised to go beyond dancing and perform sexual acts. There were further concerns about human trafficking associated with SEVs. There was a consensus of opinion that SEVs were exploitative of women.</p> <p>(The authors' standpoint appears to be that the views of participants are motivated by traditional views of class, masculinity and femininity and "othering" of customers and staff in SEVs).</p>	<p>Signage and names (particularly more explicit) can have a particular impact with a preference for these being low key and discreet.</p> <p>SEV customers behaviour outside the clubs may cause concerns regarding anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>SEV customers may be viewed as threatening and risky. Within the context of very low reporting of sexual assault, the lack of reporting of serious sexual assault may not be significant to dispute this fear.</p> <p>There was a consensus of opinion from participants in the research that SEVs were exploitative of women.</p>
SEV B3	<p>Hubbard, P. (2015) Law, sex and the city: regulating sexual entertainment venues in England and Wales, <i>International Journal of Law in the Built Environment</i> 2015 - Volume 7/Issue 1, 1 April, 5-20</p>	<p>This article deals with the planning and licensing powers held by local authorities which allow discretion to prevent SEVs operating in specific localities, particularly those undergoing, or anticipated to be undergoing, redevelopment and regeneration.</p> <p>This is usually based on site sensitivity/sensitive land uses or future land uses e.g. a university building <i>will be</i> built in this area in future. This can mean that license renewal for an SEV can be refused if local land use changes.</p> <p>Refers to LA s choosing to set a 'nil limit' on SEVs through policy due to a view that there are no localities where SEVs are suitable or choosing to limit SEV proximity</p>	<p>Locality suitability and sensitive land use can be reasons for refusing a license.</p> <p>Suggestion that higher rate of criminality around SEVs is due to their location in high crime neighbourhood's rather than the presence of the SEV per se and ditto being sited in lower value areas rather than directly contributing to lower house prices.</p> <p>A change in the nature of a locality can make</p>

		<p>near areas of sensitive land use such as schools, religious facilities, shopping districts, "family" housing and any facilities which might routinely be used by children. (Hubbard and Colosi, 2015).</p> <p>Refers to the use of licensing conditions to limit the hours of opening and general operation of the club.</p> <p>Refers to SEVs not being defined in the Use Classes Order in England and Wales therefore a change of residential to business use as an SEV will require planning permission.</p> <p>Licensing and planning are not concerned with morality, but instead only with valid material considerations (i.e. the visual appearance of a development, its impact on the setting and potential environmental nuisance).</p> <p>SEVs are being removed from particular localities where they are "out of place", not because the local authority is opposed to sexual entertainment <i>per se</i>.</p> <p>(The author's standpoint appears to be that legitimate businesses are being de-prioritised for land use compared to other land uses such as universities and that this is unfair. The author's standpoint appears to be that SEVs do not impact land values any more than treatment services for drugs and alcohol for example and therefore are being unfairly targeted. The author is concerned about how elected members on Licensing Committees may be influenced by the views of local people.)</p>	<p>nuisance more likely to be experienced by local residents for example a new school being built in an area with existing SEVs and this can be a reason to refuse license renewal.</p> <p>Licensing conditions can be used to limit hours of opening and general operation – what the author describes as creating a "restrictive environment" for SEVs.</p> <p>Change of use class requires planning permission – an HIA screen should be completed on a request for change of use to an SEV.</p>
SEV B 4	<p>Hubbard, P., Collins, A., Goman-Murray, A., (2016) Introduction: Sex, consumption and commerce in the contemporary city <i>Urban Studies</i> 2017, Vol. 54(3) 567–581 <i>Urban Studies Journal Limited</i> 2016 DOI:10.1177/0042098016682685journals.sagepub.com/home/usj</p>	<p>The authors argue that attitudes have changed over past decade of how "sexual consumption" is visible in the city and describe how views about what belongs where in urban space can shape local policy. They cite examples of SEV businesses being refused because of wanting to enter into new urban territory with no tradition of SEVs. The authors explore the mainstreaming of sex retailing and emergence of female oriented "high street" shops for lingerie and sex toys.</p> <p>(Authors' standpoint is that sexuality impacts on perceptions of urban space and shapes orientation to urban space)</p>	<p>Makes economic arguments for SEVs etc as legitimate businesses which may struggle to break into urban territory where they are seen as not rightly belonging but notes that social attitudes change over time.</p>
SEV B5	Duplicate of SEV B4		
SEV B6	<p>Sanders, T., Hardy, K., Campbell, R. (2015) <i>Regulating Strip-Based</i></p>	<p>The authors explore how the voices of other stakeholders (community and campaign groups) have been given precedence over the dancers in SEVs and how by involving dancers in policy development and regulation can lead to better inclusion of dancer welfare and safety.</p>	<p>Dancers need to be consulted as key stakeholders and informants on the industry.</p>

SEV B7	<p>Entertainment: Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy and the Ex/Inclusion of Dancers' Perspectives and Needs, <i>Social Policy & Society</i> (2015) 14:1, 83–92C Cambridge University Press 2014 doi:10.1017/S1474746414000323</p>	<p>The authors aim is to explore everyday practices in the stripping industry to inform the policy agenda. The authors state that former dancers experience – particularly those with negative experiences of exploitation and degradation in the industry – have informed policy development but that current dancers or collectives of dancers have not been involved. This lack of user involvement is at odds with other arenas of policy development work and further excludes and marginalises dancers.</p> <p>The comments from the dancers include feelings that those making policy were at arm's length from and had no understanding of the industry, concern over the loss of employment/earnings from those who depend on the industry if nil policy is set, and concerns that dancers would be viewed/labelled as sex workers and this would impact on future prospects. There were concerns about clubs/dancers offering "extras" of sexual services which increases pressure on dancers at legitimate SEVS and concerns that the proliferation of clubs would lower quality.</p> <p>The project detailed some financial exploitation of dancers by SEV management – fines for chewing gum, mobile phone use, fees for missing a shift and house fees per shift which left dancers out of pocket.</p> <p>The project sought to ensure that safety and welfare concerns raised by dancers were included in licensing policy with some success, the types of measures requested included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No penalty for sickness, domestic emergencies of dancers - Limit on the number of dancers per club (due to dancers concerns that too many were employed to charge "house fees" where there were not enough customers to earn back house fees) - Adequate changing and kitchen facilities for dancers, heating and air conditioning - Provision of free water - Booths for private dances to have safety measures such as not being entirely screened off, managers having line of sight to booths and having panic buttons; - Measures for dancers safety at the end of late night shifts such as escort to own vehicle or taxi contract with reputable firm; <p>Some of these measures – particularly measures on booths, fines and changing facilities – were adopted by Local Authorities including Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and London Boroughs.</p>	<p>Dancers express concerns that some clubs/dancers offer "extras" and this increases pressure on dancers from customers.</p> <p>Dancers express concerns that a proliferation of clubs will lower quality (bad management, bad practice).</p> <p>Dancers requested welfare measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No penalty for sickness, domestic emergencies of dancers - Limit on the number of dancers per club (due to dancers concerns that too many were employed to charge "house fees" where there were not enough customers to earn back house fees) - Adequate changing and kitchen facilities for dancers, heating and air conditioning - Provision of free water - Booths for private dances to have safety measures such as not being entirely screened off, managers having line of sight to booths and having panic buttons; - Measures for dancers safety at the end of late night shifts such as escort to own vehicle or taxi contract with reputable firm; <p>Some were adopted by Local Authorities.</p> <p>The project created a resource for dancers is available through an Iphone App and website: http://www.dancersinfo.co.uk/. Key 'top tips' written by dancers has been translated into Romanian, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish and Russian. This resource has been used by Local Authorities including Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds.</p> <p>In this US cross sectional study, over 1/3 of young</p>
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	<p>Lim, S., Footer, K., Davis, W., Sherman, S. G., (2017) Client and Partner Violence Among Urban Female Exotic Dancers and Intentions for Seeking Support and Justice, <i>Journal of Urban Health</i> 94:637-647 DOI 10.1007/s11524-017-0195-5,</p>	<p>relation to female exotic dancers who have been dancing for 6 months or less. 36% reported IPV and 16% client violence. Both forms of violence were correlated with arrest, sex trade, substance use, and childhood abuse.</p> <p>In the multivariate model, sex trade was the only factor significantly associated with recent client violence (AOR 4.45, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.59, 12.41).</p> <p>In the multivariate model, sex work history was the only factor significantly associated with recent IPV (AOR 3.13, 95% CI 1.08, 9.03)</p> <p>Female exotic dancers preferred to seek help from the venue management than from police or helplines (mean score 4.51 with a range of 1 to 5; higher score indicative of more likely to seek help from a given source). The study stratifies variations in help seeking behaviour across substance misuse, sex trade, arrest histories and childhood abuse.</p> <p>"Trading sex may enable client-perpetrated abuse in EDC settings in which sex work is illegal. Women who trade sex may be in more intimate and isolated situations with clients in which violence may emerge more privately, as compared with the public spaces within venues where dancers entertain clients without sexual services".</p> <p>"The regulation of the exotic dance industry makes violence in this setting an occupational health and safety issue".</p> <p>"Within the work environment, women may make difficult safety trade-offs in the context of economic need or to sustain the biological demands of addiction".</p> <p>Caveats about transferability of this research to Sheffield: the study is conducted in Baltimore, MD, an urban setting characterized by a high HIV burden [30], a robust drug economy, entrenched poverty, and historic and sustained constraints on accessing justice [31].</p>	<p>female exotic dancers working for 6 months or less 36% reported intimate partner violence and 16% reported client physical or sexual violence in the 6 months prior to the survey.</p> <p>Survey participants preferred to seek help regarding client violence from within venues from club management than from criminal justice agencies and helplines</p> <p>Workplace violence is a health and safety issue and regulators could engage and support club management to know about local resources and allow in-reach and develop violence prevention strategies.</p> <p>"Regulation for exotic dance venues may be able to include provisions for staff training on available violence support resources and passive strategies such as posting relevant information."</p> <p>"The high prevalence of recent violence in our sample, coupled with the low intentions to seek help, argue for dedicated outreach to adult women involved in the sex industry as exotic dancers for safety promotion and access to prevention and care, particularly those who are also involved in the sex trade".</p>
<p>SEV B8</p>	<p>Sanders, T., & Hardy, K., (2015) Students selling sex: marketisation, higher education and consumption, <i>British Journal of Sociology of Education</i>, 36:5, 747-765, DOI: 10.1080/01425692.2013.854596</p>	<p>A large Mixed methods study of striptease industry in UK, in two cities one North and one South covering 20 SEVs and survey with 197 dancers (some interviewer-administered and some via striptease website) with a further 70 qualitative interviews with a range of staff including security and managers as well as regulatory staff.</p> <p>1/3 of dancers were under the age of 25 and 73.5% were under 25 when they started dancing.</p> <p>Changing attitudes and the rise of 'respectability' in sexual commerce; the 'pleasure dynamic' amongst students; and changes in the higher education structure were all factors explored by the authors.</p>	<p>Financial factors were the main driving force to work in the sex industry.</p> <p>A key finding of the study indicated that students were a core supply source providing dancers into the adult entertainment/stripping industry due to the ability to combine stripping work with the demands of educational courses, due to the flexibility it offered.</p> <p>The industry depends on students as temporary</p>

		<p>Cites research from Cardiff, Wales in 2011 of more than half of "escorts" being students and 1/6 of those in off street sex trade</p> <p>Although undergraduate students made up the largest proportion of dancers in education, others were pursuing qualifications and career plans by taking private courses e.g. beauty.</p> <p>The survey found that 34% of dancers reported working in another area of the sex industry (including other dance roles such as freelance and agency dancing).</p> <p>"The empirical work discussed in this paper supports these ideas that students are increasingly part of a culture of sexual consumption: both as providers in the form of sex workers and as consumers in the form of purchasing sex and other forms of sexual consumption through fashion, media, leisure and consumer goods. Stripping as a form of consumption and labour is increasingly acceptable because there is arguably less stigma attached to the industry".</p>	<p>workers who provide a key source of labour when clubs are at their busiest.</p> <p>The competition between dancers, because there were so many compared with the level of custom, meant that dancers were reducing the standards and breaking the rules persistently. More clubs/dancers could lead to pressure on women to provide extras. This is a pertinent finding in relation to issues of caps on the number of SEV premises licenses in any area.</p>
<p>SEV B9</p>	<p>Ron Roberts , Amy Jones & Teela Sanders (2013) Students and sex work in the UK: providers and purchasers, Sex Education, 13:3, 349-363, DOI: 10.1080/14681811.2012.744304</p>	<p>A cross sectional survey of a sample of 200 full and part time students (predominantly full time students) from 29 UK universities indicated that around 6% (2.7%–9.3%) of the sample was currently working in the sex industry – in erotic dancing, stripping or escorting, with significant numbers of both male and female students also involved in purchasing and using sexual services.</p> <p>Students engaging in sex work as a flexible income generator whilst studying has increased over the past decade.</p> <p>Small numbers from the sample were involved in sex work of any type with sexual entertainment (pole/lap/table/topless/erotic dancing) 4% (n=8) being the most common occupation followed by stripping 2.5% (n=5). Of the 12 respondents who reported engaging in some kind of sex work, all but one were female. The male responder reported stripping.</p> <p>There was some indication that those involved in sex work were more likely to have experienced childhood sexual abuse and to have a current alcohol problem.</p> <p>Prior debt was statistically significant to predict engagement with sex work of any kind after controlling for variables.</p> <p>A logistic model, comprising full-/part-time status, debt status, amount of debt and degree of illicit drug use, was constructed to predict sex-work consumption. This model was significant and had an acceptable fit with the data.</p>	<p>There is agreement that student debt and impoverishment is contributing to the growing involvement in the sex industry. The study adds weight to previous studies which show financial factors as being a major driving force behind student participation in the sexual economy. Those engaged in sex work were more likely to be in debt prior to their studies and to be part-time students, with part-time status once again no longer significant with debt controlled for.</p> <p>"Findings from studies of students and the sex industry have implications for policy, which must take seriously the relationship between debt in students and supply routes into the sex industry". The authors reiterate the role of those that have a duty of care and benefit from their presence (the universities)'. Debt and illicit drug use were predictive of student consumption of sex work.</p>
<p>SEV 1-25 below are sourced from search terms "sex industry + health" through Starplus</p>			

SEV 1	Christina Mancini a,11, Amy Reckdenwald b, Eric Bearegard c, Jill S. Levensond (2014) Sex industry exposure over the life course on the onset and frequency of sex offending Journal of Criminal Justice	<p>"Broadly, results suggest that adolescent exposure to the sex industry was associated with a younger age of onset sex offending among sex offenders. Findings indicate less consistency for the models examining the frequency of sex offending; some adult exposures influenced greater frequency in offending, but three were not predictive. Not least, results from an ancillary set of models suggest that adolescent exposure affected the "start" of sex offending careers, but not necessarily the duration of offending".</p> <p>"In short, two competing bodies of scholarship examining the sex industry exist. One finds support for the social learning theory, or the "imitation" effects of the sex industry. The other literature suggests null or cathartic impacts. To be clear, both bodies of research are underdeveloped."</p> <p>Caveat: US Context – may not be directly transferable to Sheffield or UK. This was a retrospective design with convicted male sex offenders (n=616)</p>	Exposure to the sex industry is associated with a younger age of onset of sex offending but not necessarily frequency or duration of offending.
SEV 2	Gillian M. Abela* and Lisa J. Fitzgeraldb 'The street's got its advantages': Movement between sectors of the sex industry in a decriminalised environmentHealth, Risk & Society Vol. 14, No. 1, February 2012, 7–23	<p>This article deals with perceptions of risk and trade offs between risk and earnings in choosing street work/unmanaged sex work with higher earnings possible through street work. The article advises that stringent regulatory practices on street work are unrealistic and will place this vulnerable segment of the sex worker population at greater risk.</p> <p>Caveats: The findings are drawn from a survey of 772 sex workers and in-depth qualitative interviews with 58 sex workers in New Zealand. New Zealand, where prostitution is decriminalised may not be transferable to Sheffield or UK context</p>	Article excludes sexual entertainment and focuses on direct sex work so has less to offer in terms of key messages. However, motivation for street work of maximising income retained may be relevant in understanding motivation for outdoor work compared to indoor work. Further, the incentives of higher income through riskier practice in a competitive market is transferable in the context of lifting the cap on the number of SEVs. The preference of some workers for higher earnings in a deregulated market is also notable for policy makers.
SEV 3	Fairleigh Evelyn Gilmour (2016) Work Conditions and Job Mobility in the Australian Indoor Sex Industry Otago University Sociological Research Online, 21 (4), 14 < http://www.socresonline.org.uk/21/4/14.html > DOI: 10.5153/sro.4166	<p>This study conducted 14 in depth interviews with female sex workers and former sex workers. The article focuses on indoor direct sex industry – brothel work.</p> <p>The study explores the concepts of job flexibility and mobility in the sex industry and argues that the availability of increased options in a decriminalized setting leads to greater potential for workers to negotiate improved working conditions.</p> <p>Financial need was the main reason for entering the industry.</p> <p>The average age of entry into sex work was 23.</p> <p>Women valued what they perceived as better pay and working conditions from sex work compared to traditional job roles for women.</p> <p>5/14 participants (just over 1/3) in the study had mental health difficulties prior to entering sex work and saw flexibility of the job as a benefit.</p>	<p>Job mobility and flexibility within the industry emerge as the key benefits with single parents and students particularly viewing flexibility of working hours as key. Mobility allows staff to move away from poor working conditions with relative ease.</p> <p>Financial need (due to benefit changes and broader economic pressures) was the main reasons for entering the industry with more traditional jobs such as nursing, hospitality and retail being either unavailable because of lack of experience and references or conditions considered to be poor.</p> <p>The average age of entry into sex work was 23.</p>

		<p>Participants perceived the rise in high-risk services (no condom) being offered as being due to increasing competition of both more women and more brothels.</p> <p>There was some discussion about self-employed status of women being a means of brothel managers avoiding employer responsibility for superannuation and sick pay.</p> <p>There was some discussion of pressure to perform unsafe practices by managers and the difficulties in refusing particularly for migrant women or drug using women.</p> <p><i>Caveats:</i> The study is set in Australia in the direct sex industry and therefore is not completely transferable to SEV in the UK.</p>	<p>1/3 of study participants (n=5) had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry.</p> <p>Participants perceived that competition between premises and individual workers for income led to more high risk services.</p>
SEV 4	<p>ANKLESARIA, A., and GENTILE, J.P (2012) Psychotherapy with women who have worked in the sex industry <i>Innov Clin Neurosci</i>. 2012;9(10):27–33</p>	<p>This article focuses on the use of psychotherapy with women working in the sex industry, whether indoor (such as strip clubs and cabarets) or outdoor (such as prostitution and escort services).</p> <p>The authors describe the most widely prevalent mental health conditions to be anxiety, depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders. The authors describe the literature of violence against indoor and outdoor workers in the context of sex industry trauma related PTSD.</p>	<p>The most prevalent mental health symptoms of women working in the industry (including SEV) were anxiety and depression (mood disorders) alongside substance misuse addiction. PTSD is widespread in this group and linked to childhood abuse or sex industry trauma.</p>
SEV 5	<p>Victoria Powell and Eva Karlsen (2017) Sex industry regulation, Sex Worker Health and STI/HIV prevention, <i>Sex Transm Infect</i>. 93: A6 doi: 10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.14</p>	<p>Decriminalisation of the sex industry provides optimal conditions for STI/HIV prevention.</p> <p>Under decriminalisation New South Wales sex workers have better access to healthcare and STI/HIV education and prevention tools including free, confidential and anonymous sexual health services as well as peer-led services. Higher rates of safer sex, lower rates of STIs and improved Workplace Health and Safety were also evident, while in other jurisdictions sex workers continue to face barriers to treatment and other health services and often work outside legal frameworks.</p>	<p>Decriminalisation of the sex industry provides optimal conditions for STI/HIV prevention and improves workplace health and safety and access to health services. Peer led services were positive in this context.</p> <p>Decriminalisation is the optimal regulatory model and is supported by the UNFPA, UNDP, UNAIDS, WHO and Amnesty International as critical to HIV prevention and for human rights.</p>
SEV 6	<p>A Reeves, S Steele, D Stuckler, M McKee, A Amato-Gauci and JC Semenza (2017) Gender violence, poverty and HIV infection risk among persons engaged in the sex industry: cross-national analysis of the political economy of sex markets in 30 European and</p>	<p>Using income data and violence data from 30 countries in Europe and Central Asia to test the theory that poverty and fear of violence were structural drivers for HIV transmission. The violence data was for violence against women as most sex workers are female and included partner and non-partner physical, sexual and psychological abuse.</p> <p>The countries with the highest violence against women had the highest HIV rates amongst sex workers and those with the lowest violence against women had the lowest HIV rates amongst sex workers.</p> <p>"Our results are consistent with the theory that reducing poverty and exposure to violence may help reduce HIV infection risk among persons engaged in the sex industry."</p>	<p>Reducing poverty and exposure to gender violence may help reduce HIV infection amongst people involved in the sex industry.</p> <p>Countries with higher violence against women may have higher HIV rates amongst female sex workers (there is an association between the two). HIV prevalence among sex workers was most closely associated with the experience of violence in the last 12 months.</p>

	Central Asian countries DOI: 10.1111/hiv.12520 HIV Medicine (2017), 18, 748–755, © 2017 British HIV Association	The authors look beyond individual factors and interventions e.g. educating and empowering sex workers to carry and use condoms, to structural factors e.g. condom carrying being used as evidence that a crime is being committed or economic pressures impacting on condom use as condomless sex carries a higher price.	HIV prevalence amongst sex workers was lower in countries where the income of the poorest was comparatively higher.
SEV 7	Kathleen Ja Sook Bergquist, (2015) Criminal, Victim, or Ally? Examining the Role of Sex Workers in Addressing MinorSex Trafficking, Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work, Vol. 30(3) 314-327	"This article explores the silencing effect of conflating prostitution with sex trafficking, the ways in which sex workers might contribute to addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children as "allies," and the ethical responsibility of social workers in anti-trafficking work." Caveats: The article is from a US context	Notes the importance of distinguishing between forced involuntary prostitution and voluntary commercial sex work. Notes the positive role of peers in screening for trafficking. The takeaway message for policy makers is to be clear about what type of activities in the commercial sex industry your policy is designed for and be clear when using evidence from one context about whether it is transferable – particularly, not to use evidence of sex trafficking when speaking of all commercial sex work.
SEV 8	Sharon Pickering and Julie Ham (2014) HOT PANTS AT THE BORDER <i>Sorting Sex Work from Trafficking</i> BRIT. J. CRIMINOL. (2014) 54, 2–19 Advance Access publication 29 October 2013	Not relevant to SEV and Sheffield as predominantly focussed on interactions of immigration staff at the border and women.	
SEV 9	Andrea Krüsi, MSc, Jill Chettiar, Amelia Ridgway, BSW, Janice Abbott, BA, Steffanie A. Strathdee, , and Kate Shannon, Negotiating Safety and Sexual Risk Reduction With Clients in Unsanctioned Safer Indoor Sex Work Environments: A Qualitative Study American Journal of Public Health June 2012, Vol 102, No. 6	This article concerns the use of a supported housing programme for women which included an approach of harm reduction for women in the sex trade, including the ability to use the building to see clients during managed hours of operation as well as health in-reach services including for addiction and ARVs. "Women's accounts indicated that unsanctioned indoor sex work environments promoted increased control over negotiating sex work transactions, including the capacity to refuse unwanted services, negotiate condom use, and avoid violent perpetrators. Despite the lack of formal legal and policy support for indoor sex work venues in Canada, the environmental-structural supports afforded by these unsanctioned indoor sex work environments, including surveillance cameras and support from staff or police in removing violent clients, were linked to improved police relationships and facilitated the institution of informal peer-safety mechanisms. This study has drawn attention to the potential role of safer indoor sex work environments as venues for public health and violence prevention interventions and has indicated the critical importance of removing the sociolegal barriers preventing the formal implementation of such	This study supports other studies which demonstrate that indoor work environments are safer and that indoor environments where police and health professionals are allies to working women provide the best structural support for women's safety. The takeaway message for policy makers is that indoor work environments where in reach from police and health can take place are generally safer than outdoor sex work.

		programs." (Caveat: Canadian policy and cultural context may be different from UK)	This study is interesting because the indoor environment is a supported housing complex for working women rather than a sex industry setting.
SEV 10	Lerum, K., Brents, B. G., (2016) <i>Sociological Perspectives on Sex Work and Human Trafficking, Sociological Perspectives</i> 2016, Vol. 59(1) 17–26 © The Author(s) 2016 Reprints and permissions: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628550 spx.sagepub.com	Discussed the evidence about the sex industry and policies on sex work and human trafficking and urges activists and policy makers to listen. The article argues not to conflate sex work with trafficking and to view sex work, like all paid employment as a complicated continuum of power, coercion and agency. "One quarter (~25%) of estimated trafficking victims globally are in the sex industry, but constitute nearly all of the convictions (92%) for human trafficking" – prosecutions over-represent sex industry victims compared to the 8% convictions concerned with the 75% working in domestic or agricultural labour. The authors argue that this is an anti-sex work bias. Argues that any form of criminalisation and aggressive policing can lead to harm for those in the sex trade. Argues for resources and rights rather than rescue and criminalisation.	The authors explore the evidence base around trafficking and are concerned by the lack of rigour of some studies – the takeaway message for policy makers is that not all evidence is equally valid, reliable and robust, and that over-generalisations particularly should be avoided. Sex work is over-represented in trafficking convictions compared to its prevalence (25% of trafficking prevalence and 92% of convictions). Argues that policy should focus on resources and rights for workers and sex work be viewed in the same moral space as other paid work, avoiding a moral bias.
SEV 11	<i>Michele R Decker, Anna-Louise Crago, Sandra K H Chu, Susan G Sherman, Meena S Seshu, Kholi Buthelezi, Mandeep Dhaliwal, Chris Beyrer</i> (2015) Human rights violations against sex workers: burden and effect on HIV <i>Lancet</i> 2015; 385: 186–99 Published Online July 22, 2014 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)60800-X	The authors reviewed evidence from more than 800 studies and reports on the burden and HIV implications of human rights violations against sex workers. There were widespread abuses of human rights perpetrated by both state and non-state actors and these directly and indirectly increase HIV susceptibility, and undermine effective HIV-prevention and intervention efforts. "Violations include homicide; physical and sexual violence, from law enforcement, clients, and intimate partners; unlawful arrest and detention; discrimination in accessing health services; and forced HIV testing". Abuses occur across all policy regimes – the article looks at both Iran where selling sex carries the death penalty, partial criminalisation in Brazil and "end demand" policies in Sweden - although most profoundly where sex work is criminalised through punitive law. Where sex work is legalised this is associated with mandatory testing regimes for STIs and some workers evade these and resist registration creating a two tier system where only registered workers can access health and support	Criminalisation of sex work provides "ideal conditions" for human rights violations to occur and the least desirable conditions in which to address HIV transmission. However legalisation and zones of tolerance also have flaws. Rights based responses for sex workers provide the best conditions for HIV work with this marginalised group. The article refers to reforms to policy and practice to assure safe working conditions, access to police protection instead of abusive and discriminatory treatment, and equality and non-discrimination in accessing health

		<p>services. Legalisation does not assure rights-based law enforcement practices and does not eliminate violence against sex workers (examples of Switzerland). Zones of tolerance approaches in Hungary facilitated police abuse of sex workers.</p> <p>New Zealand and New South Wales in Australia are the only jurisdictions that operate under full decriminalisation— ie, where sex work is not penalised through punitive laws, and regulation is premised on worker health and safety, and comparable to that for similar forms of labour. Decriminalisation improved police attitudes towards sex workers, and prompted them to notify sex workers of potential attackers. Police liaisons designated to work with sex workers on abuse issues also improved safety.</p> <p>The article warns against the conflation of sex work with trafficking – in global settings this has led to human rights abuse such as mass incarceration. Sex worker rights and anti-trafficking are not oppositional and an example from Calcutta (sic) is given of the involvement of sex workers in screening for trafficked women.</p> <p>Protection of sex workers is essential to respect, protect, and meet their human rights, and to improve their health and wellbeing. Research findings affirm the value of rights-based HIV responses for sex workers, and underscore the obligation of states to uphold the rights of this marginalised population”.</p> <p>Sex worker organising generates some of the most crucial and effective work on health and human rights, yet is severely underfunded. Less than 1% of funding on HIV prevention is spent on HIV and sex work, and even less is directed towards sex workers’ organisations.</p> <p>Caveats: This article takes a global perspective and findings may not be generalizable to the UK or Sheffield.</p>	<p>services. However, Sex worker self-organisation is severely underfunded from global HIV funding.</p> <p>Conflation of sex work with trafficking is inconsistent with the best available evidence.</p>
SEV 12	<p>Bellhouse C, Crebbin S, Fairley CK, Bilardi JE (2015) The Impact of Sex Work on Women’s Personal Romantic Relationships and the Mental Separation of Their Work and Personal Lives: A Mixed-Methods Study. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0141575. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141575</p>	<p>Research conducted to understand impact of sex work on women’s personal romantic relationships.</p> <p>“Most women (78%) reported that, overall, sex work affected their personal romantic relationships in predominantly negative ways, mainly relating to issues stemming from lying, trust, guilt and jealousy. A small number of women reported positive impacts from sex work including improved sexual self-esteem and confidence. Just under half of women were in a relationship at the time of the study and, of these, 51% reported their partner was aware of the nature of their work. Seventy-seven percent of single women chose to remain single due to the nature of their work. Many women used mental separation as a coping mechanism to manage the tensions between sex work and their personal relationships”.</p> <p>Findings very pertinent to health professionals, such as the distinction between work-sex and private sexual relationships meaning most women did not use condoms in personal sexual relationships. Other findings of relevance to mental health concern separation of work and home life through manufactured identity, ritual and emotional distance.</p>	<p>Study concerns indoor sex work in brothels, massage parlours and as call girls rather than sexual entertainment so findings may not be transferable but the main finding is that overall sex work had a negative impact on the personal sexual relationships of working women.</p>
SEV 13	<p>Wahab, S., and Panichelli, M. (2013) Ethical and</p>	<p>The article deals specifically with prostitution and diversion from prostitution using forms of coercion such as criminal justice community sentences or orders and access to health services being contingent</p>	<p>Those who develop “exit programmes” from sex work should not make access to</p>

	<p>Human Rights Issues in Coercive Interventions With Sex Workers <i>Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work</i> 28(4) 344-349 * The Author(s) 2013 Reprints and permission: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0886109913505043 aff.sagepub.com</p>	<p>on participation in exit programmes. The article argues that this is not ethical for social workers to be involved in and is a form of structural violence against minorities.</p>	<p>health and support services contingent upon exit.</p>
<p>SEV 14</p>	<p>Patton, R., Snyder, A., Glassman, M., (2013) Rethinking substance abuse treatment with sex workers: How does the capability approach inform practice? <i>Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment</i> 45 (2013) 196–205</p>	<p>Article argues that sex workers need a different approach to substance misuse treatment than non sex workers.</p> <p>1710 (25.5%) of the sample of 6716 had a history of sex work.</p> <p>20% of the whole sample reported ever having attempted suicide which rose to 30.7% for sex workers (SW).</p> <p>22.2% (44.7% SW) of respondents reported ever experiencing sexual violation and 32.6% (49.8 % SW) stated they had ever experienced physical violation. Within the sample, 64.2% of participants reported they were very unhappy or somewhat unhappy with life which rose to 72.3% of sex workers.</p> <p>Among the sample, 15.7% reported a history of child sexual abuse (30.2 %SW) and 18.8% answered affirmatively to ever experiencing child physical abuse (24.8 %SW)</p> <p>For the subsample of sex workers , 53.1% of the respondents reported that crack/ cocaine was their DOC, 19.2% reported that heroin was their DOC, and 12.4% stated that alcohol was their DOC.</p> <p>"These findings suggest that certain capabilities differentiate between sex workers and non-sex workers within a substance abusing sample; challenges to life, bodily health, bodily integrity, emotions, practical reason, and control over one's environment were all found to be significantly associated with sex work involvement."</p>	<p>The article is concerned with prostitution rather than SEV but some findings are similar to other studies in terms of mental health and historical childhood abuse.</p> <p>Addiction in-reach commissioned into SEV and other sex industry should be tailored to the cohort, "they may need more intensive or different services compared to other substance abusers".</p> <p>Mental health and suicide prevention staff should be aware of the high prevalence of prior suicide attempts (1 in 3) amongst this sample which are three times as high as attempted suicide in the general population of 1 in 15 (mental health.org.uk).</p> <p>Domestic abuse and sexual violence organisations should note the higher prevalence of sexual violation, physical violation and historic childhood abuse amongst female sex workers in this sample.</p>

SEV 15	<p>Minichiello et al. BMC Public Health (2015) 15:282 DOI 10.1186/s12889-015-1498-7</p> <p>Minichiello, V., Scott, J., and Callander, D. (2015) A new public health context to understand male sex work, BMC Public Health (2015) 15:282</p>	<p>Article takes a global view of male sex work, STIs and HIV, and the role of technology in particular online communities. Considers transactional sex in some economies e.g. wealthy women tourists forming romantic attachments with local men where the men do not consider themselves to be sex workers and women do not consider themselves to be sex tourists as well as the predominantly MSM MSW in global contexts.</p> <p>Information technology has changed the way the sex industry is organised and this can include online negotiation and forums for riskier sexual practices (condomless sex) as well as more co-ordinated affiliations of sex workers in rights advocacy.</p>	<p>Not directly transferable to a Sheffield SEV context other than as regards the use of information technology as a positive means of linking workers with peers for rights advocacy as well as possible negative uses e.g. male customers online reviews of female sex workers' performance or use of online forums to seek riskier sexual practices for STIs.</p>
SEV 16	<p>Roxana Baratosy a, Sarah Wendt (2017) "Outdated Laws, OutspokenWhores": Exploring sex work in a criminalised setting Women's Studies International Forum 62 (2017) 34–42</p>	<p>This article explores the experiences of sex workers living and working in South Australia under laws that criminalise their profession.</p> <p>It was found that working in a criminalised setting raised particular concerns for sex workers including an erosion of workplace protections, outreach services, access to health service and increased policing.</p> <p>Sex workers advocate for decriminalisation as it has a growing evidence base showing it supports and maintains sexual health programs and has an effect on the course of HIV and other STI transmissions for sex workers when compared to other regulatory models.</p> <p>The Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS in their Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work (UNAIDS, 2012) concluded that countries should move away from criminalising sex work and promote the decriminalisation of sex work.</p> <p>Criminalisation can displace sex work into less populous areas which are perceived as less safe.</p> <p>Confiscation of condoms as evidence by police still occurs in Australia and this can lead to reluctance to carry condoms or have them on site. Police also take away condoms from street based sex workers to encourage them to stop working.</p> <p>It has been argued by sex worker groups that decriminalisation and the removal of criminal laws relating to adult sex work is the most effective legislative approach.</p> <p>The authors' literature review revealed that within a criminalised setting sex worker organisations experience difficulties in accessing sex workers on 'outreach' because the industry moves underground due to stigma and fear.</p> <p>The most prominent theme extracted from the interviews was police intervention within the</p>	<p>This article argues that criminalising sex work leads to human rights violations, therefore sex work should be decriminalised to ensure workers are protected. This is in line with sex workers' advocacy organisations views and the best evidence for HIV prevention (UNAIDS). The most common theme was police abuse of power when sex work is criminalised.</p> <p>Article warns about conflation of sex work and trafficking which has shifted attention away from other sectors such as the garment industry.</p>

		<p>industry, where each interviewee expressed concern with the 'policing' of the industry. As sex work is criminalised police enforce laws and it is common for police to take advantage of their power.</p> <p>This article articulates different ways in which the criminalisation of sex work disrupts sex worker safety and rights to health care.</p>	
SEV 17	<p>*Jennifer L. Syvertsen a,1, Angela M. Robertson a,1, Maria Luisa Rolón a,b,2, Lawrence A. Palinkas c,3, Gustavo Martinez d,4, M. Gudelia Rangel e,5, Steffanie A. Strathdee a,*Eyes that don't see, hear that doesn't feel": Coping with sex work in intimate relationships and its implications for HIV/STI Social Science & Medicine . 87 (2013) 1e8 prevention</p>	<p>" Using qualitative data from a social epidemiology study of risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among female sex workers and their intimate, non-commercial male partners along the Mexico - U.S. border, we examined both partners' perspectives on sex work and the ways in which couples discussed associated HIV/STI risks in their relationship.</p> <p>Couples employed multiple strategies to cope with sex work, including psychologically disconnecting from their situation, telling "little lies," avoiding the topic, and to a lesser extent, superficially discussing their risks. While such strategies served to protect both partners' emotional health by upholding illusions of fidelity and avoiding potential conflict, non-disclosure of risk behaviors may exacerbate the potential for HIV/STI acquisition. Our work has direct implications for designing multi-level, couple-based health interventions.</p> <p>Caveats: US-Mexico border context, may not be directly transferable to Sheffield.</p>	<p>This article is of importance to those providing sexual health services to SW and non-SW partners of SW around STI risk.</p> <p>The article is specifically exchange of sex for money sex work so not directly transferable to SEVs.</p>
SEV 18	<p>Lutnick,A., Harris J., Lorvick,J., Cheng,H., Wenger, L.D.,Bourgois, P., Kral, A.H., (2015) Examining the Associations Between Sex Trade Involvement, Rape, and Symptomatology of Sexual Abuse Trauma <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i> 2015, Vol. 30(11) 1847–1863 DOI: 10.1177/0886260514549051 jiv.sagepub.com</p>	<p>The high prevalence of rape and sexual trauma amongst women involved in the sex industry is well established. This article looks at a rape and sexual trauma experience amongst women who do and do not trade sex in a community based sample of 322 substance mis-using women (methamphetamine) in San Francisco, California, 61% of whom were involved in the sex trade.</p> <p>The authors found that urban poor women, regardless of sex trade involvement, suffer high levels of rape and related trauma symptomatology.</p> <p>Caveats: article focuses on a very specific sub sample of substance misusing women in the US.</p>	<p>This article deals with a very specific sample, of substance misusing women and found higher levels of rape and related trauma amongst this group regardless of sex trade involvement.</p>
SEV 19	<p>Rachel Phillips1, Cecilia Benoit1,2, Helga Hallgrimsdottir2 and Kate Vallance1 Courtesy stigma: a hidden health concern among</p>	<p>Article explores how stigma associated with vulnerable and marginalised groups can attach itself with those who work or volunteer with those groups, and how this influences turnover in those professions. The article deals with adult sex workers as a specific group and those who work with them and their experience of this form of stigma.</p> <p>Issues such as underfunding of the work and defending the value of the work were key issues of stress</p>	<p>This article provides insight into the role of paid and volunteer staff working with adult sex workers. The difficulty of providing meaningful services with limited resources is a key source of stress for staff and</p>

	front-line service providers to sex workers <i>Sociology of Health & Illness</i> Vol. 34 No. 5 2012 ISSN 0141-9889, pp. 681-696 doi: 10.1111/j.1467-9566.2011.01410.x	for staff and volunteers whereas meaningful engagement was a key positive. Underfunding of other services which created barriers when referring women for other support was also a source of stress. Not being able to talk openly with family and friends about their job for fear of disapproval or a reluctance to burden others with the tension that surrounds the work resulted in a sense of isolation for some workers. While the participants described the emotional rewards associated with providing front-line services, as well as a high degree of skill discretion and autonomy, the work was also described as very stressful, with stress and fatigue being commonly associated with a decision to leave the organisation. High levels of emotional exhaustion and a low sense of personal accomplishment were recorded.	volunteers and the role is isolating and stigmatised. This is pertinent for policy makers in terms of the expansion of SEV and sex industry and whether those involved in supporting those working in the industry are consulted as to whether services and staff will stretch.
SEV 20	Jackson, C.A., (2016) <i>Framing Sex Worker Rights: How U.S. Sex Worker Rights Activists Perceive and Respond to Mainstream Anti-Sex Trafficking Advocacy Sociological Perspectives</i> 2016, Vol. 59(1) 27-45 DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628553 spx.sagepub.com	Interviews with sex worker rights activists which (1) contest the labelling of sex workers as victims and (2) contest the accuracy and emotionality of stories and statistics used in mainstream anti-sex trafficking efforts. Argues that moral position of US policy is anti-sex work which creates a hostile environment for sex labour rights activism. The article argues that the dominant moral positions in the US are to incarcerate, rescue, rehabilitate or protect women working in the sex industry rather than invest in social welfare empowerment or public health programmes. Rights based activists argue that criminalising and stigmatising prostitution is a greater social problem than sexual labour itself.	Self-organised labour rights groups for sex workers (including sexual entertainment workers in this sample) may be disadvantaged as against other labour rights organisations due to moral views about the industry. Sex workers are marginalised workers in a stigmatised industry. Policy makers should ensure that the voice of workers in the industry is heard. The rights articulated include: the right to work safely—free from arrest, police harassment, and violence; free to report violence or theft; free to remain as a primary caretaker for a child/children; the right to leave sex work without identifying as a victim. Activists insist on the separation of sex work and coerced sex work through trafficking arguing that choice and agency make the difference in consensual sex work.
SEV 21	Tenni B, Carpenter J, Thomson N (2015) <i>Arresting HIV: Fostering</i>	The article argues that criminalisation and regulatory control of sex work, and in particular certain negative police practices, can inhibit progress in combating the spread of HIV globally.	Partnerships between public health, the police and the sex industry are key to preventing the spread of HIV. The

	<p>Partnerships between Sex Workers and Police to Reduce HIV Risk and Promote Professionalization within Policing Institutions: A Realist Review. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0134900. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0134900</p>	<p>"Decriminalisation is widely regarded as the evidence-based model of sex industry regulation that best supports effective health promotion, public health outcomes, the human rights of sex workers and is the best practice model for the prevention of HIV and STIs."</p> <p>"The decriminalisation of sex work, particularly legalising the possession of condoms and the provision of managed sex work zones facilitate more effective HIV prevention programs."</p> <p>The example was given of the Asia Pacific region where apart from NSW and New Zealand, sex work is criminalised and police are often perpetrators of violence against sex workers, using criminalisation to extract bribes or free sexual services or targeting sex workers for arrest to fill arrest quotas.</p> <p>The need to promote partnerships between sex workers and police is also encouraged by various UN political declarations including UNESCAP Resolutions 66/10 and 67/9 but there is limited evidence of good practice in this area. The Ugly Mugs programme is a good case study of joint work between police and the industry to protect workers from abusive clients.</p> <p>"The review found that political and police leadership, civil society strengthening and police reform in relation to HIV, are critical factors and key ingredients in changing the enabling environment in which sex work takes place to ensure that HIV prevention, individual and public health as well as HIV prevention and the promotion of human rights are the number one priority. Further research into this relationship is needed to provide evidence for effective HIV programming with police."</p> <p>Caveats: global and HIV/selling sex focus</p>	<p>regulatory framework around sex work can inhibit efforts to halt the spread of HIV such as the possession of condoms being used as evidence for arrest for sex work. The decriminalisation of sex work is currently regarded as the best practice model. This can include "zones of tolerance" for sex work where inreach of sexual health services is more easily facilitated. Crackdowns have been demonstrated to displace rather than eliminate sex work and increase risk by pushing sex work into more isolated, less populous areas and away from health services. Fining women was shown to increase debt and increase frequency of sex work. The use of peer educators is viewed as positive in a number of global settings and a good relationship between peer educators and the police.</p>
SEV 22	<p>Steen R, Wheeler T, Gorgens M, Mziray E, Dallabetta G (2015) Feasible, Efficient and Necessary, without Exception – Working with Sex Workers Interrupts HIV/STI Transmission and Brings Treatment to Many in Need. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0121145. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0121145</p>	<p>"High rates of partner change in sex work—whether in professional, 'transactional' or other context—disproportionately drive transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections." Decades of empirical evidence, extended by analyses in this collection, argue that protecting sex work is, without exception, feasible and necessary for controlling HIV/STI epidemics."</p> <p>The disproportionate burden of HIV borne by sex workers (globally) calls for expedited and facilitated access to appropriate services.</p> <p>Direct interventions should include peer-based outreach, condom programming and appropriate clinical services, and should be supported by structural interventions to reduce vulnerability, facilitate condom use and promote participation and ownership by sex workers. Programmes should prioritise coverage of overt, high-volume sex work as a first step to interrupting transmission and controlling epidemics.</p> <p>(Caveats: this paper takes a global view and generally focuses on countries which are resource poor and have a high HIV prevalence. The article focuses on selling sex rather than "no touch" SEV)</p>	<p>Sex work is an important driver of sexual transmission of HIV.</p> <p>Direct interventions should include peer-based outreach, condom programming and appropriate clinical services, and should be supported by structural interventions to reduce vulnerability, facilitate condom use and promote participation and ownership by sex workers.</p>
SEV 23	<p>Elena Shih (2016) Not in My "Backyard Abolitionism":</p>	<p>This article explores a faith based <i>vigilante rescue</i> anti-sex trafficking programme for human trafficking in South Carolina, US. The author argues that "moral panic" about sex trafficking justified surveillance</p>	<p>Conflation of sex work and trafficking can lead to disproportionate surveillance of</p>

	<p>Vigilante Rescue against American Sex Trafficking <i>Sociological Perspectives</i> 2016, Vol. 59(1) 66–90 DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628551 spx.sagepub.com</p>	<p>and policing of working class immigrant women in the state. The use of racial profiling and assumptions about criminal behaviour on the basis of race were noted.</p> <p>The author notes that moral positions about the legitimacy of sex work can assume that all commercial sex work is exploitative and non-consensual and that moral concern about the sex trade has led to a disproportionate focus on sex trafficking compared to other forms of trafficked human labour; this has led to punitive approaches to migrant women.</p> <p>The author raises concern that such non-state organisations as this acting in the state's interest draw resources away from labour rights, social welfare and social housing.</p>	<p>migrant women involved in the sex trade (including SEV) and further marginalise these women. Social welfare responses are preferred.</p>
SEV 24	<p><i>Stefan David Baral, M Reuel Friedman, Scott Geibel, Kevin Rebe, Borche Bozhinov, Daouda Diouf, Keith Sabin, Claire E Holland, Roy Chan, Carlos F Cáceres (2015) HIV and sex workers Male sex workers: practices, contexts, and vulnerabilities for HIV acquisition and transmission Lancet</i> 2015; 385: 260–73</p>	<p>"Male sex workers, irrespective of their sexual orientation, mostly offer sex to men and rarely identify as sex workers, using local or international terms instead. Growing evidence indicates a sustained or increasing burden of HIV among some male sex workers within the context of the slowing global HIV pandemic."</p> <p>This group as a key population is underserved by current HIV prevention, treatment, and care services (globally). Men who sell sex represent a subset of individuals who have been mostly ignored to date in the context of the global response to HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Commercial heterosexual sex probably encompasses a small proportion of all commercial sex offered by men. HIV acquisition and transmission risks for men who sell sex only to women are also probably much lower than those affecting other male sex workers.</p> <p>Not defining as a sex worker can be a barrier to male sex workers accessing sex worker specific health services.</p> <p>Male sex workers may have lower HIV prevalence than other MSM due to a higher propensity to use condoms with non-paying partners – but this is a mixed picture globally. In one study male sex workers in Sydney, Australia had lower HIV prevalence than other MSM due to lower propensity for unprotected sex with non-paying partners. In China, similar lower HIV prevalence amongst "money boys" than other MSM is noted.</p> <p>Police abuse of male sex workers and evidence of condoms being used to prosecute complicates safer sex work with male sex workers.</p> <p>Caveats: this paper takes a global view, so findings although applicable and generalizable in global terms may not be specifically applicable to Sheffield or the UK. This paper is focussed on selling sex rather than sexual entertainment.</p>	<p>Evidence-based and human rights affirming services dedicated specifically to male sex workers are needed to improve health outcomes for these men and the people within their sexual networks.</p> <p>Decriminalisation of sex work and access to protective public health and legal structures would probably improve understanding of health issues specific to male sex workers, increase service uptake, and—from an occupational health perspective—foster better working conditions.</p>
SEV 25	<p><i>Maia Rusakova, Aliya Rakhmetova, *Steffanie A Strathdee (2014) Why are sex workers who use substances at risk for HIV?</i></p>	<p>Sex workers who inject drugs can acquire HIV through unprotected sex or syringe sharing.</p> <p>Sex workers who are alcohol or drug dependent are more likely to engage in transactions while under the influence of substances and might earn less per transaction.</p>	<p>Although empowerment of sex workers has been pivotal to HIV prevention successes in many countries, such programmes have tended not to focus on</p>

	<p>www.thelancet.com Vol 385 January 17, 2015 Published Online July 22, 2014 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61042-4</p>	<p>Drug users may feel more pressure to acquiesce to clients' demands for unprotected sex, especially if offered more money or drugs.</p> <p>Sex workers' intimate male partners and clients often engage in behaviours with high risk of HIV infection.</p> <p>Drugs may be used as a form of coercion or control of sex workers.</p> <p>Injecting drug users are more likely to work outdoors exposing them to greater risks as injecting drug use is stigmatised in indoor venues.</p> <p>Injecting drug use is associated with elevated HIV risks in sex workers. In 20 countries worldwide, HIV prevalence was higher in female injectors than male injectors. There is high prevalence of injecting drug use amongst female sex workers in some Eastern European countries (e.g. Russia).</p> <p>(Caveat: article deals with onward sexual transmission of HIV and therefore selling sex rather than non-touch sexual entertainment)</p>	<p>sex workers who inject or use drugs, in part because they are even more marginalised.</p> <p>Policy makers should consider the particular health and support needs of sex workers who inject drugs.</p>
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Report Title: Sex industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary			
Report Author: Magdalena Boo Health Improvement Principal – Environment, Transport, Planning & Sustainability			
Contact Number: 0114 273 4152		Portfolio: Office of the Director of Public Health	
Purpose: To provide a brief and pragmatic review of the literature on Sexual Entertainment Venues, the sex industry and health.			
For Decision		Progress Update	
For Steer		Other (for information)	x
<p>Report Summary:</p> <p>Attitudes to the sex industry – including sexual entertainment – may dictate local policies, but ideological rather than evidence based health approaches can increase health and personal safety risks.</p> <p>An evidence based health approach to the sex industry and sexual entertainment venues should be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workers' rights and empowerment of sex workers • Decriminalisation and geographically compact zones of tolerance • Partnership between criminal justice, health agencies and venues/sex workers • Tailored in-reach of drugs, alcohol, sexual health, mental health, financial inclusion services to this stigmatised and vulnerable workforce using peer-peer where possible • Sensitive land use considerations to manage the impact of the sex industry on the wider population • Sensible limits on the number of venues and zones in proportion to the local resource of support services (addiction, sexual health, mental health, criminal justice and regulatory services) <p>Ideologically driven approaches such as crackdowns, fines, excessive regulation such as mandatory registration can displace the sex industry to less populous, more isolated areas or can encourage a two-tier system with the most marginalised and socially excluded workers being placed at increased risk.</p>			
<p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying an evidence based health approach, as set out above, provides the safest environment for staff working within the industry; 			

Sex industry and Sexual Entertainment Venues and health evidence summary

Introduction

This brief and pragmatic evidence summary is intended to support the use of evidence in determining policy on the commercial sex industry, including sexual entertainment venues and/or to facilitate policy makers in placing conditions on operations that are evidence based and/or known to work.

This evidence review can aid the development of Equalities Impact Assessments or Health Impact Assessments.

Public Health does not make moral judgements on sex work or the sex industry but concerns itself with the best evidence and best practice for protecting public health.

Methodology

A literature search was conducted by Public Health using the University of Sheffield Starplus system.

Two search terms were used:

- Sex industry + health
- Sexual entertainment venues + health

For some authors, sexual entertainment is included in the term “sex industry” and for this reason this search term has been used to broaden the available literature as there is only a narrow selection on sexual entertainment. Where sex industry, as opposed to sexual entertainment, articles are considered careful consideration has been given to key messages, if any, that are transferable to wider sexual entertainment.

Only peer reviewed journals, in the English Language from the past 5 years were selected.

No priority was given to quantitative over qualitative or mixed methods approach or over study design.

Articles from the top 50 most relevant articles were considered.

The articles selected for further review were from a similar regulatory context – UK and Europe – or from a similar cultural setting in resource rich countries – North America and Australia. However, similar is not the same and where research is very context specific caveats have been noted about transferring knowledge and applying findings more generally.

Much of the commercial sex industry research is centred in resource poor countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These articles were excluded from further review as it was the view that findings from these articles were less transferable to a UK context.

The literature search was limited by time, access and skill; what is presented is a pragmatic response to consider a fair sample of peer reviewed literature to inform a public health view. This is not a systematic review or critical appraisal of the literature.

In the table below, the articles are coded "SEV B" for 9 articles sourced under the terms "Sexual entertainment venues + health" and SEV for 25 articles sourced under the search terms "Sex industry + health". Full text of the articles is available on request. Duplicates are shown in the table.

The conclusions drawn from the articles considered ("key messages" and "findings from the literature for policy makers") are those of the author of this paper. The thematic groupings/codes used are those of the author of this paper. Generally, the notes for policy makers are based on where there appears to be a consensus across the literature, rather than a claim made in a single study. Although the aim has been to objectively present knowledge and evidence, bias is always possible and those intending to use the source are encouraged to explore the full text of articles.

Findings from the literature for policy makers

Joined up government – Planning and Licensing both have a role in regulating the environment in which sexual entertainment and sex work takes place and may take differing views. Timings of operation, discreet operation, the local environmental context in terms of sensitive land uses and "fit" of venues within that context are key considerations for Local Authorities. A lack of a joined up approach between Planning and Licensing can make it difficult for sexual entertainment venues to invest and develop their premises (SEV B1, SEV B2).

Sensitive land use – There is a reasonable consensus of sensitive land use where SEVs would not be appropriate which includes residential areas, near schools, near universities or colleges, near religious sites, near shops or high streets, sexual trauma services amongst other places. Where land use changes there may no longer be "fit", for example the opening of the Olympic Legacy Park School in Attercliffe post-dates the proliferation of the sex industry in that area but may make it no longer suitable. Sensitive land use and suitability to the local setting can be used as reasons for refusing a license or limiting hours of operation. (SEV B1-4).

Young People and students - Evidence suggests most people start work in the SEV under the age of 25 (73.5%) with the average age of entry into the sex industry being 23 years. Students are a key source of temporary labour for SEVs, particularly undergraduates and part-time students. Financial pressure is the main driving force for entering the industry including student debt, debt from benefit changes, and broader economic pressures. However, those working in the industry also perceived relatively high pay, shorter hours and job flexibility as positive factors compared to other employment sectors such as retail. Students were also key consumers of SEV and sex industry services and debt and illicit drug use were predictive of consumption. (SEV B8, SEV B9, SEV 3)

More venues/performers increase risk - The literature suggests that the greater the number of premises and performers/workers, the greater the risks that may be taken to secure

sufficient remuneration. The type of risk taking behaviour included provision of “extras” in Sexual Entertainment Venues in private spaces, arrangements to meet clients outside of SEV for the purpose of selling sex, and in the wider sex industry, agreement to condomless sex. The literature also suggests that burnout and turnover in health and welfare professions supporting the industry is high and resources are limited and overstretched. This is pertinent for policy makers in terms of the expansion of SEV and sex industry as to whether support services and staff will stretch to cover a greater number of venues or geographical spread of venues. In one study, dancers were concerned that an increase in venues lowered the quality of such venues, whereas in another study more venues meant more choice about where to work and greater ability to move away from exploitative venues (SEV B6, SEV B8, SEV 2, SEV 3, SEV 19)

Workers rights, self-organisation and self-advocacy – Those working in the industry are well placed to make recommendations to improve their working conditions and health and safety. Those involved in sexual labour are a marginalised and stigmatised workforce and although advocacy, rights and self-organised workers’ groups do exist, policy makers may need to work hard to ensure these voices are heard. Work with sex workers on rights based work is seen as a key mechanism for addressing HIV transmission but is underfunded globally. Workers human rights and social justice approaches rather than punitive, rehabilitate or rescue approaches are considered most appropriate in this space and investment in sex worker self-organisation is viewed as crucial. Workers are concerned about basic health and safety at work such as adequate heat, light, ventilation, access to drinking water as well as industry specific concerns such as the way abusive customers are dealt with and safety measures in private areas of premises. (SEV B6, SEV B7, SEV11, SEV 20)

Physical and Sexual Violence – those working in the SEV industry and wider sex industry face high levels of workplace violence, including physical and sexual violence. Regulation of such workplaces should include health and safety measures to reduce the risk of violence to staff (SEV B7, SEV 4, SEV 9, SEV 11, SEV 14)

Historic childhood abuse – a number of articles note the association between historical childhood abuse and working in the sex industry. In one study, almost 1/3 of a sample of sex workers had prior sexual abuse histories (SEV 4, SEV 14, SEV 18)

Mental Health – just over 1/3 of participants in one qualitative study had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry. Another study described the most prevalent mental health conditions to be anxiety and depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders with PTSD linked to violence in the industry or historical childhood abuse. Those working in the sex industry reported strain on personal relationships and inability to sustain personal relationships. 1 in 3 sex workers within one study sample of sex workers had prior suicide attempts and 72.3% were unhappy with life (SEV 3, SEV 4, SEV 12, SEV 14)

Sexual Health – Sex work globally is an important driver of sexual transmission of HIV due to high partner change. Decriminalisation has the best evidence for HIV prevention and is recommended by a number of global actors on health and human rights. A key policy measure should be not to use condom carrying as evidence against sex workers for criminal prosecution. Partnerships between the sex industry, police and health are key. Working in the sex industry can negatively impact on romantic relationships with non-paying partners

and this can impact on condom use in those relationships and therefore transmission risks for STIs and HIV (SEV 5, SEV 6, SEV 12, SEV 17, SEV 21, SEV 22, SEV 24)

Drug use – in one study 53.1 % of the sex worker sample reported crack use and 19.2% reported heroin as their drug of choice. Illicit drug use was also predictive of consumption of sex industry services. Sex working women were considered to require more intensive and tailored substance misuse treatment services. Drug using clients may have lower earning power, may be limited to outdoor work, and may take greater risks (SEV 14, SEV B9, SEV 24)

Debt and financial inclusion – debt and financial factors were the main driving force to work in the sex industry in one large study. In other studies, performers were prepared to take risks for higher remuneration. In one study, dancers detailed how “house fees” for performers and fines meant starting their shift out of pocket. In another study, student impoverishment was seen to drive female students into working in the industry and being in debt was predictive of being both a worker and a consumer in the industry. (SEV B8, SEV B7, SEV B9, SEV 2, SEV 3)

Indoor versus outdoor sex work – there is a consensus of evidence that indoor environments are safer and where police and health professionals provide supportive in-reach to working women, these conditions are the safest. (SEV 9)

Human Trafficking – there is a consensus in the literature that sex trafficking is conflated with commercial sex work against the best available evidence. Although the prevalence of trafficking for sex work is high at around 25%, the majority of those trafficked globally are in domestic and agricultural roles. However, 92% of prosecutions for trafficking are for sex trafficking. There is no disagreement in the literature that sex trafficking is an abuse of human rights and should be rightfully prosecuted, but there are concerns that this focus on the sex trade is used to justify excessive surveillance of immigrant women who are already marginalised, working in this stigmatised and marginalised industry. There is a clear consensus that distinction must be made between non coerced sex work and trafficking. Sex workers have in some settings taken a role as peers in screening trafficked women. Resources and rights rather than criminalisation and rescue are recommended (SEV 7, SEV 10, SEV 11, SEV 16, SEV 20, SEV 23)

Decriminalisation - decriminalisation provides the optimal conditions and best evidence for HIV prevention, access to police protection, safe working conditions and access to health services and is supported by global health organisations such as UNAIDS. Zones of tolerance and legalisation have flaws, as do “end demand” policies. However, geographically compact zones of tolerance can facilitate inreach by support services such as health. Conversely, crackdowns and fines and excessive regulation such as mandatory registration can displace the sex industry to less populous, more isolated areas which are more risky for workers (SEV 5, SEV 11, SEV 16, SEV 21, SEV 24).

Peers – peer educators were seen as helpful for both sexual health interventions, empowerment, and anti-trafficking interventions (SEV 21, SEV 22, SEV 7)

Equality Act 2010 Protected Characteristics and SEV/Sex Industry	
Protected Characteristics	Evidence from the literature
Age	Evidence suggests most people start work in the SEV under the age of 25 (73.5%) with the average age of entry into the sex industry being 23 years
Disability	Just over 1/3 of participants in one qualitative study had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry. Another study described the most prevalent mental health conditions to be anxiety and depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders.
Gender reassignment	-
Marriage or civil partnership (in employment only)	-
Pregnancy and maternity	-
Race	The prevalence of trafficking for sex work is around 25% globally. Consensual sex work should not be conflated with trafficking, or this can lead to excessive surveillance of migrant women.
Religion or belief	There is a reasonable consensus of sensitive land use where SEVs would not be appropriate which includes near religious sites.
Sex	The consensus in the literature is that the overwhelming majority of those working in the sex industry (including SEVs) are women and the majority of customers are men.
Sexual Orientation	Male Sex Workers may sell sex to men regardless of their own sexual orientation. The male heterosexual commercial sex work market is a very small proportion of the overall sex work market. Men who have sex with men (MSM) may be involved in technology enabled "transactional sex" and may not view themselves as being sex workers.

Conclusion

An evidence based health approach to the sex industry and sexual entertainment venues should be based on:

- Workers' rights and empowerment of sex workers
- Decriminalisation and geographically compact zones of tolerance
- Partnership between criminal justice, health agencies and venues/sex workers
- Tailored in-reach of drugs, alcohol, sexual health, mental health, financial inclusion services to this stigmatised and vulnerable workforce using peer-peer where possible
- Sensitive land use considerations to manage the impact of the sex industry on the wider population
- Sensible limits on the number of venues and zones in proportion to the local resource of support services (addiction, sexual health, mental health, criminal justice and regulatory services)

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January 2018

Evidence-based Checklist for Regulatory & Welfare Visits to Sexual Entertainment Venues/Sex Industry				
Name & organisation of person completing checklist:				
Date of visit:				
	Not evidenced (+/✓)	Partially evidenced (+/✓)	Evidenced (+/✓)	Comments
Welfare information is displayed in staff areas (e.g. sexual health, mental health, addictions, debt, immigration, domestic abuse)				
Under 25s – welfare information regarding young people, including college and university welfare services, is displayed in staff areas.				
Dancers info information is displayed in staff areas http://www.dancersinfo.co.uk				
Trade Union and/or peer support information is available in staff areas.				
Occupational health contact information is displayed in staff areas.				
Venue welfare and/or safeguarding contact person information is displayed in staff/customer areas.				
Information is displayed regarding complaints of abusive staff/customers and how these will be managed/contact person.				
Private or more secluded areas of the premises have appropriate measures in place for protection of staff/customers e.g. line of sight from venue management, panic buttons, mirrors.				
Staff changing areas are adequately heated and ventilated.				
Staff changing areas are of adequate size for the number of staff.				
Staff changing areas have locked storage (e.g. lockers) for staff personal belongings.				
Staff changing areas are smokefree.				
Staff changing areas have access to drinking water and facilities to make hot, cold drinks and prepare basic snacks.				
Stocked First aid kits (including plasters) are available in staff areas.				
Staff/customer toilets have condom machines in working order.				
Licensed taxi firm numbers displayed for staff transport in late evening.				

Code	Source	Summary of article	Key messages for policy makers
SEV B1	Prior, J. and Hubbard, P. (2017) Time, space, and the authorisation of sex premises in London and Sydney, <i>Urban Studies</i> Special issue article: Sex, Consumption and the City 2017, Vol. 54(3) 633–648 Urban Studies Journal Limited 2015 DOI: 10.1177/0042098015612057 journals.sagepub.com/home/usj	<p>This paper considers the different regulatory context in Sydney and London and the role of licensing, planning and environmental control departments in trying to legislate for legal land use for sex premises of various kinds.</p> <p>The authors point to the zoning of land for sex premises by "minor bureaucrats" instead of the police and often acting in silos from the police and each other.</p> <p>The authors refer to a social mainstreaming of sex as a legitimate leisure activity being mirrored in its inclusion in legal land use and therefore its movement from the urban periphery to commercial centres.</p> <p>There is discussion of "time" as well as "space" as many of these premises operate in the night time economy which may be out of kilter with other urban uses nearby. How SEVs should co-exist with other land uses is discussed in the context of a lack of reliable evidence on impact of such venues on their localities.</p> <p>Refers to LB Camden and Hackney which have nil limit SEV policies meaning no more SEVs can be opened despite in Hackney's case there being no local objections. Refers to other Local Authorities restricting siting of SEVs near other areas of sensitive land use e.g. schools, housing, high street.</p> <p>The authors cite an example from North London of licensing and planning contradictorily awarding and refusing permission within a 2 week period for the same venue for a lap dancing club – planning approved, licensing refused.</p> <p>(The authors' standpoint is that the legislation is imperfect and this leaves the regulation of SEVs open to "street level bureaucrats" as well as the state.)</p>	<p>Time use of SEVs may conflict with other local land uses and limits can be set of opening SEVs near areas of sensitive land use (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>There is a lack of reliable evidence of impact of lap dancing clubs on their localities (Hubbard, 2015 cited in Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>Local Authorities may set a nil limit despite no local objections (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p> <p>The legislation is imperfect and unclear and there may be differences of view between, for example planning and licensing (Prior and Hubbard, 2017)</p>
SEV B2	Hubbard, P. and Colosi, R. (2015) Respectability, morality and disgust in the night-time economy: exploring reactions to 'lap dance' clubs in England and Wales, <i>The Sociological Review</i> , Vol. 63, 782–800 (2015) DOI: 10.1111/1467-954X.12278	<p>The authors explore attitudes and reactions to a 'lap dance club'. The authors suggest that rather than criminal behaviour this type of premise engenders moral disgust and that judgements are subject to social class and gender.</p> <p>The authors' study revealed that SEVs were not a major cause of distress to local residents, but a significant minority (~1 in 10) claimed to always avoid walking near such venues: women were significantly overrepresented in this group, suggesting the presence of sexual entertainment in the night-time city does have important gendered effects. The study found women were more likely to note, and comment on, the presence of lap dance clubs than men but that this was more related to questions of morality and disgust than fear, with SEVs' contribution to criminal and</p>	<p>Women may be more aware of lap dancing clubs than men and may consciously choose walking routes to avoid this type of premise.</p> <p>There is a reasonable consensus about sensitive sites where SEVs should not be placed.</p> <p>Not near schools/nurseries 83%</p> <p>Not near universities/colleges 46%</p> <p>Not near religious sites 65%</p> <p>Not near shops 45%</p> <p>Not in residential areas 97%</p>

		<p>antisocial behaviour deemed less significant than that of clubs, pubs or takeaways.</p> <p>The authors debate views about lap dancing and links to gender based violence and exploitation of women versus narratives of female empowerment and social class.</p> <p>The authors debate whether the clubs add to or take away from vibrancy and discuss a "moral geography" of appropriate sites for SEVs. Signage and names were significant here with a view that clubs should be "low key". However, blacked out windows can also make passers-by feel uncomfortable.</p> <p>Study participants associated SEVs with undesirable characteristics such as binge drinking, drug using, loitering, noise and other anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>The authors discuss views of customers of SEVs being threatening and risky and contrast this with the low number of reports of serious sexual assault.</p> <p>The authors discuss views of staff (dancers) in SEVs as being motivated to work there by necessity or coercion versus it being emancipatory. There were also concerns that women would be asked or pressurised to go beyond dancing and perform sexual acts. There were further concerns about human trafficking associated with SEVs. There was a consensus of opinion that SEVs were exploitative of women.</p> <p>(The authors' standpoint appears to be that the views of participants are motivated by traditional views of class, masculinity and femininity and "othering" of customers and staff in SEVs).</p>	<p>Signage and names (particularly more explicit) can have a particular impact with a preference for these being low key and discreet.</p> <p>SEV customers behaviour outside the clubs may cause concerns regarding anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>SEV customers may be viewed as threatening and risky. Within the context of very low reporting of sexual assault, the lack of reporting of serious sexual assault may not be significant to dispute this fear.</p> <p>There was a consensus of opinion from participants in the research that SEVs were exploitative of women.</p>
SEV B3	<p>Hubbard, P. (2015) Law, sex and the city: regulating sexual entertainment venues in England and Wales, <i>International Journal of Law in the Built Environment</i> 2015 - Volume 7/Issue 1, 1 April, 5-20</p>	<p>This article deals with the planning and licensing powers held by local authorities which allow discretion to prevent SEVs operating in specific localities, particularly those undergoing, or anticipated to be undergoing, redevelopment and regeneration.</p> <p>This is usually based on site sensitivity/sensitive land uses or future land uses e.g. a university building <i>will be</i> built in this area in future. This can mean that license renewal for an SEV can be refused if local land use changes.</p> <p>Refers to LA s choosing to set a 'nil limit' on SEVs through policy due to a view that there are no localities where SEVs are suitable or choosing to limit SEV proximity</p>	<p>Locality suitability and sensitive land use can be reasons for refusing a license.</p> <p>Suggestion that higher rate of criminality around SEVs is due to their location in high crime neighbourhood's rather than the presence of the SEV per se and ditto being sited in lower value areas rather than directly contributing to lower house prices.</p> <p>A change in the nature of a locality can make</p>

		<p>near areas of sensitive land use such as schools, religious facilities, shopping districts, "family" housing and any facilities which might routinely be used by children. (Hubbard and Colosi, 2015).</p> <p>Refers to the use of licensing conditions to limit the hours of opening and general operation of the club.</p> <p>Refers to SEVs not being defined in the Use Classes Order in England and Wales therefore a change of residential to business use as an SEV will require planning permission.</p> <p>Licensing and planning are not concerned with morality, but instead only with valid material considerations (i.e. the visual appearance of a development, its impact on the setting and potential environmental nuisance).</p> <p>SEVs are being removed from particular localities where they are "out of place", not because the local authority is opposed to sexual entertainment <i>per se</i>.</p> <p>(The author's standpoint appears to be that legitimate businesses are being de-prioritised for land use compared to other land uses such as universities and that this is unfair. The author's standpoint appears to be that SEVs do not impact land values any more than treatment services for drugs and alcohol for example and therefore are being unfairly targeted. The author is concerned about how elected members on Licensing Committees may be influenced by the views of local people.)</p>	<p>nuisance more likely to be experienced by local residents for example a new school being built in an area with existing SEVs and this can be a reason to refuse license renewal.</p> <p>Licensing conditions can be used to limit hours of opening and general operation – what the author describes as creating a "restrictive environment" for SEVs.</p> <p>Change of use class requires planning permission – an HIA screen should be completed on a request for change of use to an SEV.</p>
SEV B 4	<p>Hubbard, P., Collins, A., Gorman-Murray, A., (2016) Introduction: Sex, consumption and commerce in the contemporary city <i>Urban Studies</i> 2017, Vol. 54(3) 567–581 Urban Studies Journal Limited 2016 DOI:10.1177/0042098016682685journals.sagepub.com/home/usj</p>	<p>The authors argue that attitudes have changed over past decade of how "sexual consumption" is visible in the city and describe how views about what belongs where in urban space can shape local policy. They cite examples of SEV businesses being refused because of wanting to enter into new urban territory with no tradition of SEVs. The authors explore the mainstreaming of sex retailing and emergence of female oriented "high street" shops for lingerie and sex toys.</p> <p>(Authors' standpoint is that sexuality impacts on perceptions of urban space and shapes orientation to urban space)</p>	<p>Makes economic arguments for SEVs etc as legitimate businesses which may struggle to break into urban territory where they are seen as not rightly belonging but notes that social attitudes change over time.</p>
SEV B5	Duplicate of SEV B4		
SEV B6	<p>Sanders, T., Hardy, K., Campbell, R. (2015) <i>Regulating Strip-Based</i></p>	<p>The authors explore how the voices of other stakeholders (community and campaign groups) have been given precedence over the dancers in SEVs and how by involving dancers in policy development and regulation can lead to better inclusion of dancer welfare and safety.</p>	<p>Dancers need to be consulted as key stakeholders and informants on the industry.</p>

SEV B7	<p>Entertainment: Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy and the Ex/Inclusion of Dancers' Perspectives and Needs, <i>Social Policy & Society</i> (2015) 14: 1, 83–92C <i>Cambridge University Press</i> 2014 doi:10.1017/S1474746414000323</p>	<p>The authors aim is to explore everyday practices in the stripping industry to inform the policy agenda. The authors state that former dancers experience – particularly those with negative experiences of exploitation and degradation in the industry – have informed policy development but that current dancers or collectives of dancers have not been involved. This lack of user involvement is at odds with other arenas of policy development work and further excludes and marginalises dancers.</p> <p>The comments from the dancers include feelings that those making policy were at arm's length from and had no understanding of the industry, concern over the loss of employment/earnings from those who depend on the industry if nil policy is set, and concerns that dancers would be viewed/labelled as sex workers and this would impact on future prospects. There were concerns about clubs/dancers offering "extras" of sexual services which increases pressure on dancers at legitimate SEVS and concerns that the proliferation of clubs would lower quality.</p> <p>The project detailed some financial exploitation of dancers by SEV management – fines for chewing gum, mobile phone use, fees for missing a shift and house fees per shift which left dancers out of pocket.</p> <p>The project sought to ensure that safety and welfare concerns raised by dancers were included in licensing policy with some success, the types of measures requested included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No penalty for sickness, domestic emergencies of dancers - Limit on the number of dancers per club (due to dancers concerns that too many were employed to charge "house fees" where there were not enough customers to earn back house fees) - Adequate changing and kitchen facilities for dancers, heating and air conditioning - Provision of free water - Booths for private dances to have safety measures such as not being entirely screened off, managers having line of sight to booths and having panic buttons; - Measures for dancers safety at the end of late night shifts such as escort to own vehicle or taxi contract with reputable firm; <p>Some of these measures – particularly measures on booths, fines and changing facilities – were adopted by Local Authorities including Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and London Boroughs.</p>	<p>Dancers express concerns that some clubs/dancers offer "extras" and this increases pressure on dancers from customers.</p> <p>Dancers express concerns that a proliferation of clubs will lower quality (bad management, bad practice).</p> <p>Dancers requested welfare measures including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No penalty for sickness, domestic emergencies of dancers - Limit on the number of dancers per club (due to dancers concerns that too many were employed to charge "house fees" where there were not enough customers to earn back house fees) - Adequate changing and kitchen facilities for dancers, heating and air conditioning - Provision of free water - Booths for private dances to have safety measures such as not being entirely screened off, managers having line of sight to booths and having panic buttons; - Measures for dancers safety at the end of late night shifts such as escort to own vehicle or taxi contract with reputable firm; <p>Some were adopted by Local Authorities.</p> <p>The project created a resource for dancers is available through an Iphone App and website: http://www.dancersinfo.co.uk/. Key 'top tips' written by dancers has been translated into Romanian, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish and Russian. This resource has been used by Local Authorities including Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds.</p>
	Decker, M. R., Nail, J.E.,	This cross-sectional US study examines intimate partner violence (IPV) and client violence in	In this US cross sectional study, over 1/3 of young

	<p>Lim, S., Footer, K., Davis, W., Sherman, S. G., (2017) Client and Partner Violence Among Urban Female Exotic Dancers and Intentions for Seeking Support and Justice, <i>Journal of Urban Health</i> 94:637-647 DOI 10.1007/s11524-017-0195-5.</p>	<p>relation to female exotic dancers who have been dancing for 6 months or less. 36% reported IPV and 16% client violence. Both forms of violence were correlated with arrest, sex trade, substance use, and childhood abuse.</p> <p>In the multivariate model, sex trade was the only factor significantly associated with recent client violence (AOR 4.45, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.59, 12.41).</p> <p>In the multivariate model, sex work history was the only factor significantly associated with recent IPV (AOR 3.13, 95% CI 1.08, 9.03)</p> <p>Female exotic dancers preferred to seek help from the venue management than from police or helplines (mean score 4.51 with a range of 1 to 5; higher score indicative of more likely to seek help from a given source). The study stratifies variations in help seeking behaviour across substance misuse, sex trade, arrest histories and childhood abuse.</p> <p>"Trading sex may enable client-perpetrated abuse in EDC settings in which sex work is illegal. Women who trade sex may be in more intimate and isolated situations with clients in which violence may emerge more privately, as compared with the public spaces within venues where dancers entertain clients without sexual services".</p> <p>"The regulation of the exotic dance industry makes violence in this setting an occupational health and safety issue".</p> <p>"Within the work environment, women may make difficult safety trade-offs in the context of economic need or to sustain the biological demands of addiction".</p> <p>Caveats about transferability of this research to Sheffield: the study is conducted in Baltimore, MD, an urban setting characterized by a high HIV burden [30], a robust drug economy, entrenched poverty, and historic and sustained constraints on accessing justice [31].</p>	<p>female exotic dancers working for 6 months or less 36% reported intimate partner violence and 16% reported client physical or sexual violence in the 6 months prior to the survey.</p> <p>Survey participants preferred to seek help regarding client violence from within venues from club management than from criminal justice agencies and helplines</p> <p>Workplace violence is a health and safety issue and regulators could engage and support club management to know about local resources and allow in-reach and develop violence prevention strategies.</p> <p>"Regulation for exotic dance venues may be able to include provisions for staff training on available violence support resources and passive strategies such as posting relevant information."</p> <p>"The high prevalence of recent violence in our sample, coupled with the low intentions to seek help, argue for dedicated outreach to adult women involved in the sex industry as exotic dancers for safety promotion and access to prevention and care, particularly those who are also involved in the sex trade".</p>
SEV B8	<p>Sanders, T., & Hardy, K., (2015) Students selling sex: marketisation, higher education and consumption, <i>British Journal of Sociology of Education</i>, 36:5, 747-765, DOI: 10.1080/01425692.2013.854596</p>	<p>A large Mixed methods study of striptease industry in UK, in two cities one North and one South covering 20 SEVs and survey with 197 dancers (some interviewer-administered and some via striptease website) with a further 70 qualitative interviews with a range of staff including security and managers as well as regulatory staff.</p> <p>1/3 of dancers were under the age of 25 and 73.5% were under 25 when they started dancing.</p> <p>Changing attitudes and the rise of 'respectability' in sexual commerce; the 'pleasure dynamic' amongst students; and changes in the higher education structure were all factors explored by the authors.</p>	<p>Financial factors were the main driving force to work in the sex industry.</p> <p>A key finding of the study indicated that students were a core supply source providing dancers into the adult entertainment/stripping industry due to the ability to combine stripping work with the demands of educational courses, due to the flexibility it offered.</p> <p>The industry depends on students as temporary</p>

		<p>Cites research from Cardiff, Wales in 2011 of more than half of "escorts" being students and 1/6 of those in off street sex trade</p> <p>Although undergraduate students made up the largest proportion of dancers in education, others were pursuing qualifications and career plans by taking private courses e.g. beauty.</p> <p>The survey found that 34% of dancers reported working in another area of the sex industry (including other dance roles such as freelance and agency dancing).</p> <p>"The empirical work discussed in this paper supports these ideas that students are increasingly part of a culture of sexual consumption: both as providers in the form of sex workers and as consumers in the form of purchasing sex and other forms of sexual consumption through fashion, media, leisure and consumer goods. Stripping as a form of consumption and labour is increasingly acceptable because there is arguably less stigma attached to the industry".</p>	<p>workers who provide a key source of labour when clubs are at their busiest.</p> <p>The competition between dancers, because there were so many compared with the level of custom, meant that dancers were reducing the standards and breaking the rules persistently. More clubs/dancers could lead to pressure on women to provide extras. This is a pertinent finding in relation to issues of caps on the number of SEV premises licenses in any area.</p>
<p>SEV B9</p>	<p>Ron Roberts , Amy Jones & Teela Sanders (2013) Students and sex work in the UK: providers and purchasers, Sex Education, 13:3, 349-363, DOI: 10.1080/14681811.2012.744304</p>	<p>A cross sectional survey of a sample of 200 full and part time students (predominantly full time students) from 29 UK universities indicated that around 6% (2.7%–9.3%) of the sample was currently working in the sex industry – in erotic dancing, stripping or escorting, with significant numbers of both male and female students also involved in purchasing and using sexual services.</p> <p>Students engaging in sex work as a flexible income generator whilst studying has increased over the past decade.</p> <p>Small numbers from the sample were involved in sex work of any type with sexual entertainment (pole/lap/table/topless/erotic dancing) 4% (n=8) being the most common occupation followed by stripping 2.5% (n=5). Of the 12 respondents who reported engaging in some kind of sex work, all bar one were female. The male responder reported stripping.</p> <p>There was some indication that those involved in sex work were more likely to have experienced childhood sexual abuse and to have a current alcohol problem.</p> <p>Prior debt was statistically significant to predict engagement with sex work of any kind after controlling for variables.</p> <p>A logistic model, comprising full-/part-time status, debt status, amount of debt and degree of illicit drug use, was constructed to predict sex-work consumption. This model was significant and had an acceptable fit with the data.</p>	<p>There is agreement that student debt and impoverishment is contributing to the growing involvement in the sex industry. The study adds weight to previous studies which show financial factors as being a major driving force behind student participation in the sexual economy. Those engaged in sex work were more likely to be in debt prior to their studies and to be part-time students, with part-time status once again no longer significant with debt controlled for.</p> <p>"Findings from studies of students and the sex industry have implications for policy, which must take seriously the relationship between debt in students and supply routes into the sex industry". The authors reiterate the role of those that have a duty of care and benefit from their presence (the universities)'. Debt and illicit drug use were predictive of student consumption of sex work.</p>
<p>SEV 1-25 below are sourced from search terms "sex industry + health" through Starplus</p>			

SEV 1	Christina Mancini a,11, Amy Reckdenwald b, Eric Beauregard c, Jill S. Levenson d (2014) Sex industry exposure over the life course on the onset and frequency of sex offending <i>Journal of Criminal Justice</i>	<p>"Broadly, results suggest that adolescent exposure to the sex industry was associated with a younger age of onset sex offending among sex offenders. Findings indicate less consistency for the models examining the frequency of sex offending; some adult exposures influenced greater frequency in offending, but three were not predictive. Not least, results from an ancillary set of models suggest that adolescent exposure affected the "start" of sex offending careers, but not necessarily the duration of offending".</p> <p>"In short, two competing bodies of scholarship examining the sex industry exist. One finds support for the social learning theory, or the "imitation" effects of the sex industry. The other literature suggests null or cathartic impacts. To be clear, both bodies of research are underdeveloped."</p> <p>Caveat: US Context – may not be directly transferable to Sheffield or UK. This was a retrospective design with convicted male sex offenders (n=616)</p>	Exposure to the sex industry is associated with a younger age of onset of sex offending but not necessarily frequency or duration of offending.
SEV 2	Gillian M. Abela* and Lisa J. Fitzgerald b 'The street's got its advantages': Movement between sectors of the sex industry in a decriminalised environment <i>Health, Risk & Society</i> Vol. 14, No. 1, February 2012, 7–23	<p>This article deals with perceptions of risk and trade offs between risk and earnings in choosing street work/unmanaged sex work with higher earnings possible through street work. The article advises that stringent regulatory practices on street work are unrealistic and will place this vulnerable segment of the sex worker population at greater risk.</p> <p>Caveats: The findings are drawn from a survey of 772 sex workers and in-depth qualitative interviews with 58 sex workers in New Zealand. New Zealand, where prostitution is decriminalised may not be transferable to Sheffield or UK context</p>	Article excludes sexual entertainment and focuses on direct sex work so has less to offer in terms of key messages. However, motivation for street work of maximising income retained may be relevant in understanding motivation for outdoor work compared to indoor work. Further, the incentives of higher income through riskier practice in a competitive market is transferable in the context of lifting the cap on the number of SEVs. The preference of some workers for higher earnings in a deregulated market is also notable for policy makers.
SEV 3	Fairleigh Evelyn Gilmour (2016) Work Conditions and Job Mobility in the Australian Indoor Sex Industry <i>Otago University Sociological Research Online</i> , 21 (4), 14 < http://www.socresonline.org.uk/21/4/14.html > DOI: 10.5153/sro.4166	<p>This study conducted 14 in depth interviews with female sex workers and former sex workers. The article focuses on indoor direct sex industry – brothel work.</p> <p>The study explores the concepts of job flexibility and mobility in the sex industry and argues that the availability of increased options in a decriminalized setting leads to greater potential for workers to negotiate improved working conditions.</p> <p>Financial need was the main reason for entering the industry.</p> <p>The average age of entry into sex work was 23.</p> <p>Women valued what they perceived as better pay and working conditions from sex work compared to traditional job roles for women.</p> <p>5/14 participants (just over 1/3) in the study had mental health difficulties prior to entering sex work and saw flexibility of the job as a benefit.</p>	<p>Job mobility and flexibility within the industry emerge as the key benefits with single parents and students particularly viewing flexibility of working hours as key. Mobility allows staff to move away from poor working conditions with relative ease.</p> <p>Financial need (due to benefit changes and broader economic pressures) was the main reasons for entering the industry with more traditional jobs such as nursing, hospitality and retail being either unavailable because of lack of experience and references or conditions considered to be poor.</p> <p>The average age of entry into sex work was 23.</p>

		<p>Participants perceived the rise in high-risk services (no condom) being offered as being due to increasing competition of both more women and more brothels.</p> <p>There was some discussion about self-employed status of women being a means of brothel managers avoiding employer responsibility for superannuation and sick pay.</p> <p>There was some discussion of pressure to perform unsafe practices by managers and the difficulties in refusing particularly for migrant women or drug using women.</p> <p>Caveats: The study is set in Australia in the direct sex industry and therefore is not completely transferable to SEV in the UK.</p>	<p>1/3 of study participants (n=5) had mental health difficulties prior to entering the industry.</p> <p>Participants perceived that competition between premises and individual workers for income led to more high risk services.</p>
SEV 4	<p>ANKLESARIA, A., and GENTILE, J.P (2012) Psychotherapy with women who have worked in the sex industry <i>Innov Clin Neurosci</i>. 2012;9(10):27–33</p>	<p>This article focuses on the use of psychotherapy with women working in the sex industry, whether indoor (such as strip clubs and cabarets) or outdoor (such as prostitution and escort services).</p> <p>The authors describe the most widely prevalent mental health conditions to be anxiety, depression, PTSD and substance misuse disorders. The authors describe the literature of violence against indoor and outdoor workers in the context of sex industry trauma related PTSD.</p>	<p>The most prevalent mental health symptoms of women working in the industry (including SEV) were anxiety and depression (mood disorders) alongside substance misuse addiction. PTSD is widespread in this group and linked to childhood abuse or sex industry trauma.</p>
SEV 5	<p>Victoria Powell and Eva Karlsen (2017) Sex industry regulation, Sex Worker Health and STI/HIV prevention, <i>Sex Transm Infect</i>, 93: A6 doi: 10.1136/sextrans-2017-053264.14</p>	<p>Decriminalisation of the sex industry provides optimal conditions for STI/HIV prevention.</p> <p>Under decriminalisation New South Wales sex workers have better access to healthcare and STI/HIV education and prevention tools including free, confidential and anonymous sexual health services as well as peer-led services. Higher rates of safer sex, lower rates of STIs and improved Workplace Health and Safety were also evident, while in other jurisdictions sex workers continue to face barriers to treatment and other health services and often work outside legal frameworks.</p>	<p>Decriminalisation of the sex industry provides optimal conditions for STI/HIV prevention and improves workplace health and safety and access to health services. Peer led services were positive in this context.</p> <p>Decriminalisation is the optimal regulatory model and is supported by the UNFPA, UNDP, UNAIDS, WHO and Amnesty International as critical to HIV prevention and for human rights.</p>
SEV 6	<p>A Reeves, S Steele, D Stuckler, M McKee, A Amato-Gauci and JC Semenza (2017) Gender violence, poverty and HIV infection risk among persons engaged in the sex industry: cross-national analysis of the political economy of sex markets in 30 European and</p>	<p>Using income data and violence data from 30 countries in Europe and Central Asia to test the theory that poverty and fear of violence were structural drivers for HIV transmission. The violence data was for violence against women as most sex workers are female and included partner and non-partner physical, sexual and psychological abuse.</p> <p>The countries with the highest violence against women had the highest HIV rates amongst sex workers and those with the lowest violence against women had the lowest HIV rates amongst sex workers.</p> <p>"Our results are consistent with the theory that reducing poverty and exposure to violence may help reduce HIV infection risk among persons engaged in the sex industry."</p>	<p>Reducing poverty and exposure to gender violence may help reduce HIV infection amongst people involved in the sex industry.</p> <p>Countries with higher violence against women may have higher HIV rates amongst female sex workers (there is an association between the two). HIV prevalence among sex workers was most closely associated with the experience of violence in the last 12 months.</p>

	Central Asian countries DOI: 10.1111/hiv.12520 HIV Medicine (2017), 18, 748–755, © 2017 British HIV Association	The authors look beyond individual factors and interventions e.g. educating and empowering sex workers to carry and use condoms, to structural factors e.g. condom carrying being used as evidence that a crime is being committed or economic pressures impacting on condom use as condomless sex carries a higher price.	HIV prevalence amongst sex workers was lower in countries where the income of the poorest was comparatively higher.
SEV 7	Kathleen Ja Sook Bergquist, (2015) Criminal, Victim, or Ally? Examining the Role of Sex Workers in Addressing MinorSex Trafficking, Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work, Vol. 30(3) 314-327	"This article explores the silencing effect of conflating prostitution with sex trafficking, the ways in which sex workers might contribute to addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children as "allies," and the ethical responsibility of social workers in anti-trafficking work." Caveats: The article is from a US context	Notes the importance of distinguishing between forced involuntary prostitution and voluntary commercial sex work. Notes the positive role of peers in screening for trafficking. The takeaway message for policy makers is to be clear about what type of activities in the commercial sex industry your policy is designed for and be clear when using evidence from one context about whether it is transferable – particularly, not to use evidence of sex trafficking when speaking of all commercial sex work.
SEV 8	Sharon Pickering and Julie Ham (2014) HOT PANTS AT THE BORDER <i>Sorting Sex Work from Trafficking</i> BRIT. J. CRIMINOL. (2014) 54, 2–19 Advance Access publication 29 October 2013	Not relevant to SEV and Sheffield as predominantly focussed on interactions of immigration staff at the border and women.	
SEV 9	Andrea Krüsi, MSc, Jill Chettiar, Amelia Ridgway, BSW, Janice Abbott, BA, Steffanie A. Strathdee, , and Kate Shannon, Negotiating Safety and Sexual Risk Reduction With Clients in Unsanctioned Safer Indoor Sex Work Environments: A Qualitative Study American Journal of Public Health June 2012, Vol 102, No. 6	This article concerns the use of a supported housing programme for women which included an approach of harm reduction for women in the sex trade, including the ability to use the building to see clients during managed hours of operation as well as health in-reach services including for addiction and ARVs. "Women's accounts indicated that unsanctioned indoor sex work environments promoted increased control over negotiating sex work transactions, including the capacity to refuse unwanted services, negotiate condom use, and avoid violent perpetrators. Despite the lack of formal legal and policy support for indoor sex work venues in Canada, the environmental-structural supports afforded by these unsanctioned indoor sex work environments, including surveillance cameras and support from staff or police in removing violent clients, were linked to improved police relationships and facilitated the institution of informal peer-safety mechanisms. This study has drawn attention to the potential role of safer indoor sex work environments as venues for public health and violence prevention interventions and has indicated the critical importance of removing the sociolegal barriers preventing the formal implementation of such	This study supports other studies which demonstrate that indoor work environments are safer and that indoor environments where police and health professionals are allies to working women provide the best structural support for women's safety. The takeaway message for policy makers is that indoor work environments where in reach from police and health can take place are generally safer than outdoor sex work.

		<p>programs."</p> <p>(Caveat: Canadian policy and cultural context may be different from UK)</p>	<p>This study is interesting because the indoor environment is a supported housing complex for working women rather than a sex industry setting.</p>
SEV 10	<p>Lerum, K., Brents, B. G., (2016) <i>Sociological Perspectives on Sex Work and Human Trafficking</i>, <i>Sociological Perspectives</i> 2016, Vol. 59(1) 17–26</p> <p>© The Author(s) 2016 Reprints and permissions: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628550 spx.sagepub.com</p>	<p>Discussed the evidence about the sex industry and policies on sex work and human trafficking and urges activists and policy makers to listen.</p> <p>The article argues not to conflate sex work with trafficking and to view sex work, like all paid employment as a complicated continuum of power, coercion and agency.</p> <p>"One quarter (~25%) of estimated trafficking victims globally are in the sex industry, but constitute nearly all of the convictions (92%) for human trafficking" – prosecutions over-represent sex industry victims compared to the 8% convictions concerned with the 75% working in domestic or agricultural labour. The authors argue that this is an anti-sex work bias.</p> <p>Argues that any form of criminalisation and aggressive policing can lead to harm for those in the sex trade. Argues for resources and rights rather than rescue and criminalisation.</p>	<p>The authors explore the evidence base around trafficking and are concerned by the lack of rigour of some studies – the takeaway message for policy makers is that not all evidence is equally valid, reliable and robust, and that over-generalisations particularly should be avoided.</p> <p>Sex work is over-represented in trafficking convictions compared to its prevalence (25% of trafficking prevalence and 92% of convictions).</p> <p>Argues that policy should focus on resources and rights for workers and sex work be viewed in the same moral space as other paid work, avoiding a moral bias.</p>
SEV 11	<p><i>Michele R Decker, Anna-Louise Crago, Sandra K H Chu, Susan G Sherman, Meena S Seshu, Kholi Buthelezi, Mandeep Dhaliwal, Chris Beyrer</i> (2015) Human rights violations against sex workers: burden and effect on HIV <i>Lancet</i> 2015; 385: 186–99 Published Online July 22, 2014 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)60800-X</p>	<p>The authors reviewed evidence from more than 800 studies and reports on the burden and HIV implications of human rights violations against sex workers.</p> <p>There were widespread abuses of human rights perpetrated by both state and non-state actors and these directly and indirectly increase HIV susceptibility, and undermine effective HIV-prevention and intervention efforts.</p> <p>"Violations include homicide; physical and sexual violence, from law enforcement, clients, and intimate partners; unlawful arrest and detention; discrimination in accessing health services; and forced HIV testing".</p> <p>Abuses occur across all policy regimes – the article looks at both Iran where selling sex carries the death penalty, partial criminalisation in Brazil and "end demand" policies in Sweden - although most profoundly where sex work is criminalised through punitive law. Where sex work is legalised this is associated with mandatory testing regimes for STIs and some workers evade these and resist registration creating a two tier system where only registered workers can access health and support</p>	<p>Criminalisation of sex work provides "ideal conditions" for human rights violations to occur and the least desirable conditions in which to address HIV transmission. However legalisation and zones of tolerance also have flaws.</p> <p>Rights based responses for sex workers provide the best conditions for HIV work with this marginalised group. The article refers to reforms to policy and practice to assure safe working conditions, access to police protection instead of abusive and discriminatory treatment, and equality and non-discrimination in accessing health</p>

		<p>services. Legalisation does not assure rights-based law enforcement practices and does not eliminate violence against sex workers (examples of Switzerland). Zones of tolerance approaches in Hungary facilitated police abuse of sex workers.</p> <p>New Zealand and New South Wales in Australia are the only jurisdictions that operate under full decriminalisation— ie, where sex work is not penalised through punitive laws, and regulation is premised on worker health and safety, and comparable to that for similar forms of labour. Decriminalisation improved police attitudes towards sex workers, and prompted them to notify sex workers of potential attackers. Police liaisons designated to work with sex workers on abuse issues also improved safety.</p> <p>The article warns against the conflation of sex work with trafficking – in global settings this has led to human rights abuse such as mass incarceration. Sex worker rights and anti-trafficking are not oppositional and an example from Calcutta (sic) is given of the involvement of sex workers in screening for trafficked women.</p> <p>Protection of sex workers is essential to respect, protect, and meet their human rights, and to improve their health and wellbeing. Research findings affirm the value of rights-based HIV responses for sex workers, and underscore the obligation of states to uphold the rights of this marginalised population".</p> <p>Sex worker organising generates some of the most crucial and effective work on health and human rights, yet is severely underfunded. Less than 1% of funding on HIV prevention is spent on HIV and sex work, and even less is directed towards sex workers' organisations.</p> <p>Caveats: This article takes a global perspective and findings may not be generalizable to the UK or Sheffield.</p>	<p>services. However, Sex worker self-organisation is severely underfunded from global HIV funding.</p> <p>Conflation of sex work with trafficking is inconsistent with the best available evidence.</p>
SEV 12	<p>Bellhouse C, Crebbin S, Fairley CK, Bilardi JE (2015) The Impact of Sex Work on Women's Personal Romantic Relationships and the Mental Separation of Their Work and Personal Lives: A Mixed-Methods Study. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0141575. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141575</p>	<p>Research conducted to understand impact of sex work on women's personal romantic relationships.</p> <p>"Most women (78%) reported that, overall, sex work affected their personal romantic relationships in predominantly negative ways, mainly relating to issues stemming from lying, trust, guilt and jealousy. A small number of women reported positive impacts from sex work including improved sexual self-esteem and confidence. Just under half of women were in a relationship at the time of the study and, of these, 51% reported their partner was aware of the nature of their work. Seventy-seven percent of single women chose to remain single due to the nature of their work. Many women used mental separation as a coping mechanism to manage the tensions between sex work and their personal relationships".</p> <p>Findings very pertinent to health professionals, such as the distinction between work-sex and private sexual relationships meaning most women did not use condoms in personal sexual relationships. Other findings of relevance to mental health concern separation of work and home life through manufactured identity, ritual and emotional distance.</p>	<p>Study concerns indoor sex work in brothels, massage parlours and as call girls rather than sexual entertainment so findings may not be transferable but the main finding is that overall sex work had a negative impact on the personal sexual relationships of working women.</p>
SEV 13	<p>Wahab, S., and Panichelli, M. (2013) Ethical and</p>	<p>The article deals specifically with prostitution and diversion from prostitution using forms of coercion such as criminal justice community sentences or orders and access to health services being contingent</p>	<p>Those who develop "exit programmes" from sex work should not make access to</p>

	<p>Human Rights Issues in Coercive Interventions With Sex Workers <i>Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work</i> 28(4) 344-349 © The Author(s) 2013 Reprints and permission: sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav DOI: 10.1177/0886109913505043 aff.sagepub.com</p>	<p>on participation in exit programmes. The article argues that this is not ethical for social workers to be involved in and is a form of structural violence against minorities.</p>	<p>health and support services contingent upon exit.</p>
<p>SEV 14</p>	<p>Patton, R., Snyder, A., Glassman, M., (2013) Rethinking substance abuse treatment with sex workers: How does the capability approach inform practice? <i>Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment</i> 45 (2013) 196–205</p>	<p>Article argues that sex workers need a different approach to substance misuse treatment than non sex workers.</p> <p>1710 (25.5%) of the sample of 6716 had a history of sex work.</p> <p>20% of the whole sample reported ever having attempted suicide which rose to 30.7% for sex workers (SW).</p> <p>22.2% (44.7% SW) of respondents reported ever experiencing sexual violation and 32.6% (49.8 % SW) stated they had ever experienced physical violation. Within the sample, 64.2% of participants reported they were very unhappy or somewhat unhappy with life which rose to 72.3% of sex workers.</p> <p>Among the sample, 15.7% reported a history of child sexual abuse (30.2 %SW) and 18.8% answered affirmatively to ever experiencing child physical abuse (24.8 %SW)</p> <p>For the subsample of sex workers , 53.1% of the respondents reported that crack/ cocaine was their DOC, 19.2% reported that heroin was their DOC, and 12.4% stated that alcohol was their DOC.</p> <p>"These findings suggest that certain capabilities differentiate between sex workers and non-sex workers within a substance abusing sample; challenges to life, bodily health, bodily integrity, emotions, practical reason, and control over one's environment were all found to be significantly associated with sex work involvement."</p>	<p>The article is concerned with prostitution rather than SEV but some findings are similar to other studies in terms of mental health and historical childhood abuse.</p> <p>Addiction in-reach commissioned into SEV and other sex industry should be tailored to the cohort, "they may need more intensive or different services compared to other substance abusers".</p> <p>Mental health and suicide prevention staff should be aware of the high prevalence of prior suicide attempts (1 in 3) amongst this sample which are three times as high as attempted suicide in the general population of 1 in 15 (mental health.org.uk).</p> <p>Domestic abuse and sexual violence organisations should note the higher prevalence of sexual violation, physical violation and historic childhood abuse amongst female sex workers in this sample.</p>

SEV 15	<p>Minichiello et al. BMC Public Health (2015) 15:282 DOI 10.1186/s12889-015-1498-7 Minichiello, V., Scott, J., and Callander, D. (2015) A new public health context to understand male sex work, BMC Public Health (2015) 15:282</p>	<p>Article takes a global view of male sex work, STIs and HIV, and the role of technology in particular online communities. Considers transactional sex in some economies e.g. wealthy women tourists forming romantic attachments with local men where the men do not consider themselves to be sex workers and women do not consider themselves to be sex tourists as well as the predominantly MSM MSW in global contexts.</p> <p>Information technology has changed the way the sex industry is organised and this can include online negotiation and forums for riskier sexual practices (condomless sex) as well as more co-ordinated affiliations of sex workers in rights advocacy.</p>	<p>Not directly transferable to a Sheffield SEV context other than as regards the use of information technology as a positive means of linking workers with peers for rights advocacy as well as possible negative uses e.g. male customers online reviews of female sex workers' performance or use of online forums to seek riskier sexual practices for STIs.</p>
SEV 16	<p>Roxana Baratosa, Sarah Wendt (2017) "Outdated Laws, OutspokenWhores": Exploring sex work in a criminalised setting Women's Studies International Forum 62 (2017) 34–42</p>	<p>This article explores the experiences of sex workers living and working in South Australia under laws that criminalise their profession.</p> <p>It was found that working in a criminalised setting raised particular concerns for sex workers including an erosion of workplace protections, outreach services, access to health service and increased policing.</p> <p>Sex workers advocate for decriminalisation as it has a growing evidence base showing it supports and maintains sexual health programs and has an effect on the course of HIV and other STI transmissions for sex workers when compared to other regulatory models.</p> <p>The Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS in their Guidance Note on HIV and Sex Work (UNAIDS, 2012) concluded that countries should move away from criminalising sex work and promote the decriminalisation of sex work.</p> <p>Criminalisation can displace sex work into less populous areas which are perceived as less safe.</p> <p>Confiscation of condoms as evidence by police still occurs in Australia and this can lead to reluctance to carry condoms or have them on site. Police also take away condoms from street based sex workers to encourage them to stop working.</p> <p>It has been argued by sex worker groups that decriminalisation and the removal of criminal laws relating to adult sex work is the most effective legislative approach.</p> <p>The authors' literature review revealed that within a criminalised setting sex worker organisations experience difficulties in accessing sex workers on 'outreach' because the industry moves underground due to stigma and fear.</p> <p>The most prominent theme extracted from the interviews was police intervention within the</p>	<p>This article argues that criminalising sex work leads to human rights violations, therefore sex work should be decriminalised to ensure workers are protected. This is in line with sex workers' advocacy organisations views and the best evidence for HIV prevention (UNAIDS). The most common theme was police abuse of power when sex work is criminalised.</p> <p>Article warns about conflation of sex work and trafficking which has shifted attention away from other sectors such as the garment industry.</p>

		<p>industry, where each interviewee expressed concern with the 'policing' of the industry. As sex work is criminalised police enforce laws and it is common for police to take advantage of their power.</p> <p>This article articulates different ways in which the criminalisation of sex work disrupts sex worker safety and rights to health care.</p>	
SEV 17	<p>*Jennifer L. Syvertsen a,1, Angeia M. Robertson a,1, Maria Luisa Rolón a,b,2, Lawrence A. Palinkas c,3, Gustavo Martínez d,4, M. Gudelia Rangel e,5, Steffanie A. Strathdee a, "Eyes that don't see, heart that doesn't feel": Coping with sex work in intimate relationships and its implications for HIV/STI Social Science & Medicine 87 (2013) 1e8 prevention</p>	<p>" Using qualitative data from a social epidemiology study of risk for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among female sex workers and their intimate, non-commercial male partners along the Mexico - U.S. border, we examined both partners' perspectives on sex work and the ways in which couples discussed associated HIV/STI risks in their relationship.</p> <p>Couples employed multiple strategies to cope with sex work, including psychologically disconnecting from their situation, telling "little lies," avoiding the topic, and to a lesser extent, superficially discussing their risks. While such strategies served to protect both partners' emotional health by upholding illusions of fidelity and avoiding potential conflict, non-disclosure of risk behaviors may exacerbate the potential for HIV/STI acquisition. Our work has direct implications for designing multi-level, couple-based health interventions.</p> <p>Caveats: US-Mexico border context, may not be directly transferable to Sheffield.</p>	<p>This article is of importance to those providing sexual health services to SW and non-SW partners of SW around STI risk.</p> <p>The article is specifically exchange of sex for money sex work so not directly transferable to SEVs.</p>
SEV 18	<p>Lutnick,A., Harris J., Lorvick,J., Cheng,H., Wenger, L.D.,Bourgois, P., Kral, A.H., (2015) Examining the Associations Between Sex Trade Involvement, Rape, and Symptomatology of Sexual Abuse Trauma <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i> 2015, Vol. 30(11) 1847–1863 DOI: 10.1177/0886260514549051 jiv.sagepub.com</p>	<p>The high prevalence of rape and sexual trauma amongst women involved in the sex industry is well established. This article looks at a rape and sexual trauma experience amongst women who do and do not trade sex in a community based sample of 322 substance mis-using women (methamphetamine) in San Francisco, California, 61% of whom were involved in the sex trade.</p> <p>The authors found that urban poor women, regardless of sex trade involvement, suffer high levels of rape and related trauma symptomatology.</p> <p>Caveats: article focuses on a very specific sub sample of substance misusing women in the US.</p>	<p>This article deals with a very specific sample, of substance misusing women and found higher levels of rape and related trauma amongst this group regardless of sex trade involvement.</p>
SEV 19	<p>Rachel Phillips¹, Cecilia Benoit^{1,2}, Helga Halgrimsdottir² and Kate Vallance¹ Courtesy stigma: a hidden health concern among</p>	<p>Article explores how stigma associated with vulnerable and marginalised groups can attach itself with those who work or volunteer with those groups, and how this influences turnover in those professions. The article deals with adult sex workers as a specific group and those who work with them and their experience of this form of stigma.</p> <p>Issues such as underfunding of the work and defending the value of the work were key issues of stress</p>	<p>This article provides insight into the role of paid and volunteer staff working with adult sex workers. The difficulty of providing meaningful services with limited resources is a key source of stress for staff and</p>

	front-line service providers to sex workers Sociology of Health & Illness Vol. 34 No. 5 2012 ISSN 0141-9889, pp. 681-696 doi: 10.1111/j.1467-9566.2011.01410.x	for staff and volunteers whereas meaningful engagement was a key positive. Underfunding of other services which created barriers when referring women for other support was also a source of stress. Not being able to talk openly with family and friends about their job for fear of disapproval or a reluctance to burden others with the tension that surrounds the work resulted in a sense of isolation for some workers. While the participants described the emotional rewards associated with providing front-line services, as well as a high degree of skill discretion and autonomy, the work was also described as very stressful, with stress and fatigue being commonly associated with a decision to leave the organisation. High levels of emotional exhaustion and a low sense of personal accomplishment were recorded.	volunteers and the role is isolating and stigmatised. This is pertinent for policy makers in terms of the expansion of SEV and sex industry and whether those involved in supporting those working in the industry are consulted as to whether services and staff will stretch.
SEV 20	Jackson, C.A., (2016) Framing Sex Worker Rights: How U.S. Sex Worker Rights Activists Perceive and Respond to Mainstream Anti-Sex Trafficking Advocacy Sociological Perspectives 2016, Vol. 59(1) 27-45 DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628553 spx.sagepub.com	Interviews with sex worker rights activists which (1) contest the labelling of sex workers as victims and (2) contest the accuracy and emotionality of stories and statistics used in mainstream anti-sex trafficking efforts. Argues that moral position of US policy is anti-sex work which creates a hostile environment for sex labour rights activism. The article argues that the dominant moral positions in the US are to incarcerate, rescue, rehabilitate or protect women working in the sex industry rather than invest in social welfare empowerment or public health programmes. Rights based activists argue that criminalising and stigmatising prostitution is a greater social problem than sexual labour itself.	Self-organised labour rights groups for sex workers (including sexual entertainment workers in this sample) may be disadvantaged as against other labour rights organisations due to moral views about the industry. Sex workers are marginalised workers in a stigmatised industry. Policy makers should ensure that the voice of workers in the industry is heard. The rights articulated include: the right to work safely—free from arrest, police harassment, and violence; free to report violence or theft; free to remain as a primary caretaker for a child/children; the right to leave sex work without identifying as a victim. Activists insist on the separation of sex work and coerced sex work through trafficking arguing that choice and agency make the difference in consensual sex work.
SEV 21	Tenni B, Carpenter J, Thomson N (2015) Arresting HIV: Fostering	The article argues that criminalisation and regulatory control of sex work, and in particular certain negative police practices, can inhibit progress in combating the spread of HIV globally.	Partnerships between public health, the police and the sex industry are key to preventing the spread of HIV. The

	<p>Partnerships between Sex Workers and Police to Reduce HIV Risk and Promote Professionalization within Policing Institutions: A Realist Review. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0134900. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0134900</p>	<p>"Decriminalisation is widely regarded as the evidence-based model of sex industry regulation that best supports effective health promotion, public health outcomes, the human rights of sex workers and is the best practice model for the prevention of HIV and STIs."</p> <p>"The decriminalisation of sex work, particularly legalising the possession of condoms and the provision of managed sex work zones facilitate more effective HIV prevention programs."</p> <p>The example was given of the Asia Pacific region where apart from NSW and New Zealand, sex work is criminalised and police are often perpetrators of violence against sex workers, using criminalisation to extract bribes or free sexual services or targeting sex workers for arrest to fill arrest quotas.</p> <p>The need to promote partnerships between sex workers and police is also encouraged by various UN political declarations including UNESCAP Resolutions 66/10 and 67/9 but there is limited evidence of good practice in this area. The Ugly Mugs programme is a good case study of joint work between police and the industry to protect workers from abusive clients.</p> <p>"The review found that political and police leadership, civil society strengthening and police reform in relation to HIV, are critical factors and key ingredients in changing the enabling environment in which sex work takes place to ensure that HIV prevention, individual and public health as well as HIV prevention and the promotion of human rights are the number one priority. Further research into this relationship is needed to provide evidence for effective HIV programming with police."</p> <p>Caveats: global and HIV/selling sex focus</p>	<p>regulatory framework around sex work can inhibit efforts to halt the spread of HIV such as the possession of condoms being used as evidence for arrest for sex work. The decriminalisation of sex work is currently regarded as the best practice model. This can include "zones of tolerance" for sex work where inreach of sexual health services is more easily facilitated. Crackdowns have been demonstrated to displace rather than eliminate sex work and increase risk by pushing sex work into more isolated, less populous areas and away from health services. Fining women was shown to increase debt and increase frequency of sex work. The use of peer educators is viewed as positive in a number of global settings and a good relationship between peer educators and the police.</p>
SEV 22	<p>Steen R, Wheeler T, Gorgens M, Mziray E, Dallabetta G (2015) Feasible, Efficient and Necessary, without Exception – Working with Sex Workers Interrupts HIV/STI Transmission and Brings Treatment to Many in Need. PLoS ONE 10(10): e0121145. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0121145</p>	<p>"High rates of partner change in sex work—whether in professional, 'transactional' or other context—disproportionately drive transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections." Decades of empirical evidence, extended by analyses in this collection, argue that protecting sex work is, without exception, feasible and necessary for controlling HIV/STI epidemics."</p> <p>The disproportionate burden of HIV borne by sex workers (globally) calls for expedited and facilitated access to appropriate services.</p> <p>Direct interventions should include peer-based outreach, condom programming and appropriate clinical services, and should be supported by structural interventions to reduce vulnerability, facilitate condom use and promote participation and ownership by sex workers. Programmes should prioritise coverage of overt, high-volume sex work as a first step to interrupting transmission and controlling epidemics.</p> <p>(Caveats: this paper takes a global view and generally focuses on countries which are resource poor and have a high HIV prevalence. The article focuses on selling sex rather than 'no touch' SEV)</p>	<p>Sex work is an important driver of sexual transmission of HIV.</p> <p>Direct interventions should include peer-based outreach, condom programming and appropriate clinical services, and should be supported by structural interventions to reduce vulnerability, facilitate condom use and promote participation and ownership by sex workers.</p>
SEV 23	<p>Elena Shih (2016) Not in My "Backyard Abolitionism":</p>	<p>This article explores a faith based <i>vigilante rescue</i> anti-sex trafficking programme for human trafficking in South Carolina, US. The author argues that "moral panic" about sex trafficking justified surveillance</p>	<p>Conflation of sex work and trafficking can lead to disproportionate surveillance of</p>

	<p>Vigilante Rescue against American Sex Trafficking Sociological Perspectives 2016, Vol. 59(1) 66–90 DOI: 10.1177/0731121416628551 spx.sagepub.com</p>	<p>and policing of working class immigrant women in the state. The use of racial profiling and assumptions about criminal behaviour on the basis of race were noted.</p> <p>The author notes that moral positions about the legitimacy of sex work can assume that all commercial sex work is exploitative and non-consensual and that moral concern about the sex trade has led to a disproportionate focus on sex trafficking compared to other forms of trafficked human labour; this has led to punitive approaches to migrant women.</p> <p>The author raises concern that such non-state organisations as this acting in the state's interest draw resources away from labour rights, social welfare and social housing.</p>	<p>migrant women involved in the sex trade (including SEV) and further marginalise these women. Social welfare responses are preferred.</p>
<p>SEV 24</p>	<p>Stefan David Baral, M Reuel Friedman, Scott Geibel, Kevin Rebe, Borche Bozhinov, Daouda Diouf, Keith Sabin, Claire E Holland, Roy Chan, Carlos F Cáceres (2015) HIV and sex workers Male sex workers: practices, contexts, and vulnerabilities for HIV acquisition and transmission Lancet 2015; 385: 260–73</p>	<p>"Male sex workers, irrespective of their sexual orientation, mostly offer sex to men and rarely identify as sex workers, using local or international terms instead. Growing evidence indicates a sustained or increasing burden of HIV among some male sex workers within the context of the slowing global HIV pandemic."</p> <p>This group as a key population is underserved by current HIV prevention, treatment, and care services (globally). Men who sell sex represent a subset of individuals who have been mostly ignored to date in the context of the global response to HIV/AIDS.</p> <p>Commercial heterosexual sex probably encompasses a small proportion of all commercial sex offered by men. HIV acquisition and transmission risks for men who sell sex only to women are also probably much lower than those affecting other male sex workers.</p> <p>Not defining as a sex worker can be a barrier to male sex workers accessing sex worker specific health services.</p> <p>Male sex workers may have lower HIV prevalence than other MSM due to a higher propensity to use condoms with non-paying partners – but this is a mixed picture globally. In one study male sex workers in Sydney, Australia had lower HIV prevalence than other MSM due to lower propensity for unprotected sex with non-paying partners. In China, similar lower HIV prevalence amongst "money boys" than other MSM is noted.</p> <p>Police abuse of male sex workers and evidence of condoms being used to prosecute complicates safer sex work with male sex workers.</p> <p>Caveats: this paper takes a global view, so findings although applicable and generalizable in global terms may not be specifically applicable to Sheffield or the UK. This paper is focussed on selling sex rather than sexual entertainment.</p>	<p>Evidence-based and human rights affirming services dedicated specifically to male sex workers are needed to improve health outcomes for these men and the people within their sexual networks.</p> <p>Decriminalisation of sex work and access to protective public health and legal structures would probably improve understanding of health issues specific to male sex workers, increase service uptake, and—from an occupational health perspective—foster better working conditions.</p>
<p>SEV 25</p>	<p>Maia Ruskova, Aliya Rakhmetova, Steffanie A Strathdee (2014) Why are sex workers who use substances at risk for HIV?</p>	<p>Sex workers who inject drugs can acquire HIV through unprotected sex or syringe sharing.</p> <p>Sex workers who are alcohol or drug dependent are more likely to engage in transactions while under the influence of substances and might earn less per transaction.</p>	<p>Although empowerment of sex workers has been pivotal to HIV prevention successes in many countries, such programmes have tended not to focus on</p>

	<p>www.thelancet.com Vol 385 January 17, 2015 Published Online July 22, 2014 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61042-4</p>	<p>Drug users may feel more pressure to acquiesce to clients' demands for unprotected sex, especially if offered more money or drugs.</p> <p>Sex workers' intimate male partners and clients often engage in behaviours with high risk of HIV infection.</p> <p>Drugs may be used as a form of coercion or control of sex workers.</p> <p>Injecting drug users are more likely to work outdoors exposing them to greater risks as injecting drug use is stigmatised in indoor venues.</p> <p>Injecting drug use is associated with elevated HIV risks in sex workers. In 20 countries worldwide, HIV prevalence was higher in female injectors than male injectors. There is high prevalence of injecting drug use amongst female sex workers in some Eastern European countries (e.g. Russia).</p> <p>(Caveat: article deals with onward sexual transmission of HIV and therefore selling sex rather than non-touch sexual entertainment)</p>	<p>sex workers who inject or use drugs, in part because they are even more marginalised.</p> <p>Policy makers should consider the particular health and support needs of sex workers who inject drugs.</p>
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APPENDIX I

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. 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 and objectors (if any) will be invited to make a closing submission, highlighting salient points and deal with any issues raised by the other party in evidence that has not already been dealt with in the primary presentation of the case.
- (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.

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APPENDIX J

Meeting Invite

J1



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. Please find below a link to the online report that will be considered by the Sub Committee. The Licensing Committee has the authority to decide what action to take in relation to each application.

Link to committee meetings:

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=155>

The hearing in respect of the application will take place on Monday 16th September 2019 at 10am in the Chambers of the Town Hall, Sheffield (Pinstone Street entrance) and you are invited to attend.

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 Friday 6th September 2019.

Steve Lonnia

.....
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

Date: 20th August 2019

Licensing Service
Block C Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
Sheffield
S9 3HD
Tel: 0114 2734264
E-mail: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk
Website: www.sheffield.gov.uk/licensing



Date: 20th August 2019

IMPORTANT: NOTIFICATION OF A LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING

Sexual Entertainment Venue – Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield

LEGISLATION: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

LICENCE TYPE: Sexual Entertainment Venue (Renewal)

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Link to committee meetings:

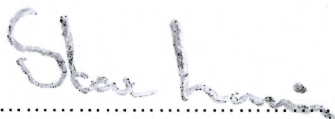
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Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing

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APPENDIX K

Sex Establishment Policy

K1

Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy

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

Tel: 0114 2734264

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

Sheffield *where everyone matters*



Contents

K2

1.	Foreword.....	3
2.	Introduction.....	3
3.	Key Definitions.....	3
4.	Consultation.....	4
5.	The Council's Legal Obligations.....	4
6.	Meaning of Sexual Entertainment Venue.....	5
7.	Location of Licensed Premises.....	5
8.	Consent to Advertising.....	6
9.	Making an Application.....	7
10.	Waivers.....	8
11.	Fees.....	8
12.	Advice & Guidance.....	8
13.	Public Notices.....	9
14.	Duration of a Licence.....	9
15.	Variation of a Licence.....	9
16.	Renewal of a Licence.....	9
17.	Transfer of a Licence.....	10
18.	Objections.....	10
19.	Determining Applications.....	10
20.	Refusal of an Application.....	11
21.	Revocation of Licences.....	11
22.	Cancellation of Licences.....	11
23.	Hearings.....	11
24.	Appeals.....	12
25.	Complaints.....	12
26.	Conditions.....	12
27.	Enforcement.....	13
28.	Planning Permission.....	13
29.	Public Health.....	14
30.	Review of Policy.....	14
31.	Useful Information and Contact Details.....	15
	Appendix "A" – Mandatory Grounds for Refusing a Licence.....	20
	Appendix "B" – Discretionary Grounds for Refusing a Licence.....	21
	Appendix "C" – Standard Conditions.....	22
	Appendix "D" – List of Consultees.....	26

1. Foreword

The increase in the number of lap dancing venues nationally since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 has become a concern for many local communities.

Previously, premises only needed to be licensed under the Licensing Act 2003 for music and dancing. Responsible Authorities (Police / Fire Service etc.) and Interested Parties (residents / businesses in the vicinity) could only make representation based on the four licensing objectives, namely:-

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

As a result of this, licensing authorities could not consider the objections of local people and businesses that were based on matters outside the scope of the four objectives. For example, a representation based on whether the venue was appropriate given its character and locality of the area would not be able to be considered.

Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 introduces a new category of sex establishment called “sexual entertainment venues” which will allow licensing authorities to regulate lap dancing clubs and similar venues.

The introduction of these new legislative powers now gives a Licensing Authority greater control over these types of premises.

The Licensing Authority can impose standard conditions and also ‘premises specific’ conditions to help control the activities taking place at the premises. The legislation also gives an opportunity to the local community to make comments with regard to specific applications.

2. Introduction

Sheffield City Council wish to support both the local community and businesses by ensuring that these types of premises are properly managed and that they integrate where possible into the local community.

With regard to community safety the Licensing Authority have the powers to control the location, activities, opening time etc; of these premises and also monitor the impact on local crime and disorder, noise and other public nuisance.

This Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy sets out the Council’s requirements for premises to be licensed as Sexual Entertainment Venue within the meaning of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009).

3. Key Definitions

The following terms are used frequently throughout this Policy document:

- **‘The Council/Licensing Authority’** refers to Sheffield City Council

- The “**2009 Act**” refers to the Policing and Crime Act 2009
- The “**1982 Act**” refers to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
- The “**2003 Act**” refers to the Licensing Act 2003
- “**Section 27**” refers to section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009
- “**Schedule 3**” refers to schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended
- ‘**The Licensing Committee**’ refers to the committee of Sheffield City Council.
- “**Relevant Entertainment**” refers to: live performance and live displays of nudity, provided solely or principally for the purposes of sexually stimulating any member of the audience

4. Consultation

In developing this Policy, the Council has consulted widely and given due consideration to the views of all those who responded to that consultation process.

There are many organisations and people who have a stake in the leisure industry, including providers, customers, residents, law enforcers and the emergency services, all of whom have views and concerns that require consideration as part of the licensing function.

The Council / Licensing Authority is committed to consulting with as wide and varied an audience as possible regarding this and any future Licensing Policy.

The Licensing Authority has consulted with the following:-

- a) the Chief Officer of Police in the area;
- b) the Fire Authority;
- c) stakeholders in the sexual entertainment industry;
- d) local residents;
- e) holders of Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates under the Licensing Act 2003, in the City of Sheffield.

It has actively sought the views of all stakeholders on its proposals and not just those persons who are representative of them.

The Licensing Authority has conducted a full consultation of its Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy by way of writing / emailing consultees, providing relevant information on its website, publishing a statement in the local press and attending meetings when requested.

The views of all our consultees will be considered and given proper weight when writing and / or reviewing this Policy.

A more detailed list of consultees is attached at **Appendix “D”** (page 26).

5. The Council’s Legal Obligations

There are a number of statutory provisions which apply to every action the Council takes as a public authority. These include, for example:

- a. duty to have regard to the interest of Sheffield’s tax payers;
- b. its Human Rights Act obligations;

- c. its duty to have due regard to the need to promote race equality and to the need to eliminate unlawful race discrimination and the statutory obligations in relation to disability age and gender.

The Council is committed to fulfilling all of its obligations when exercising its Licensing Functions.

The Council will consider the use of its full range of powers in order to do so. It will engage all relevant responsibilities, including planning controls, transport controls and crime and disorder policies. Accordingly, the Council will enter appropriate partnership arrangements, working closely with the police, fire authority, local businesses, community representatives and local people in meeting these objectives.

6. Meaning of Sexual Entertainment Venue

Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 introduced a new type of sex establishment called a 'sexual entertainment venue'.

These venues require a sexual entertainment venue licence and the Council will regulate them as such under Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.

'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" (Paragraph 2A of Schedule 3).

Schedule 3 defines relevant entertainment as, "any live performance or live display of nudity which is of such 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 verbal or by other means)". An audience can consist of just one person, e.g. in a private booth.

Each case will be determined on its merits but "relevant entertainment" will generally apply to the following forms of entertainment:

- Lap dancing
- Pole dancing
- Table dancing
- Strip shows
- Peep shows
- Live sex shows

This list is not exhaustive and should only be treated as indicative. Ultimately, decisions whether a premise(s) requires a licence will be based upon the content of the entertainment provided and not the name it is given.

7. Location of Licensed Premises

There are specific grounds for refusing sexual entertainment venue licences set out in Paragraph 12 of Schedule 3 to the 1982 Act. These provisions allow for local authorities to refuse grant and renew applications based on an assessment of the "relevant locality".

The Council acknowledges that a concentration of licensed premises (sexual entertainment venues) in a particular area can result in a potential fear of crime, anti social behaviour, noise pollution and other disturbance to residents. In such cases the amenity of local residents can be placed under severe pressure.

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.

Whether a premises is in close proximity to the above will be a matter of fact in each individual case and cannot be determined by reference to a fixed distance. Matters that will be taken into account are the visible and physical impact of the premises, any advertising or displays and its customers both from the place in question but also to people entering or leaving.

It will be for the Licensing Authority to determine what at any time constitutes the Cultural Hub of the City as well as any central gateway, landmark, historic building or tourist attraction. Applicants can contact the Licensing Section for advice in individual circumstances about whether a location is likely to require referral to Licensing Committee.

The Council will also 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. see paragraph 8 below);
- e) Any relevant representation and/or objection to the application.

Applicants must state the full address of the premises for which they are making the licence application.

8. Consent to Advertising

It is a standard condition of any licence granted that consent of the licensing authority be sought for any advertisement, photograph or imagery that indicates or suggests relevant entertainment takes place on the premises. This includes the frontage and any other signage on the premises itself.

It is the policy of the licensing authority not to give such consent for any such advertisement or display which has any visual depiction or suggestion of relevant entertainment or nudity whether such visual depiction be by photograph or any other type of image.

Where any consent is sought for an advertisement or display that may contravene this part of the policy it will be referred to the licensing committee for determination.

It is therefore in the interest of the operator to consider what advertisements, photographs or images they intend to use at an early stage so that this consent can be considered at the same time as the application for grant or variation of a licence as appropriate.

9. Making an Application

The Council may grant to any applicant a licence for the use of a premises as a sexual entertainment venue on such terms and conditions as specified by the Council.

A licence will remain in force for one year, or such shorter period specified in the licence, unless previously cancelled or revoked.

To apply for the grant of a sexual entertainment venue licence an applicant must send to the Council:-

- a) A completed application form;
- b) The fee;
- c) A plan of the premises to which the application relates (to the scale of 1:100) showing all means of ingress and egress to and from the building and the internal layout of the premises (including identification of all areas where relevant entertainment is to be provided).
- d) A site plan detailing the location of their premises in relation to the surrounding area and other premises (to the scale of 1:1250);
- e) Drawings showing the front elevation of the premises as existing and as proposed (to the scale of 1:50);

And must also:

- f) Display a notice at or on the premises (see paragraph 13, page 9);
- g) Place a public notice in a local newspaper (see paragraph 13, page 9)
- h) Serve a copy of the application on the Chief Officer of Police at The Licensing Team, 1st Floor, Attercliffe Police Station, 60 Attercliffe Common, Sheffield, S9 2AD.

Application forms are available from www.sheffield.gov.uk/licensing/sev.

An application for the grant, renewal, transfer or variation must be made in writing by using the Council's standard application form and in accordance with the requirements set out below.

In keeping with the Council's policy on the introduction of e-Government the Council consents to applications and other notices being given electronically. The address at which the Council will accept applications and notices is:-

- (a) by post/personal service to the Licensing Service, Town Hall, Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH;

- (b) by email to general.licensing@sheffield.gov.uk;
 (c) on-line at www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev (when the facility becomes available)

For all enquiries please contact the Licensing team on 0114 273 4264.

The Council may serve copies of any application made under this legislation on the Fire Service, Health Protection Service, Environmental Protection Service, Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board, Planning, Trading Standards and any other relevant bodies.

10. Waivers

Schedule 3 of the 1982 Act makes provision for the Council to grant a waiver from the requirement to hold a sex establishment licence in any case where it considers that to require a licence would be unreasonable or inappropriate. A waiver may be for such a period as the Council thinks fit.

Each application will be considered on its own merits by the Licensing Committee. In light of the exemption in relation to the provision of relevant entertainment on an infrequent basis the Council takes the view that waivers are unlikely to arise in relation to relevant entertainment and would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

11. Fees

Application fees will be set annually by the Licensing Authority and will only recover the reasonable cost of the licensing service in administering and enforcing this licensing system.

The fees in respect of Sexual Entertainment Venues have been set as follows:-

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Renewal</u>	<u>Transfer</u>	<u>Variation</u>
£1,540.00	£1,220.00	£600.00	£1,000.00

12. Advice & Guidance

The Council will seek to liaise with applicants and/or mediate between applicants and others who make objections, to achieve a satisfactory outcome for all involved, where possible and resources permit.

Where an applicant considers that mediation and liaison may be likely or probable, it is recommended that the applicant discuss his proposal with the licensing service and those from who they think objections are likely prior to submitting their application.

13. Public Notices

A notice must be displayed at or on the premises to which the application relates for a period of not less than 21 consecutive days from the day following the day the application was given to the Council. The notice must be able to be conveniently read from the exterior of the premises.

Where the premises cover an area of more than 50 square metres, a further identical notice must be displayed every 50 metres along the external perimeter of the premises abutting the highway.

The full regulations regarding the size, content and font to be used on public notices can be obtained from the Licensing Service.

A notice must also be placed in a local newspaper circulating in the area within 7 days of serving the application on the Council (Example the Sheffield Star or Telegraph).

You must send a copy of the newspaper containing the advertisement to the Licensing Service as soon as is reasonably practicable.

14. Duration of a Licence

The maximum licence period is one year, but licences can be granted for a shorter term if considered appropriate by the Licensing Authority.

15. Variation of a Licence

The holder of a sex entertainment venue licence may apply at anytime to vary the terms, conditions or restrictions of that licence.

The process to apply for a variation is the same as that for applying for an initial grant except a plan of the premises would not be required if changes are not being made to the structure or layout of the premises.

Application forms are available from www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

16. Renewal of a Licence

The holder of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence may apply for renewal of the licence.

In order for the licence to continue to have effect during the renewal process, a valid application form together with the appropriate fee must be submitted before the current licence expires.

17. Transfer of a licence

A person(s) may apply for the transfer of a licence at any time.

The process of applying for the transfer of a licence is the same as that for applying for an initial grant except that the applicant does not have to submit any plans of the premises.

Application forms are available from www.sheffield.gov.uk/sev.

The Council can only consider mandatory grounds for refusal and those relating to the applicant.

18. Objections

An objection to an application can be made by any person but it must be relevant to the grounds set out set out in Appendix "B" (page 21) of this Policy.

Objections that are not based on these grounds cannot be considered by the Licensing Authority.

Objections should not be based on moral grounds or values to the effect that the type of entertainment provided is not appropriate and should not be licensed at all.

An objection must be made in writing (including electronic mail) stating the general terms of the objection.

Objections may only be made within the period of 28 days following the date on which the application was made to the Council.

19. Determining Applications

When determining an application the Licensing Committee will have regard to;

- (a) the application;
- (b) any objections received;
- (c) the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) act 1982;
- (d) this statement of Licensing Policy;
- (e) any other associated regulations; and
- (f) any comments/representations/evidence given at the licensing committee hearing.

This does not undermine the right of any person to apply for a licence and have the application considered on its own individual merits. Nor does it override the right of any person to make objections on any application where they are permitted to do so under the Act.

20. Refusal of an Application

Except where the Council are prohibited from granting, renewing, varying or transferring a licence, the Council will not refuse a licence without first:-

- notifying the applicant or holder of the licence in writing of the reasons;
- giving the applicant or holder of the licence the opportunity of appearing and making representations before the Licensing Committee.

The mandatory grounds for refusal of an application are set out in Appendix "A" (page 20).

21. Revocation of Licences

The Council may only revoke a licence:-

- on any mandatory ground specified in Appendix "A" (page 20) of this policy; or
- on either of the first two of the discretionary grounds (paragraph (a) and (b) specified in Appendix "B" (page 21) of this policy).

The Council will not revoke a licence without first giving the holder of the licence the opportunity of appearing and making representations before the Licensing Committee.

Where a licence is revoked any fee paid for the remaining term will not be refunded.

22. Cancellation of Licences (Surrender)

The licence holder can cancel (surrender) the licence at any time by putting the request in writing to the Licensing General Section. For address details please see page 15.

Where a licence is cancelled any fee paid for the remaining term will not be refunded.

23. Hearings

Should any objections be received in relation to an application to the grant, renewal, variation or transfer of a licence, applicants will be given the opportunity to appear before the Licensing Committee.

Any hearing will take place within 20 working days of the day after the day which is the deadline for making objections.

Where the Licensing Committee determine to refuse to grant, renew or transfer the licence, they shall give a written statement of the reasons for their decision.

24. Appeals

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.

An appeal against refusal on the mandatory grounds in Appendix "A" (page 20) must be on the basis that the mandatory ground does not apply.

If the application was refused on paragraph (c) or (d) of the discretionary grounds specified in Appendix "B" (page 22) of this policy, there is no right of appeal.

There is no right of appeal for objectors where an application is granted.

25. Complaints

The Licensing Authority does understand the difficulty for some residents to follow up issues with particular premises due to concerns for their safety. In these circumstances please contact the Licensing General Section, elected Councillors or your local Community Assembly, who may assist you in these matters.

The Licensing Authority and the police will work closely in order to ensure consistency, transparency and proportionality in their enforcement activities. The Licensing Authority will continue to investigate complaints and conduct proactive enforcement exercises to ensure that licences and the conditions attached to the authorisations are complied with and that unlicensed activity is dealt with as appropriate to ensure the highest standards of licensees and premises in the city of Sheffield.

Therefore the Licensing Authority will investigate general complaints regarding premises. This will allow us to give an early warning to licence holders of any concerns about problems identified at their premises and the need for improvement.

26. Conditions

The Licensing Authority recognises that all applications should be considered on an individual basis and any condition attached to a licence should be necessary and proportionate and tailored to the individual premises.

The Licensing Authority is permitted under the 1982 Act to make regulations prescribing Standard Conditions.

The standard conditions that may be attached on an individual basis are attached at Appendix "C" (page 22). This is not an exhaustive list of conditions and the Licensing Authority reserves the right to grant and/or renew a licence on such terms and conditions and subject to such restrictions as may be so specified.

Any applicant not wishing to be bound by the standard conditions will need to state so in the application and provide justification as to why they should not apply.

27. Enforcement

The Licensing Authority will work very closely with South Yorkshire Police relating to the enforcement. The Licensing Authority will have particular regard to the HM Government Enforcement Concordat; and the following principles:-

- The targeting of high risk premises or activities which require greater attention;
- Consistency of approach;
- Transparency; and
- Proportionality

The Licensing Authority also works very closely with the Planning Service and are establishing task teams to deal with problem premises.

The Licensing Authority will operate a light touch inspection regime for well managed and well maintained premises.

DATA SHARING

Subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998, the Council and police will share information about licensees, licensed premises and activities associated with them. Such information sharing is permitted under Section 185 of the Act. Further open access to data will be given to those Police Officers and Licensing Authority Officers discharging their functions under this Act.

28. Planning Permission

Applicants must ensure that they have the appropriate planning permission in place to operate their business.

The Council's licensing functions will be discharged separately from its functions as the "Local Planning Authority". However, the Licensing Authority recognises the need for the two services to work in partnership.

Therefore, the Licensing Authority expects that applicants for a premises licence and/or variations under this legislation will have already obtained any necessary planning consent. This helps to avoid unnecessary confusion within the local community.

The lack of any appropriate planning permission or any restrictions on planning permission are matters that the Licensing Authority will take into account in appropriate circumstances when considering the character or condition of the premises under discretionary ground (d) in Appendix "B" (page 21).

The granting or varying of a licence will not override any requirement of the planning system or vice-versa.

The Council has planning policies which may evidence the character of the relevant locality or the use to which premises in the vicinity are put. These are also matters relating to the discretionary ground (d) in Appendix "B". Applicants should therefore make themselves aware of the relevant planning policies. The Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted in March 1998, contains planning policies which control the location and activities

of entertainment uses to safeguard residential amenity, local environmental quality and the established character and function of the various parts of the city. These policies are supported by Supplementary Planning Guidance such as the City Centre Living Strategy and the Interim Guidance on Night-time Uses, which will be updated from time to time as well as new guidance being developed.

As part of the new planning system, introduced by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), the Council has adopted its 'Core Strategy' – the principal document of its new Local Development Framework (LDF), which when combined with the City Sites and City Policies documents, will replace the UDP. The Core Strategy sets a clear vision for the pattern and location of development in Sheffield. The City Sites and City Policies documents are currently at the draft stage but will provide the more detailed policies to control the type and quality of development and its impact.

Draft City Policies and Sites policy C3 Safeguarding Sensitive Uses from Nuisance is not yet adopted but indicates the direction of future policy i.e. in areas where commercial premises stay open late at night and cause a nuisance to residents, zones will be designated where the number, scale and times of opening of late night uses will be limited. This approach is in line with national Planning Policy Statement 4 policy EC4.2.

Applicants for licences should have regard to the relevant planning policies when determining the nature of the activities proposed and consider their impacts on the local environment and community in which the premises are situated.

Applicants should also be aware that the Building Regulations may apply where the proposal involves building work or where the use of the building is changed. You are advised to contact Building Standards for further guidance – see contacts page 17.

29. Public Health

We would encourage holders of SEV licences to display and make available, without charge, literature on matters relating to sexual health as may be published by the FPA (formerly the Family Planning Association) and other similar organisations, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, and information about local health services.

30. Review

This policy will be reviewed in 2012.

31. Useful Information and Contact Details

LICENSING SERVICE

Place Portfolio
Block C, Staniforth Road
Staniforth Road
Sheffield S9 3HD

Tel: 0114 2734264

Or e-mail us at: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Or visit our website: www.sheffield.gov.uk

Or visit our reception service at Staniforth Road where you can come and discuss your query with one of our Licensing Officers. The Licensing Service is open Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5.00 pm.

Application for consent to freely distribute printed matter on designated land (flyers, advertisements, etc.):-

CITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT TEAM

2nd Floor,
Yorkshire House
66 Leopold Street
Sheffield S1 3RT

Tel: 0114 2736895

E-mail: citycentre.management@sheffield.gov.uk

LICENCE WATCH

For details regarding People United Against Crime or the Licence Watch Scheme please telephone 0114 2758688.

CUSTOMS & EXCISE

Confidential Helpline

0800 595000

FIRST POINT FOR BUSINESS

Information is available for anyone considering setting up a new business or wishing to change the terms or conditions of an existing business.

If you are starting up a new business or are an established business needing advice, you can access help from the Council's First Point for Business.

Anyone can use First Point for Business – from companies to social enterprise to self-employed people.

First Point for Business is your one point of contact with the Council for all your business needs. If you are setting up a new business, for example, you may need to speak to Licensing, Planning, Building Standards, Business Rates and a number of other Council services.

The First Point for Business team is on hand to help you access Council services and specialist advice, so you get all the support you need. If you need practical business support such as start up advice, business planning, marketing or workforce training and skills they will put you in touch with the right people.

First Point for Business work on your behalf. You will deal with a Key Account Advisor who will identify your needs and help you get the right information and advice.

If they cannot give you all the answers straight away, then they will do the leg work and get back to you.

The Key Account Advisors will also help you to find out about the advice and support you could receive from outside the Council.

You are welcome to visit in person at the First Point for Business office in the Town Hall, just contact them for an appointment or simply drop in.

First Point for Business,
Town Hall,
Pinstone Street,
Sheffield, S1 2HH.

Email: firstpointforbusiness@sheffield.gov.uk

Telephone: 0114 224 5000

There is also wireless broadband in the First Point for Business office, so you can use your own laptop if needed.

AUTHORITIES**South Yorkshire Police**

Licensing Team
1st Floor,
Attercliffe Police Station
60 Attercliffe Common
SHEFFIELD S9 2AD

Telephone: 0114 252 3618
Email: sheffield.liquor-licensing@southyorks.pnn.police.uk

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue
Sheffield Technical Fire Safety
197 Eyre Street
SHEFFIELD S1 3FG

Telephone: 0114 272 7202
Email: dqill@svfire.gov.uk

Health Protection Services

The Information Officer (Licensing)
2-10 Carbrook Hall Road
SHEFFIELD S9 2DB

Telephone: 0114 273 4616
Email: healthprotection@sheffield.gov.uk

Development Services

Head of Planning Service
Licensing Applications
Howden House
1 Union Street
SHEFFIELD S1 2SH

Telephone: 0114 203 9183
Email: planning@sheffield.gov.uk

Environmental Protection Services

The Information Officer (Licensing)
2-10 Carbrook Hall Road
SHEFFIELD S9 2DB

Telephone: 0114 273 4651
Email: epsadmin@sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board

Licensing Project
Floor 2 Redvers House
Union Street
SHEFFIELD S1 2JQ

Telephone: 0114 273 6753
Email: Julie.hague@sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield Trading Standards

Block 1
2-10 Carbrook Hall Road
SHEFFIELD S9 2DB

Telephone: 0114 273 6290
Email: trading_standards@sheffield.gov.uk

Building Standards

2-10 Carbook Hall Road
Sheffield
S9 2DB

Telephone: 0114 273 4168
Email: buildingcontrol@sheffield.gov.uk

COMMUNITY BODIES

Local Ward Councillors

Details of your local ward Councillor can be found at www.sheffield.gov.uk/your-city-council/councillors or by telephoning 0114 273 4096.

Community Assembly teams

- Northern** SCC Community Assembly Office, Chapeltown Training Centre, 230 Lane End, Chapeltown, Sheffield.
Fax 0114 203 7708, Telephone 0114 203 7153
Email: communityassemblynorthern@sheffield.gov.uk
- North East** SCC Community Assembly Office, Firth Park Library, Firth Park Road, S5 6QQ
Fax 0114 256 1452, Telephone 0114 203 7562
Email: communityassemblynortheast@sheffield.gov.uk
- East** Postal address: Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH (based at Staniforth Road),
Telephone 0114 273 5708
Email: communityassemblyeast@sheffield.gov.uk
- Central** Postal address: Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH (based at Sovereign House, Queen Street)
Fax 0114 273 6878, Telephone 0114 273 6849
Email: communityassemblycentral@sheffield.gov.uk
- South** Postal address: Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH (based at 82 -84 Sheldon Road, S7 1GX)
Telephone 0114 205 3281
Email: communityassemblysouth@sheffield.gov.uk
- South East** Postal address: Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH (based at Crystal Peaks First Point)
Telephone 0114 273 6929
Email: communityassemblysoutheast@sheffield.gov.uk
- South West** Postal address: Town Hall, Sheffield, S1 2HH (based at 82-84 Sheldon Road, S7 1GX)
Telephone 0114 203 7212
Email: communityassemblysouthwest@sheffield.gov.uk

General Enquiries

Neighbourhood Renewal and Partnership Service,
Neighbourhoods and Community Care Directorate, c/o Town Hall, Pinstone Street, Sheffield City Council, S1 2HH

Telephone: 0114 273 6849

Email: communityassemblies@sheffield.gov.uk

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE – SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS

Sheffield 1 District

SNA	Areas covered	Contact No.
Central	City centre	252 3996
East	Tinsley, Darnall, Attercliffe, Meadowhall	252 3995
South	Wybourn, Park Hill, Arbourthorne, Manor	252 3993
West	Burngreave, Wincobank, Shiregreen, Firth Park, Firvale	252 3994

Sheffield 2 District

SNA	Areas covered	Contact No.
Broomhill	Broomhill, Broomhall, Crookes, Greystones, Fulwood	296 4876
Ecclesfield	High Green, Chapeltown, Grenoside, Foxhill, Shirecliffe, Southey Green, Parson Cross, Ecclesfield	296 4854
Hillsborough	Upperthorpe, Netherthorpe, Crookesdmoor, Hillsborough, Middlewood, Stannington, Loxley, Stocksbridge, Deepcar	296 4912
Sharrow	Dore, Totley, Sharrowvale, Sharrow, Highfields	296 3187
Woodhouse	Woodhouse, Mosbrough	296 3779
Woodseats	Gleadless Valley, Heeley, Meersbrook, Norton, Batemoor, Jordanthorpe, Lowedges, Bradway, Woodseats	296 3680

Mandatory Grounds for Refusing a Licence

Notwithstanding the other factors mentioned within this Policy the Council would not be able to consider granting, renewing or transferring a licence in the following circumstances:-

- (a) To a person under the age of 18;
- (b) To a person who is for the time being disqualified due to the person having had a previous licence revoked by Sheffield City Council in the last twelve months;
- (c) To a person, other than a corporate body, who is not resident in an EEA State or was not so resident throughout the period of six months immediately proceeding the date when the application was made;
- (d) To a body corporate that is not incorporated in an EEA State;
- (e) To a person who has, within a period of 12 months immediately proceeding the date when the application was made, been refused the grant or renewal of a licence for the premises, unless the refusal has been reversed on appeal.

Appendix "B"

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.

Appendix "C"Sexual Entertainment VenuesStandard Conditions**KEY DEFINITIONS**

The following terms are used frequently throughout this document:

- **"The Council/Licensing Authority"** refers to Sheffield City Council
- The **"2009 Act"** refers to the Policing and Crime Act 2009
- The **"1982 Act"** refers to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
- The **"2003 Act"** refers to the Licensing Act 2003
- **"Section 27"** refers to section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009
- **"Schedule 3"** refers to schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended
- **"The Licensing Committee"** refers to the committee of Sheffield City Council.
- **"Relevant Entertainment"** refers to: live performance and live displays of nudity, provided solely or principally for the purposes of sexually stimulating any member of the audience
- **"Nude"** means in the case of a woman exposing her nipples, pubic area, genitals or anus and in the case of a man, exposure of his pubic area, genitals or anus.

General Conditions

1. Rules shall be produced by the licensee for customers indicating conduct that is permitted. These rules shall be prominently displayed in any bar area, and at sufficient other locations within the venue to ensure that they are brought to the attention of customers.
2. No relevant entertainment provided shall be visible from the street or from any other external area to which the public have access.
3. Performers shall not whilst Nude, whether engaged in relevant entertainment or not, be visible from the street or from any other external area to which the public have access.
4. The licence holder shall ensure that no staff or other persons engaged on their behalf remain in any area of the premises which can be viewed from outside the premises, or from any other area outside the premises, for the purpose of encouraging potential customers into the premises.
5. Without the prior written consent of the Council there shall not be displayed outside the premises, in the immediate vicinity, or elsewhere within the city any advertisements, photographs or images that indicate or suggest that relevant entertainment takes place on the premises.
6. There shall be prominently and legibly displayed a comprehensive tariff of all charges and prices in respect of relevant entertainment, including any charge for the company of any person working at the premises, which shall be illuminated and placed in such

a position that it can at all times be easily and conveniently be read by persons inside the premises.

7. No charge shall be made to the customer for any food or drink provided for any person working at the premises unless that customer has specifically ordered it having first been made aware of the cost.

The Premises

1. Colour CCTV will be provided and in working order in the premises, the positioning of such cameras will be in liaison with the Police Licensing Officer and Crime Prevention Department and shall comply with the minimum specification of the South Yorkshire Police at the date of license issue.
2. CCTV recorded material should be kept secure for a period of 31 days and disclosed to any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council.
3. No CCTV footage is to be copied, for the purpose of being given away or sold (except as required by Police / Council for investigation / enforcement purposes). CCTV footage may be distributed internally by licence holders (including to other group premises) for the purposes of internal management and training.
4. Except in accordance with the requirements for CCTV as described above, no photographs, films or video recordings shall be taken of the performances. Nor shall electronic transmissions of a performance be shown outside of the premises (except for the purpose of remote management of the premises and in those circumstances, the licensee shall ensure that only those involved in management shall view any photograph, film or recording).
5. Notices shall be displayed informing customers of the presence of CCTV.
6. An appropriate room shall be available as a change and rest area for performers. Access to this room shall be restricted to performers and employees only whilst the performers are on the premises. This room shall be marked on the plans.
7. The licence holder or his nominated deputy (who is authorised in writing), or door-supervisors shall carry out regular monitoring of all areas of the premises to which the public have access and shall intervene promptly, if necessary, to ensure compliance with licence conditions.

Management Standards

1. Training shall be provided to all members of management and staff regarding the conditions of the licence, management practices and any relevant legislation to ensure compliance with the same. A written record of all such training shall be maintained at the premises and made available on request to the Police and authorised officers of the Council.
2. The licensee shall not employ any person under 18 years of age in the business of the establishment.

3. No person may provide relevant entertainment at the premises until such time as photographic proof of identity showing date of birth is provided to the licence holder, confirming that the person is over the age of 18 years.
4. A record of any person employed or engaged at the premises, including name, address, National Insurance number, photograph and date of birth will be retained in a register at the premises. Such details are to be checked and verified by the licence holder against other forms of identity. These records are then to be retained at the premises for at least 12 months from the last day (date) of their employment and made available to both Police Officers and authorised officers of the Council on request.
5. A 'Signing-in' register shall be kept at the premises that records the date, start time and finish time of all person(s) involved in the relevant entertainment at the premises. This shall be retained for a period of 12 months and made available for immediate inspection by a Police Officer or authorised officers of the Council.
6. When the premises are open for relevant entertainment no person under the age of 18 shall be permitted to be on the premises. The licensee shall operate a Challenge 21 Policy and persons appearing to be under the age of 21 shall be required to show proof of ID. A notice to this effect shall be displayed in a prominent place at the entrance to the premises and any other appropriate location (i.e. at the bar).
7. The licence holder must maintain an incident log of any person(s) refused entry at the premises and record the reason why such persons were refused entry. The log shall be retained for a period of 12 months and the licence holder shall make the log available to any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council on request.
8. A written code of conduct for those engaged in the relevant entertainment shall be produced by the licence holder together with a disciplinary procedure for any breaches of the code. The code of conduct shall prohibit activities that might be thought to lead to prostitution, breaches of the licence or any other unlawful activities. The Code shall be made available to the Police or authorised officers of the Council on request.

The Protection of those Engaged in Relevant Entertainment / Prevention of Crime and Disorder

1. Any person who is providing relevant entertainment, must be briefed verbally, or in writing, by the licence holder or his nominated deputy (authorised in writing) as to the conditions that pertain to their particular premises and as to the code of conduct, including the fact that their activities will be recorded on CCTV. The performer(s) shall sign in a register that they have been briefed, any such register shall be retained for 12 months and made available for inspection by any Police Officer or authorised officer of the Council.
2. During any performance of relevant entertainment there must be no physical contact between the performer and any member of the viewing public, except for the placing of money / tokens in an item of clothing worn by a performer or into the performer's hand before or at the end of the performance and a customary kiss on the cheek of the patron by the performer at the conclusion of the performance. A brief handshake before or at the end of a performance is permitted.

3. There shall be no penetration of a performer's genitals or anus by any means.
4. Performers shall not engage in masturbation and or/oral sex.
5. Except with the consent of the performer and at their invitation no customer shall participate in any relevant entertainment. Any customer participating must remain seated during the performance.
6. No customer shall be required or encouraged to participate in any relevant entertainment against their will.
7. No customer shall have any clothing removed during any relevant entertainment.
8. At the completion of the relevant entertainment the performers shall dress themselves immediately and leave the designated performance area.
9. Whilst on the premises performers are not to solicit, exchange addresses or telephone numbers with customers, or arrange to liaise with customers off the premises.

Safety and Security

1. The licensee shall maintain good order in the premises at all times and shall ensure that persons entering or leaving the licensed premises conduct themselves in an orderly manner and do not in any way cause annoyance to residents and persons passing by.
2. Relevant entertainment may only take place in 'designated areas' that are marked on the plan of the premises submitted to the Licensing Service as part of their application.
3. The licensee shall have in place and comply with a policy concerning the safety of performers arriving at and leaving the premises. The policy shall be recorded in writing and made available to the Police or authorised officers of the Council on request
4. The licensee or a nominated manager (in writing) shall be present on the premises at all times whilst the relevant entertainment is taking place.

List of Consultees

All current Premises Licence Holders

All current Club Premises Certificate Holders

Religious / Ethnic Groups

All elected members

MP's

Meg Munn
Nick Clegg
Richard Caborn
Clive Betts

Planning

Lucy Bond
Chris Heeley
Phil Abbott

Health Protection Service

Chris Green
Ian Ashmore

Environmental Protection Service

Dominic Stokes

All Community Assemblies

Trading standards

Phil Glaves
Greg Ward

Sheffield Safeguarding Children Board

Julie Hague

South Yorkshire Police

Licensing
Neil Mutch
Paul McCurry
Andy Barrs

Fire Service

Ian Mettam
Paul Webster

Other Local Authorities in South Yorkshire

Barnsley
Doncaster
Rotherham

Disability Access Officer

Brian Messider

Executive Director - Place

Simon Green

Director of Development Services

Les Sturch

Deputy Chief Executive

Lee Adams

Director of Legal Services

Lynne Bird

Director of Public Health at NHS Sheffield

Dr Jeremy Wight

Director of Business Strategy & Regulation

Mick Crofts

City Centre Manager

Richard Eyre

Social Justice and Inclusion Manager

Adele Robinson

Solicitors dealing with the Licensing Act 2003

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