

I'm sending my companion in, because I think it's good, but I'm glad to email me my own thoughts.

21

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
Block C
Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
SHEFFIELD S9 3HD
By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

904 MAY 2006

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers have spoken of the psychological harm they have experienced as a result of working in strip clubs. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.
- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
- Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.
- Many women have written to the Council specifically stating how uncomfortable and unsafe they feel walking past Spearmint Rhino. Many try to avoid walking past it. No-one should feel unsafe in Sheffield and there should be no no-go areas for women.
- Thus, to relicence Spearmint Rhino would have the effect of promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.
- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

SIGNED

PRINT NAME & ADDRESS

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 May 2018 20:55
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service
 2018
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD

4 May

Dear Sir/Madam

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^[1] 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"^[2] 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^[xi]. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xii] 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.”^[xiii]

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.”^[xiv]

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^[xv]. 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.

↓ [Redacted]
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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>

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

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 04 May 2018 20:56
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

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 2018
 Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
 Staniforth Road
 Surrey Street
 S9 3HD

4 May

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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.

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Licensing Service
Block C, Staniforth Road Depot
Staniforth Road
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By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

3rd May 2018

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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 (an 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) to 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 far 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 to 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 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.

As a regular visitor to the area, I personally feel intimidated by the club’s presence (and any strip club that I pass by for that matter, particularly when I am on foot). Knowing the exploitation, sexism and objectification that goes on inside the club, I fear for my safety in the knowledge that the punters inside will at some point emerge full of an attitude that they apply to the rest of the world, that they are entitled access to women’s bodies. Friends have reported to me sexual harassment they have endured by men visiting the club and I myself have been subjected to cat calling from men leaving strip clubs in the past.

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, lap dancing clubs have 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 refuses 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.

Yours faithfully,
[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]
[Address]

References

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

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- ^{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/iisted-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>

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

3rd May 2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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

We 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 (an 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

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(d) any central gateway to the city or other city landmark, historic building or tourist attraction;

See (e) under (i).

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(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) to 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.

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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.

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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;

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We look forward to hearing from you.

| [REDACTED]
| [REDACTED]

References

ⁱSheffield 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>

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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

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- ^{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>

Bower Claire

From: 1 [redacted] t>
Sent: 05 May 2018 18:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: objection to Spearmint Rhino

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

Licensing Service, Sheffield City Council,
 C
 Depot
 Road
 3HD
 to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

Block
 Staniforth Road
 Staniforth
 SHEFFIELD S9
 By email

To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my objection to the application by Sonfield Developments Ltd c/o 161 Tottenham Court Road, London for renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue licence for Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BS on the following grounds;

- Strip clubs are a form of violence against women
- Strip clubs promote the idea that women's bodies can be bought, treating the performer as a commodity with no regard to her actual feelings, as if she were an object: if she really wanted to strip for whoever pays her she wouldn't need to be paid to do so. This is dehumanising and disempowering to the performer. The punter is eroticising his power over the woman and getting a sexual thrill from his control over her. This is toxic, abusive masculinity.
- Many ex-strippers have spoken of the psychological harm they have experienced as a result of working in strip clubs. This is trauma caused by dissociation, the act of separating their mind and feelings from their bodies, which is required in order to cope. Often, it is only when they have stopped stripping that they realise the harm caused to them by it, which is similar to the experience of women once they have left an abusive relationship.
- Licensing Spearmint Rhino gives a message to everyone in the city, not just the men who use it, that Sheffield Council thinks it is acceptable for women to be treated like this.
- Condoning, by licensing, a strip club which is set up solely to profit from the objectification of women is to effectively promote views and behaviours which are associated with male violence towards women and girls, stoking the misogynistic attitudes that lead to this violence.
- Research again and again identifies the link that men who hold objectifying views of women as lesser than human are more likely to be violent to them.
- Many women have written to the Council specifically stating how uncomfortable and unsafe they feel walking past Spearmint Rhino. Many try to avoid walking past it. No-one should feel unsafe in Sheffield and there should be no no-go areas for women.
- Thus, to relicence Spearmint Rhino would have the effect of promoting inequality between the sexes, which is not consistent with the Council's obligations under the Equality Act to foster good relations between men and women.

- Sheffield should be a city that aspires to promote fairness and equality for all. As such I would ask that Spearmint Rhino's license renewal is declined.

[Faint, illegible text]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 07 May 2018 20:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

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

07/05/18

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

I understood from the last hearing you preferred objectors to write their own objection letters. However I am not brilliant at writing and the following template does say everything I wish to express.

I would like to add that I teach joinery and carpentry to 16-18 year old students most of them are boys and it saddens me that I am still hearing from them horrible degrading and sometime aggressive terms relating to women and girls. Some have actually told me that lap dancing is more of a job for girls than doing a trade. My male colleagues and I have spent many a time talking about equality and the rights of girls and women to these boys and are saddened by their attitudes. In education we spend time and money do our best to break down barriers for girls to join non-traditional trades and places like spearmint rhino does nothing to help us. It shows that we accept that women's bodies are for sale and that's what women do. Although the college is further away from all the other educational and support establishments around the club it still has a strong influence on our youth. The fact that is and accepted by our council adds to the normality of it. If you are worried for the jobs which I understand when clubs close they tend to turn into clubs the staff get to stay on with better employment rights. But also I would be happy to teach the women a trade and a skill for life with better employment opportunities and even a pension.

I also have a studio on Brown street and I have been impressed by the growth of the area it seems sad to me that we have this dead zone no one uses the park to its fullest the building next to it is a store. It could be so much better the building itself could be a bar and music venue. There are so many educational establishments and residential areas compared to what it was before and with any luck we may even have channel four. We need to move into the 21 century and think about the wider benefits with out the club.

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^[xi].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xii] 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.”^[xiii]

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)

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

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^[xv]. 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.

NAME and ADDRESS which will be redacted

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^[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>
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- ^[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>

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 May 2018 20:26
To: licensingservice
Subject: Fwd: Spearmint Rhino objection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: SPEARMINT RHINO

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED] >
Date: 7 May 2018 at 20:05
Subject: Spearmint Rhino objection
To: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

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

07/05/18

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Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 08 May 2018 20:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino License Application

Dear Licensing Officers

I am writing to object to the renewal of the license for Spearmint Rhino at it's site in Brown Street, in the city centre.

If the Labour Party is so proud of it's control of the city council, then it needs to take responsibility for decisions made by the council.

I fail to understand how the Labour Party in Sheffield and it's members can claim to be proud of the city and all that it is, and yet happy to have a lap dancing and strip club as one of the city centre's "attractions".

I'm tired of hearing from Labour Party supporters and officers that it is the "party of equality" when it fails to demonstrate this in practice. I feel it is time for the Labour Party to stand up for what it claims to believe in and comes down on the right side of gender equality by objecting to the license renewal.

Just as we look back now at our outdated, racist TV programs and wonder how we ever tolerated them, so one day we will be judged on the sexist policies surrounding strip clubs. Sheffield, and the Labour Party that runs it, should want to be leading the way in becoming a gender equal city, not the last to make a change.

Regards

PS I am happy for my name to appear in the published objection, but please ensure that my email address is redacted.

--
[Redacted]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 08:34
To: licensingservice
Subject: Rhino club

I would like to object to the licensing of the Rhino strip club. I specifically object to its location in the midst of a student area and fear its presence encourages the thought patterns of some young men that girls are only objects to be used, thus putting female students at risk of sexual violence and harm.

I also suggest that this sort of behaviour is no longer acceptable and sheffield council should have the courage to stand up against it.

yours faithfully,
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 08:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to renewal of Spearmint Rhino license

Dear Council Members,

I would like to lodge my objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino license.

Strip clubs, where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship, do not foster good relations between the genders and have no place in a forward-thinking society where equality and diversity are so important.

It would be an embarrassment to Sheffield Hallam University, and to the city, to have a strip club on campus and sends entirely the wrong message to students.

Having a strip club in the classy industrial quarter runs counter to everything the city is trying to achieve with regards to the regeneration of the area.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 09 May 2018 10:50
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Licensing Service,

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

My reasons outlined below:

- Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders
- Strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
- The area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

I look forward to your decision

Regards

[Redacted Signature]

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Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 May 2018 11:20
To: licensingservice
Subject: Proposal for Strip Club in City Centre

I wish to register my strong objection to plans to develop a strip club, Spearmint Rhino, in the centre of Sheffield.

Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell.

- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with its own on-campus strip club. What will this be saying about Sheffield's offer to students?
- the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Latest publication : An Uncertain Shore, a novel

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 12:10
To: licensingservice
Subject: renewal license for Spearmint Rhino

Please note my objections to the renewal license for the Spearmint Rhino strip club.

Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders

- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
- Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
- Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
- the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

With thanks

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 12:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: spearmint rhino

Please note my objections to the renewal license for Spearmint Rhino strip club.

- Public Equality Sector Duty - the council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders
- strip clubs where women are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship do not foster good relations between the genders
 - Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union where young people are away from home often for the first time, the existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. We appreciate that not all members and supporters have an issue with strip clubs, but even those who don't usually still feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino is inappropriate.
 - Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with it's own on-campus strip club
 - the area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

With thanks

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 16:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Stop licensing Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam

I am emailing to object to licensing Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield. This establishment is offensive to many, and should not be in the heart of the cultural industries quarter or so close to Hallam University. It is degrading to women and something that I feel should not be there.

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 09 May 2018 16:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino licensing application objection

Dear Licensing Services Officer,

I am writing to object to the application for Spearmint Rhino to renew their strip club license in Sheffield. The council have a legal duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders and this business runs counter to those aims by normalizing the sexualised objectification of women. This is particularly important in this premises when viewed in its context adjacent to Sheffield Hallam University campus. At a time of life when young adults are solidifying their understanding of gender and sexual norms, the perceived acceptance of a strip club, virtually on campus, can easily confuse and pervert their understanding of acceptable behavior toward women for many years. This is a clear conflict with the city's aims to foster good relations between genders. In this year of the #me-too movement, it is time to take a step forward in understanding the impact of these institutional influences on societal norms. On these grounds, the license renewal should be rejected.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 09 May 2018 18:21
To: licensingservice
Subject: SPEARMINT RHINO OBJECTION

Hello

I am a masters' student at Sheffield Hallam university.

I believe it is totally inappropriate for a lap dancing club to be situated within what could be considered the university campus. I do not feel that it encourages good relationships between men and women, particularly students, being young people who are easily influenced by the kind of messages that such an establishment gives out, in terms of normalising men paying to view womens' naked bodies.

It is such a shame that the lap dancing club exists in a progressive city such as Sheffield. I am disappointed.

I hope that you will take my objection in to consideration.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bower Claire

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 May 2018 21:01
To: licensingservice
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to relicensing Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object most strongly to the decision to relicense the strip club Spearmint Rhino. I am also dismayed by the Council's decision to allow unlimited numbers of SEVs in the city. This is clearly sending out a message to women and girls that their safety and dignity are not considered to be important.

The council have a legal Public Equality Sector Duty to ensure that their actions foster good relations between genders. There is no way that a strip club can be said to do this. Women in and around this venue are sexualised and objectified in an unequal relationship and this clearly does not foster good relations between the genders. Many women feel unsafe walking around this area because of the attitudes of the men, towards women, who attend the venue.

Spearmint Rhino is right next to Hallam University Student Union. The existence of the club is telling them that it is OK to sexualise and objectify women and to treat them as commodities to buy and sell. Hallam University's plans for their city campus will mean that they will be forced to become the only University in the country with its own on-campus strip club. This does not help to make it a positive choice for many young women when considering which university to attend.

The area of town which the club is situated is part of Sheffield's cultural industries quarter, is a strip club really part of our city's culture?

It is time to do the right thing and refuse to relicense Spearmint Rhino.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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Bower Claire

From: [redacted]
Sent: 09 May 2018 21:16
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am appealing to Sheffield Council to not grant a license to Spearmint Rhino in order to get rid of it's only strip club in Sheffield after 16 years.

Having a strip club sexualizes and objectifies women and does not fulfil the Council's public sector equality duty to foster good relations between the genders.

I hope you are able to take my objection into account when making your decision.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]
[redacted] ■
[redacted]
[redacted]

