

Appendix C

Representations – Supporters/Neutral

Representation of Support 1

23rd Feb 2017

Dear Sir/Madam:

I have been an employee at Spaurmint Rhino Sheffield for over two years as a Bat tender, this is my full time job and main income, there is no other work that suits and supports me like this job as both my parents are disabled and have to care for them during the day. The management are really supportive of my situation and not found this anywhere else, I also feel safe in my work as security is really good here and get escorted to my car at the end of every shift. The management and employees are very friendly and supportive of each other. I love working here and hope so for some years to come.

Yours Faithfully

Representation of Support 2

Dear Sir,

For the last 35 years I have worked as a doorman in Sheffield City Centre. The last three and a half decades has seen me employ various companies as well as in my own right of the city's police establishment. The biggest venue that at over the years have composed Sheffield's late night bar scene in district. The last 9 years I have been in the employment of Spectrum Ltd. Firm as a part of a franchise service operation. The firm's own company they have provided me with a secure past that with in an environment of safety and good practice. They spend no expense and make every effort to ensure

that customers and employees at the end of a positive experience. I would like to enter tournament services they offer. I feel sure that not past or had with the Council and its agencies will be a test to me to that effect. At 55 years of age I look forward to a job that 10 years of happy retirement with Spectrum Ltd. Firm UK. I would like to be able to work in and to firm as a doorman at Sheffield as a valuable employee of an established business, a well known name and to the industry.

Kind regards

Representation of Support 3

I am a 35 year old professional relationship coach and mother

of 2 children. I started working as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino's Sheffield last year as it was something I had always wanted to try. I have genuinely been blown away by the warm, friendly atmosphere all the staff have created and by the professionalism of everyone who works there.

Management and security are highly polite and welcoming to customers. I have NEVER seen or even heard of any trouble. The worst thing I have seen is an over inebriated customer fall asleep in his chair and then he was politely asked to leave. Security are very skilled at dealing with customers and at making sure all of the girls are safe at all times.

We are briefed on all of the rules and regulations and there are signs and notices up regarding our code of conduct and about how we need to be respectful of the community and business around us, which we are.

The clientele at Spearmint Rhino's has also really surprised me. I have spoken with wonderful people from all over the world, with fantastic jobs who are incredibly respectful and a pleasure to talk with and dance for. People who have been recommended to visit us. 'Regulars' who come in frequently to enjoy the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. We also have many women visit the club, which is always lovely to see.

I have also been pleasantly surprised with how loving, kind and supportive all the dancers are. It is literally a pleasure and joy coming into work and catching up with all of the incredible women that work there. Many of them have full time day jobs and work extra nights to support their families or self-fund their educations. We have psychologists, social workers, health care professionals, mothers and many other interesting, beautiful and hard working women at the club.

Some may believe we are a sordid, seedy hoard of perverts when actually we are quite the opposite. We are a little community of hard working, confident, sexy people who share an interest and appreciation of the female body and erotic dancing. We are a professional business, like any other, the only difference is that ours is frowned upon because ours incorporates nudity.

It genuinely is a pleasure and privilege to work at Spearmint Rhino's and I would encourage anyone to come in and see just how friendly and wonderful our environment actually is.

Yours sincerely

Representation of Support 4

To whom this my concern,

I have worked at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for a number of years in my opinion it is a very safe environment. There is never any indications of trouble at the club and I always feel at home. The staff that work there look after the club and the women including me who work there with the upmost care. I have noticed the club has become a place for a lot of women to come to as a customer with friends or with partners, which I have become a regular thing, they seem to enjoy themselves a lot. The club has become a great social place for hen parties, stag parties and work parties. I love working at the club and would rather work here than any other gentlemen's club. I truly love where I work as it is my only job and I have and am enjoying every minute as if it is such a friendly place to work. The staff and I have become a family not just work colleagues.

Representation of Support 5

Dear Sirs,

I currently work as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and wish to write this letter to outline my experiences throughout my employment.

I have worked for the company over a number of years which enabled me to fund myself through a law degree. I am presently employed as a full time Legal Executive for a Legal 500 firm. My day time employment is very demanding, however I still choose to remain in employment, part time, at Spearmint Rhino given that the management allow me to work as and when it is convenient for me. Aside from supplementing my income from full time employment, I continually and genuinely enjoy working there.

Spearmint Rhino has always provided me with a safe and relaxed working environment, which in this industry is paramount. From the Management to bar staff, every employee is professional and courteous, but more importantly it is an absolutely friendly environment to work in. As a dancer I always feel looked after and supported. I am able to be flexible with my working hours and am able to choose when and how often I work. As I live within close proximity of the club, I am always escorted home at the end of my shifts.

I cannot praise Spearmint Rhino enough as an employer and as such I do intend to continue working there for the foreseeable future.

Yours faithfully,



Representation of Support 6

I'm a 21 year old single mother and have been working as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino for the last 2 years. I really enjoy working here as it is flexible with shifts so I can work when it's convenient for me. The working environment is great and most importantly safe as all the doorstaff and management have very high standards of security and me and all the other dancers are well looked after. I have worked at other clubs before but have been here consistently for the last 2 years as it is by far the best. I plan on keeping working here for as long as possible as the pay is providing me and my child with a fantastic lifestyle.

Representation of Support 7

IN A 391 YEAR OLD HISTORY OF THE
FOR THE LAST 130 OR SO YEARS WE WORKED
IN SHEFFIELD AS A DISTRICT, THE LAST 94
YEARS I HAVE WORKED AT "SHEFFIELD RINGS"
BURNING ST. RINGS IS MY FAMILIAR MAIN
SOURCE OF INCOME.

AS A MEMBER OF THE SECURITY TEAM,
AT RINGS WE KEEP THE CITY ONE OF,
IF NOT THE SAFEST VENUES IN TOWN
TO WORK AND VISIT. ALL THE STAFF FROM
MANAGERS, SECURITY, BAR RIGHT DOWN
TO THE DANCERS WHO WORK HERE
ARE PROFESSIONAL. IN HOW THEY GO ABOUT
THEIR JOBS. ON THE PUBLIC WHO VISIT
ENJOY THEIR TIME SPENT AT SHEFFIELD
I UNDERSTAND THERE IS A LOT OF
PEOPLE AGAINST SHEFFIELD'S LICENSE,
THESE PEOPLE PROBABLY NEVER VISITED
RINGS AND ARE BUILT ON THE IDEA
THAT ITS A BAD ENVIRONMENT, THEY COULDN'T
HAVE GOT IT SO WRONG, SO NOT CREATING
THE RENEWAL OF RINGS LICENSE COULD
RESULT IN THE LOSS OF EVERYONES JOBS
AND ONE OF THE SAFEST, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS
SHEFFIELD RINGS IS THE CLUSTER

Representation of Support 8

I am a third year Psychology student at Sheffield Hallam University and I have worked as a bartender at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for nearly 3 years. I am writing to express my concern over some individuals whose influence may affect the club's future in Sheffield and to express how much the staff, including myself, depend on the club's future as well.

I have worked at the club in both full-time and part-time positions and this is my main and only income apart from my student loan which just about covers my rent. I always think myself lucky for having such a job with managers who are always so flexible, trusting and understanding of me and my situation being at University. For example, whenever I have exam periods or I go home for the holidays, they are always accommodating in ways which previous employers have not been (I worked at Taco Bell for a few months last year), they really care about me and I never feel like just a number working in a big company. I now only work one Saturday night shift a week because of my studies and this is something that I am unable to do elsewhere.

I know some people may look down on the fact that there is a strip club in Sheffield and that they think that it's an unsafe and seedy establishment. I even had some of these misconceptions before I started working here, that changed very quickly when I joined Spearmint Rhino nearly 3 years ago. Even behind the bar, customers (including girls) telling me how surprised they are on how friendly all the doormen are and how safe they feel is not uncommon. I get walked to my taxi every single night and my managers will always have my back if there is a difficult customer, I know and feel like I am being looked after. Moreover, people do have misapprehensions about strip clubs being seedy places and all sorts of illegal things happening like they see in films (without physically going into one themselves) and I can tell you first hand, this is not true. In my opinion, my managers enforce all the rules and regulations better than in any other place that I have worked before. It really is just a bunch of normal people working shifts like any other normal job serving normal people that come in.

I know there is an argument that strip clubs aren't very feminist and that they take advantage of women but if thinking that women shouldn't be allowed to choose to take their clothes off for money then isn't that not very feminist? That actually all of the girls that work at the club really do enjoy it and for me it's a bit strange to think that society automatically assumes that when it comes to female sexuality or women behaving sexually, we should suppress it. You can even swap the argument around and wonder if this business even takes advantage of men but because of our culture we don't see it like that. Furthermore, some people may think that a strip club is

8 (Cont'd)

even disgusting, but what's wrong with expressing your sexuality? Some people have certain things that they like, we know it happens but we don't question it. There is an argument to be made about the morality of making money from this but we live in a capitalist culture anyway. You could think about the ridiculousness of people making money from food sales – I would say having food is a human right but supermarkets are making profit from a basic human necessity but we buy food everyday without question. It is just the view on women that is the problem, if you see women as vulnerable and impressionable and that a strip club is taking advantage of them, then that in itself is not a feminist way of thinking and if you think that making money from this is morally wrong then you are not aware of the society we live in today or thinking about the people that work there.

I really hope to see Spearmint Rhino's license get renewed year on year and I am aware of the criticism people give the club but I really do think that a more open-minded way of looking at this is needed and to really think about the people in these places. We are just normal people, working a job like everybody else, we work nights because it suits us and fits in with our lifestyles better than any other job. I consider the people I work with like my family and I would hate for that to be broken.

18.02.2017

To Whom It may Concern,

I am a 25 year old woman I first started dancing from the age of 18 at spearmint rhinos. I have spent 7 and a half years at this club, in my time here I can honestly say I have never experienced any problems. I have worked in a few clubs around the country throughout my time as a dancer as I like to travel but if I have to say I feel this club is by far the best that I have experienced. I have always found myself returning back to spearmint rhino Sheffield as no other club can compete for the level of safety and the respect the club have for the girls.

In my time at the club they have hired the best security in my opinion, the girls and I always feel safe as we are constantly being watched for our wellbeing.

Spearmint rhino Sheffield has a very calm, relaxed atmosphere to which I feel very safe and comfortable to work in.

This club gives us the freedom to work when we want which I have found in my time some clubs are stricter with working shifts and that can make you feel pressured.

When I have had any personal/ health issues the management have been more than understanding they have been happy for me to have time off work, let me cancel my chosen shifts I had put on the rota and to return to work in my own time.

Without this club I wouldn't be able to support myself as a young woman living by myself. I need this job as this is my only career for now that can support me financially.

Representation of Support 10

24/02/17

To whom it may concern,

Spearmint Rhino (Sheffield) has been my only place of work for 41 years now, as the hours are more suited to my home life as a single parent. I find it to be a very safe environment to work in, with the security team constantly checking that all the girls are ok and making sure that the customers are also safe.

We receive a mixture of customers from straight single males through to gay Female couples, from all areas of society and races/religions. It is a fun place to work, with a professional team and nothing like the picture that the people who object to the Club are painting. My colleagues and I are most certainly not being exploited at this venue; In fact I actually look forward to seeing everybody when I'm heading out to work

Representation of Support 11

20/03/17

To whom it may concern,

My name is

and I

have been dancing at Spacemint Rhine for over 10 years this is a venture which I truly enjoy doing as it has made me a more convenient and outgoing person, plus it is now my main source of income

Spacemint Rhine itself is a fantastic place to work as they provide a safe working environment for not just me but all dancers, staff and customers. This is thanks to high standards the management team have in place and the care staff they provide, as to me security/safety is there number one priority. The fact that I have worked here shows volumes of I wouldn't want to work anywhere else,

Thank you.

Representation of Support 12

My name is

i am 38 years old and i am the head DJ at

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I have worked here as Dj for the past 14 years, over the years i have made many friends and even my wife to witch i have two children aged 2 and 3.

I love working here and it is my main source of income to look after my family. I work hard for my money doing 6 nights a week with some nights till 6 in the morning, there is a lot more to it than just playing music. I am here to keep the night going and make sure everyone has a good time. This is why i feel working environment is very important and working for spearmint rhino is the best, you may have heard it all before but we are all like family here.

The Management that i work for are the best i have ever worked for i have never had a problem that i couldn't go and speak to them about and i know all the staff feel the same. We also have a amazing door team here that know how to look after the place and make everyone feel safe.

To finish just like to say this is the best job i have ever had that's why i have stayed here so long the people i work with are great and i feel working here has made me a more confident person. I hope to stay here many years to come.

Representation of Support 13

22nd Feb 2017

To whom this may concern,

My name is _____ and I have

worked at Greenmint Rhino Sheffield for many years and it is a fantastic place to work. The management are brilliant and make sure we are very well looked after. The security team do a great job at keeping us safe. I hope to continue working here for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Representation of Support 14

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Pete Mercer and I am the General Manager, Licensee and SEV holder at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield. I have worked for Spearmint Rhino for over 15 years but have been based at Sheffield 12 of these years. The reason that I have been here for this amount of time I have been drawn to this city and the people that live here, even though over the years I have had offered to run other clubs within the company, I have chosen to stay in Sheffield as this is my second home.

This is my full time employment which I rely upon to support my family, pay my bills and up until last year paid my mortgage. The fact that every year we have you apply for our SEV as certain groups are trying to close us down due to their own prejudice views has caused me great stress, anxiety and worry over the years. This has now caused me to see a doctor as every year I am haunted by the fact that I may lose my employment, which caused me that much anxiety that last year I sold my house and moved my family into rented accommodation as I worried that much that I couldn't pay my mortgage and would lose everything. Everyone does have a right to their own opinion but if there opinion causes others to lose their jobs, homes or even cause them stress then this is morally wrong and should not be allowed to happen.

The fact that I run the club to a very high standard following all terms and conditions set by Sheffield council and have always passed every inspection plus have had no police incidents shows how seriously I take my role as General Manager. As the dancers, staff and customers safety and welfare is my main concern...

Thank you for taking your time to read this


Pete Mercer

General Manager

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

60 Brown Street

Sheffield

S1 2BS



PETE MERCER
LICENSEE / MANAGER

Sheffield City Council
Licensing Department
60 Brown Street
Sheffield S1 2BS
Tel: 0114 276 4200
www.sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield City Council
Licensing Department
60 Brown Street
Sheffield S1 2BS
Tel: 0114 276 4200
www.sheffield.gov.uk

Representation of Support 15

My name is _____ and for over 12 years I have been Head of Security at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

I take my role as Head of Security very seriously making sure all customers, staff and dancers are in a safe, friendly environment and work closely with the management team to make sure that we adhere to all the conditions on our SEV. Since the last hearing last year we have had no incidents or need to contact the police as this itself speaks volumes on how important I take my employment at Spearmint Rhino. I also make sure that all dancers and staff member arrive safely to and from work whether it's organising them a taxi and having my members of security walking them to their cars. Again safety is my main objective.

So I feel upset and dishearten that every year we are fighting objectors who are trying to close us down due to their own personal views against us. Especially since they have never been into the club in the first place and have no concept on how the club is run. This in its self is wrong as personal morals views should not dictate whether Spearmint Rhino should operate or not. We follow and take out conditions very seriously again putting all dancers, staff and customers safety first,

Regards

Representation of Support 16

SPEARMINT RHINO GENTLEMEN'S CLUBS

USA - EUROPE - AUSTRALIA

SONFELD DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED
T/A SPEARMINT RHINO SHEFFIELD

40 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS
TELEPHONE 0114 2798092 FAX 0114 2762816
GENERAL E-MAILING: info@spearnt Rhino.com
WEBSITE: www.spearnt Rhino.com

Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Michael Goodwin and I am one of the managers at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield I am 51, born and brought up in Sheffield and have been working for the club full time for almost 15 years. I have two children 15 and 17 and obviously rely on this job to pay my mortgage and pay the bills etc.

I fully support the SEV licence and agree that since it was brought in it has weeded out the less desirable element in our industry and left just the more respectable clubs like ourselves to go about their business.

In the 15 years we have been open there have been no serious incidents requiring a police presence as I believe our door staff are one of the best teams in the city and our staff and dancers are professional and friendly at all times.

Every year it frustrates me that the same people come up with the same lame excuses why they think we should be closed down and it upsets me that somebody of reasonable intelligence would gladly take away my livelihood just because they don't agree with us being near their place of business. Even though we don't open until 5 hours after they have closed and we close at least 3 hours before they open for business, so all they see is a closed building.

They shout about fighting for womens rights and that lap dancing clubs degrade women and encourage rape and domestic violence and yet they are not trying to stop any of the other clubs in the area from getting their licence ? just Spearmint Rhino.

So this would seem to indicate that its just because we are near to them and spoil their idea of a perfect cultural quarter and nothing to do with being concerned for vulnerable women.

Please let Spearmint Rhino carry on trading as we have done for almost 15 year in a professional manner

Kind regards Mick Goodwin

Michael Goodwin
Manager
Spearmint Rhino Gentlemens Club
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S1 2BS
Telephone: - 0114 2798092
Direct E-mail: - mjgoodwin@spearnt Rhino.com
Company website: - www.spearnt Rhino.com

Neutral Representation

Dear Madam / Sir

Over the last couple of years, I have watched with interest the annual renewal proceedings for Spearmint Rhino and another similar venue. At first, I was simply an interested bystander, curious at the enthusiastic persuasive attempts of the various equality groups.

I have witnessed one individual in particular give a powerpoint presentation which, to my relatively untrained eye, seemed to completely miss the point. After each speaker in turn received a round of applause I became more and more disillusioned with their cause, sensing that any person who dared to contradict their blinkered view of the world would be fair game. I note that the recent appearance of male strippers in Genting Casino passed by without so much as a murmur of protest from any equality group. Similarly the regular appearance of male "dance troupes" across the City. Equality for whom?

I regularly walk along Brown Street and can state that I have no qualms whatsoever walking past the venue, both early morning and later in the evening. I can categorically state that Brown Street is always quiet. In fact, I am more wary walking past the Student Union building due to the behaviour of some students when drunk.

The point of this email is not to support or oppose the application. I have spoken to many of my contemporaries from various walks of life and can categorically state that the overwhelming opinion is "live and let live". The fact of the matter is that the vast majority of Sheffield people do not care if Spearmint Rhino is granted a licence or not. The vociferous minority would have you believe otherwise.

What I do object to is the expensive charade that is the hearing which seems to be held every year as a result of what I assume the Law or Council or various action groups demand? The money spent on this hearing would be far better spent on a public questioning exercise, in referendum fashion.

Should the Council renew Spearmint Rhino's licence? Yes, no or don't care. I know which answer my money is on!

Yours

Appendix D

Meeting Invites



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS ACT 1982

Sexual Entertainment Venue – Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield.

IMPORTANT: NOTIFICATION OF A LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARING

LEGISLATION: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

LICENCE TYPE: Sexual Entertainment Venue (Renewal)

I refer to the above and an application for the renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence.

This matter has been referred to the Licensing Sub Committee of Sheffield City Council for determination. Full details will be provided in the report to the Committee which will be sent to you in due course. The Licensing Committee has the authority to decide what action to take in relation to each application.

The hearing in respect of the application will take place on Tuesday 11th April 2017 in a Committee Room of the Town Hall, Sheffield (Pinstone Street entrance) and you are invited to attend at **10:00 am**.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to the number of interested parties, it is vitally important that you reply to this invite. If you fail to respond to this invite and subsequently attend the hearing, your admission cannot be guaranteed due to health and safety considerations. Entry precedence will be given to individuals who have confirmed their attendance in advance.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that you will be attending the meeting by emailing the Licensing Service at licensing@sheffield.gov.uk or by telephoning 0114 273 4264 before 5pm on Thursday 6th April 2017.

Steve Lonnia

Date: 29th March 2017

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Steve Lonnia
Chief Licensing Officer
Head of Licensing

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

Telephone 0114 273 4264
Email licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

The Licensing Service reception is open from 10.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday

Appendix E

Equality Impact Assessment Notes

Spearmint Rhino SEV Premises Licence Renewal Application

Equality Impact Assessment Notes

Age

Potential Impact – Negative

There is potential impact of those 18 years and under. There are other establishments in the vicinity of the premises, such as the Student Union Hub and other university buildings. The location of the premises may have a negative impact on the young people that attend these establishments; however, during the operational hours of the premises, these establishments are not substantially used by or for children under the age of 16.

Evidence –

The Licensing Authority has not received any complaints regarding underage access to the premises.

South Yorkshire Police have confirmed that there have been no age related issues in relation to access to the premises in the time that it has been licensed.

Sheffield Safeguarding Board has also confirmed that there have been no complaints received in relation to the premises.

Mitigating actions -

In the licence conditions, no dancer under the age of 18 may perform at the premises.

In the event of the licence being renewed, access to the premises will be prohibited to those under 18 years of age, through both the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and the Licensing Act of 2003. This will be controlled by conditions currently on the licence.

Mandatory conditions on any SEV licence prohibit advertising etc. outside of the premises without the prior approval of the Council.

Disability**Potential Impact - Neutral**

As this is a renewal application the Council's Health Protection Service (Health and Safety) will have already worked with and advised the applicant regarding accessibility to the premises in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority has not received any complaints in relation to the treatment of disabled people or in relation to disabled access at the premises

Mitigating actions -

The Council will do everything possible to ensure premises are conforming to disability legislation.

Pregnancy / Maternity**Potential Impact - Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Race**Potential Impact - Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Religion / Belief**Potential Impact - Negative**

Sex establishments are such that they may offend or go against the beliefs of certain faiths, religions or sectors. However the Council recognises that it is lawful to operate such premises and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority is not aware of any religious buildings and establishments within the locality of the premises.

The Licensing Authority's role is to administer and enforce the licensing regime in accordance with the law and not to take into account moral objections and standpoints.

This law pertaining to the licensing of sexual entertainment venues empowers local people and the wider community to be involved in the licensing process and if necessary to raise objections and representations. However, paragraph 3.23 of the Home Office guidance on licensing for sexual entertainment venues states explicitly that "objections should not be based on moral grounds or

values and Local Authorities should not consider objections that are not relevant to the grounds set out in Paragraph 12.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority will consider the character of the relevant locality when considering an application and will particularly take account of the proximity of various types of premises including religious buildings and establishments.

Sex

Potential Impact – Negative

In the past the Licensing Authority has received representations submitted by action groups and interested individuals that contend that sexual entertainment venues contribute to the objectification, victimisation and harassment of women.

To the extent that many people would believe that this is a “moral” standpoint, it would not be something that the Licensing Authority can take into account. However, we as a Licensing Authority have considered this and taken it into account on an “equalities” basis and do not feel that it is primarily a moral standpoint.

As the Licensing Authority we feel we must endeavour to reduce the normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women, avoid exploitation of women and to promote healthy sexual practices.

However, we feel it would be a negative move to impose a total ban on these types of premises and it is felt that through regulation, imposition of strict conditions, a strong policy and strict limits on numbers of such premises we can help achieve this aim.

Representations submitted by performers and employees across various age ranges and demographics, suggest that the opportunity for a flexible work pattern is an attractive proposition, providing a sustainable income and work / life balance. Not licensing such premises could have a negative impact on those in lawful employment, which is regulated and subject to controls and visits from many different organisations, including, but not limited to, the Licensing Authority, Police, Health Protection etc...

Whilst the customer demographic for such venues is largely male, it is not unusual for females or couples to visit such premises. There is no bar to entry for either gender at any time.

Evidence -

The Licensing Authority has carried out proactive enforcement visits to the premises on numerous occasions and no issues have been

raised by officers. No formal complaints have been received in relation to the premises and/or the conduct of its staff and no direct complaints have been made by users or members of the public to the Licensing Authority. However, two complaints have been made by organisations who had objected to a previous renewal application. These complaints related to alleged breaches of conditions and were investigated appropriately and found to have little or no substance.

The Sheffield Safeguarding Board has confirmed that no complaints have been made in relation to the premises.

The Police have never objected to previous applications demonstrating that there is no negative impact on crime and disorder from such premises.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority will work closely with the Sheffield Safeguarding Board to promote safeguarding and to raise awareness of associated issues and potentially provide a confidential system for reporting incidents/issues if and when they arise.

Regulation, imposition of strict conditions, a strong policy and strict limits on numbers of such premises to support the aim of reducing the normalisation of the sexualisation and objectification of women, avoid exploitation of women and to promote healthy sexual practices.

Extensive safeguards are to be in place for the protection of performers from harassment and other unwarranted attentions. These safeguards are documented within the application paperwork.

Sexual Orientation

Impact – Neutral

Evidence - Whilst the application makes no specific reference to sexual orientation, it is assumed that the target audience is heterosexual male. Notwithstanding, there is no bar to anyone seeking legal entry to the premises.

Data gathering on admittance to such premises is not asked for or obtained during the application process or on enforcement visits as there is no legal bar to legal entry dependant on sexual orientation.

Transgender**Impact – Neutral**

Evidence - Whilst the application makes no specific reference to transgender issues, it is assumed that the target audience is heterosexual male. Notwithstanding, there is no bar to anyone seeking legal entry to the premises, and no reference is made in the application to any such customer data being gathered.

Carers**Impact – Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Voluntary, Community & Faith Sector**Potential Impact – Negative**

The Council are aware of sensitive buildings/premises that are located around the city. These premises are staffed mainly by volunteers and are visited by individuals who may be negatively impacted upon by this type of premises.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority is aware of sensitive premises located in the city centre but it will be for Members to decide upon the level of impact of the premises on these buildings/establishments.

Mitigating actions –

There is no bar to legal entry for people of a particular voluntary, community or faith organisation/sector at any time.

The Licensing Authority will consider the character of the relevant locality when considering an application and will particularly take account of the proximity of various types of premises, including Hospitals; Mental Incapacity or Disability Centres; Substance Misuse Treatment Centres; Sexual Exploitation Services; Rape and Sexual Abuse Centres; places of religious worship, including churches mosques; temples; synagogues and other places of religious worship.

Financial Inclusion, Poverty, Social Justice**Potential Impact – Neutral**

Evidence - As far as we are aware there are no issues in this area and we have received no evidence (comments or views) related to this issue.

Cohesion**Potential Impact - Negative**

It may be the belief of some people that sex establishments and /or entertainment venues contribute towards a decline in societal cohesion.

Evidence - The Licensing Authority notes that it is lawful to operate these and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority's role is to administer the licensing regime in accordance with the law. This law empowers local people and the community to be involved in the licensing process. The policy also states that the authority will consider the character of the relevant locality when considering an application and will particularly take account of the proximity of various types of premises including residential areas that are frequented by children and families or vulnerable adults.

Other / Additional**Potential Impact - Neutral**

The premise is close to the railway station, a college of further education and university buildings, together with other premises which may be perceived to be sensitive. The exterior of the building is required to be neutral and approval must be granted for its appearance.

That said, any brand or logo may be likely to evoke a certain level of consternation amongst some sections of the local community. Therefore anything on the exterior of the building including logos, advertising should be required to be approved.

Sexual entertainment venues are legally in existence by way of an Act of Parliament.

Evidence - It may be the belief of some people that sexual entertainment venues contribute towards prostitution and/or crime and disorder. However there is no evidence of this in Sheffield. South Yorkshire Police have confirmed that in terms of the area in which Spearmint Rhino is located, recent crime analysis for the city centre concerning violence in the night time economy indicts the general area of Spearmint Rhino to be a low crime area and not an area that is considered by South Yorkshire Police to be a problem. As part of the procedure for this application, South Yorkshire Police has been consulted and has made no objection.

Mitigating actions –

The Licensing Authority will consider applications in line with the relevant legislation and policy guidance. This will consist primarily of the locality and any relevant conditions that can be imposed in order to allow effective management and enforcement of the same.

The Equality Act 2010 obliges the Council to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations in discharging its licensing functions.

Although the legal rights of the equality law are not within the scope of the licensing of sexual entertainment venues to enforce, the Council will encourage Licensees to:

- use an equality policy to help them check that they have thought about equality in the way they plan what they do and how they do it
- provide equality training, to make sure they know the right and wrong ways to behave.

Overall Summary

Sexual Entertainment Venues are legally in existence by Act of Parliament. The Licensing Authority notes that it is lawful to operate these and that such businesses are a legitimate part of the retail and leisure industries.

However, overall it is considered that there are some potential negative equality impacts, in particular regarding young people, women and community cohesion. This is due to the location of the premises in this particular application and its proximity to premises that are frequented by young adults and vulnerable adults.

To mitigate any potential negative impact, the Licensing Authority will administer and enforce the licensing regime in accordance with the law. We will also work with organisations such as the Police and Sheffield Safeguarding Board.

Appendix F

Hearing Procedure

SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES
-
LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE HEARING PROCEDURE

This procedure has been drawn up to assist those attending Sexual Entertainment Venue Committee hearings. The hearing can be heard in two parts and may be held on separate dates – objectors will be invited to attend Part One only. Part One will not apply if there are no objectors.

The hearing before the Council is Quasi-Judicial.

PART ONE

1. The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will introduce the Sub-Committee and ask officers to introduce themselves.
2. The Chair will ask the objectors (or nominated speaker(s) on behalf of the objectors) to formally introduce themselves.
3. The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed in the hearing.
4. Hearing Procedure:-
 - (a) The Licensing Officer will introduce the report.
 - (b) Questions concerning the report can be asked by Members.
 - (c) The Licensing Officer will introduce in turn the objectors (or nominated speakers) who will then be asked to detail the relevant representations. New representations must not be raised.
 - (d) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will invite members of the Sub-Committee to put any relevant questions to the objectors.
 - (e) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will close Part One of the hearing.

PART TWO

1. The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will introduce the Sub-Committee and ask officers to introduce themselves.
2. The Chair will ask the applicants to formally introduce themselves.
3. The Solicitor to the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed in the hearing.
4. Hearing Procedure:-
 - (a) The Licensing officer will introduce the report.
 - (b) Questions concerning the report can be asked both by Members and the applicant.

- (c) The applicant/licensee (or his/her nominated representative) will then be asked to:-
 - i) Present their case to the Sub-Committee and respond to any objections made;
 - ii) Call on any witnesses in support of their application;
 - (d) The Chair of the Licensing Sub-Committee will invite Members of the Sub-Committee to put any relevant questions to the applicant/licensee (or his/her nominated representative) and/or any witnesses who speak.
 - (e) The applicant will be invited to briefly sum up the application.
 - (f) The Licensing Officer will then detail the options.
 - (g) There will then be a private session for Members to take legal advice and consider the application.
5. The decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee will be conveyed in writing following the hearing, to the applicant/licensee (or his/her representative).
6. Objectors will receive a copy of the written notification of the Sub-Committee's decision sent to the applicant, if they have advised the Licensing Authority that they wish to do so. The decision will also be made available on the Council's website.
- NB: At any time in the Licensing Process, Members of the Sub-Committee may request legal advice from the Solicitor to the Sub-Committee. This advice may be given in open session or in private.

Appendix G

Discretionary Grounds for Refusal

Discretionary Grounds for Refusing a Licence

The Council may refuse the grant or renewal of a licence in the following circumstances:-

- (a) the applicant is unsuitable to hold the licence by reason of having been convicted of an offence or for any other reason;
- (b) if the licence were to be granted, renewed or transferred the business to which it relates would be managed by or carried on for the benefit of a person, other than the applicant, who would be refused the grant, renewal or transfer of such a licence if he made the application himself;
- (c) the number of sex establishments in the relevant locality at the time the application is made is equal to or exceeds the number which the authority consider is appropriate for that locality;
- (d) the grant or renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard—
 - (i) to the character of the relevant locality; or
 - (ii) to the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put; or
 - (iii) to the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

Nil may be an appropriate number for the purposes of (c) above.

The Council may refuse the transfer of a licence only in the circumstances of (a) and (b) above.

NOTE:

- The Sheffield City Council has not set a limit for the number of Sexual Entertainment Venues within the city, nor is it obliged to.
- A Nil Limit can only be set pursuant to policy review, not as a result of this application.
- The Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy published in April 2011 is in the process of being reviewed. It is anticipated that the new policy will be finalised by the Summer of 2017.