

061 A1

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 21:25

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

Name:

Address:

Date: 21 May 2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C,

Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino. Strip and Lap-dancing clubs are outdated, harmful and promote inequality between women and men. This is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city. Its current location is particularly problematic, being next to Sheffield Hallam University Student's Union, opposite the Site Gallery and the Showroom Cinema - both used by children and families - and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. It is just over the road from my Workshop, which is within Yorkshire Artspace's building Persistence Works at 21 Brown Street, S1 2BS. I can see Spearmint Rhino from my workshop window and find its presence distasteful to say the least. I understand that, on grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy, the license can be declined.

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of

an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license. Also to consider providing support services for women who may be affected, and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women in order to inform future policy making.

Yours faithfully,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Objection

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 22:07

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Objection

To whom it may concern,

Please find enclosed my objection to the Spearmint Rhino Licence. I have a niece studying in Sheffield.

Regards

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

21st May 2019

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

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

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

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

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

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

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

Kolvin continues with:

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

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

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

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year’s licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated “I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me.”[5]

I am sure that I need not remind the the Council of its duty under the Equality Act’s requirement to pay due regard to foster good relations between men and women.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

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

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

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated “Knowledge Gateway”.

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

There is the recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on [Sheaf Square](#)) directly adjacent to the club.

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

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

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

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is “one of Europe’s largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city. Housed in a converted 1930s car showroom, we’re situated right next to the railway station in Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter.” And further states that their “beautiful Art Deco environs are an ideal setting for the innovative businesses homed at the Workstation, and a perfect place for the determinedly independent and cutting edge cinema of the Showroom.” The Showroom also hosts family events as well as many off the Shelf and Doc Fest events, the latter is internationally renowned.

It is also opposite the newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield’s international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children’s media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students not only studying in the surrounding the area but also residing in it. The 24/7 Addsetts learning centre is in the vicinity with Brown Street and Cultural Industries Quarter Square as direct access routes from numerous student accommodation blocks. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building) and backs directly onto student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for refusal

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

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

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

“Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license.”[6]

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

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

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

It is further reported:

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

References

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

McConaghy Julianne

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

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

From:

Sent: 21 May 2019 22:20

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

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

From:
Sent: 21 May 2019 22:39
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal OBJECTION

From:**Sent:** 21 May 2019 23:44**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal OBJECTION

To whom it may concern

We are writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people.

On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost.

Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing.

Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

We are also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this we can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, we would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

We are also aware of a significant number of young women who share our views but are scared to say so publicly such is the pressure to be seen to support the sex industry. Many are even too scared to submit objections despite reassurances that their details will be redacted.

McConaghy Julianne

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

From:**Sent:** 21 May 2019 23:48**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

WOMEN deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, and this is anything but.

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus.

Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

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

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 00:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

My daughter is supposed to be taking her place at Sheffield University this Autumn. I am horrified at this proposal and if it succeeds I sincerely hope that she decides to go elsewhere – some other university town that doesn't give official approval to the denigration and abuse of vulnerable women. What message would it send to young women at the University? Would you be happy for YOUR daughters to take up so-called 'lap dancing' as a career?

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

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

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

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 01:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from my iPad

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Licensing application for Spearmint Rhino SEV**From:****Sent:** 22 May 2019 01:55**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Licensing application for Spearmint Rhino SEV

INSERT YOUR ADDRESS (This will be redacted from the public reports pack)

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

DATE

Dear Licensing

I refer to the application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

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

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

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

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for SEVs to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities. Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections.

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

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

Kolvin continues with:

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

This is further corroborated by 2012 research published in Criminal Justice Matters which states that: ". . . the women describe feeling frightened, disempowered, violated, embarrassed, unsafe (particularly if men are around) and avoid certain streets at night where they know there is a lap dancing club." [3]

Not only do strip clubs appeal to a narrow sector of the community, mostly heterosexual men, they are also antithetical to fostering good relations between the sexes. In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy [4] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed in many testimonies of former performers, including those who objected to last year's licence renewal where at the hearing, one former dancer stated "I was viewed and treated like a second-class citizen and not just in one club but in all, this made me hate men to an extreme level, they repulsed me." [5]

I am sure that I need not remind the the Council of its duty under the Equality Act's requirement to pay due regard to foster good relations between men and women.

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

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

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

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

The Club is also in the centre of the newly designated "Knowledge Gateway".

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

There is the recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) directly adjacent to the club.

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

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

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

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city. Housed in a converted 1930s car showroom, we're situated right next to the railway station in Sheffield's Cultural Industries Quarter." And further states that their "beautiful Art Deco environs are an ideal setting for the innovative businesses homed at the Workstation, and a perfect place for the determinedly independent and cutting edge cinema of the Showroom." The Showroom also hosts family events as well as many off the Shelf and Doc Fest events, the latter is internationally renowned.

It is also opposite the newly refurbished Site Gallery, Sheffield's international contemporary art space, specialising in moving image, new media and performance. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the children's media conference; Off the Shelf etc.

There are young students not only studying in the surrounding the area but also residing in it. The 24/7 Addsetts learning centre is in the vicinity with Brown Street and Cultural Industries Quarter Square as direct access routes from numerous student accommodation blocks. The Club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (an iconic and a city landmark building) and backs directly onto student accommodation. Recent revelations about breaches within the club also make its location within the student community highly inappropriate.

Further grounds for refusal

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

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

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

"Given that there is potential for the discretion to be exercised afresh, the renewal should not just be a rubber stamping exercise, but an opportunity, if needed, to review the principle and content of the license." [6]

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

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

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

It is further reported:

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

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

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

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

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

[5] Sheffield Telegraph: 'Why we want Sheffield to be a strip-club-free city' April 5th 2019

<https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

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

[7] Chester Live: 'Chester Platinum Lounge lap dancing club waits for licensing decision' July 18th 2015

<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/chester-platinum-lounge-lap-dancing-9610810>

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to the licence application from Spearmint Rhino

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

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 10:08

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the licence application from Spearmint Rhino

Dear Madam/Sir,

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

I am a member of the Women's Equality Party and chief among our aims is ending all forms of violence against women and girls. As part of this we are campaigning for local authorities to adopt a policy to limit the number of sexual entertainment venues to nil because many of them offer little or no employment protections for the women who work in them.

Research by Eaves Housing into the effects of licensing, as updated by the Metropolitan police, found that in the three years after four sexual entertainment venues opened in one local authority, incidents of rape increased by 33% and sexual assaults by 55%. They also found increased levels of harassment of women in the surrounding area. In the age of #MeToo, where we understand more and more the extent of sexual violence and harassment women experience on a day to day basis, granting licenses to sexual entertainment venues is not only unjustifiable, it contravenes local authorities' Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

I understand that there is an ongoing investigation into alleged serious breaches at the Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield. I trust that, if the outcome of this investigation is that breaches did take place, the Council will not grant the requested licence.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of your discussions.

Yours,

McConaghy Julianne

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

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

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 11:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Regards

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: RE: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 11:51
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or more cameras clearly is not going to make any difference in Sheffield. The license holder is unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

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

From:**Sent:** 22 May 2019 12:02**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

From:

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

The location has always been unsuitable even according to your own policy, it is also on a University campus. Refusing to relicense a strip club on the grounds of locality CANNOT be legally challenged. University study is a key time in our children's lives, when they can also be vulnerable to negative experiences that can have significant impacts on their lives. We already know that there are growing numbers of students dropping out of University study due to poor mental health and this will make that situation worse.

UNFIT LICENSE HOLDER / PREVENTION OF CRIME and DISORDER / BREACH OF EQUALITY LAW:

Independent investigation has shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

At what point is your burden of proof established? You need to be weighing up how many breaches and allegations there have been to determine if they are fit and proper to run risky establishments like this or you are not doing your duty.

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If you license this club you will be knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and be putting women at risk.

074

McConaghy Julianne

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

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this license on the grounds of:

UNSUITABLE LOCATION:

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McConaghy Julianne

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

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:31

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

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076

McConaghy Julianne

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

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 12:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

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Get Outlook for Android

McConaghy Julianne

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

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

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 12:43
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

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Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

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

From:
Sent: 22 May 2019 12:48
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

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McConaghy Julianne

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Subject: Objection to the re-licencing of Spearmint Rhino

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

From:

Sent: 22 May 2019 14:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to re - licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Brown Street, Sheffield -2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD

From:

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined. This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality. Women have a right to employment which is safe and not exploitative nor psychologically harmful. There is information about the impact of working in such establishments, including from women who have worked in them, about sexual harassment and assault of the women

performers by users and even staff and evidence suggests that this is rife.

I am also aware of information from local publicity which indicates that in a number of such establishments, including Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, there have been significant breaches of the licensing conditions which have not been picked up by the council's own inspections. This attests that regulation of an inherently unsafe and unfair working environment is impossible. In

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield evidence of unlawful sexual activity is also under investigation.

Given this I can see no reason for Spearmint Rhino to retain its license. As the law permits a local authority to decide not to allow any strip and lap dancing clubs within its area, I would like the licensing hearing to refuse this license, provide support services for women who may be affected and to address this aspect of inequality between the sexes by undertaking a comprehensive overview of the links between the sex trade, female poverty and violence against women to inform future policy making.

Yours faithfully