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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 08:18

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

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

24/05/19

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

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

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone.

Sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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

As Founder of White Ribbon UK I have been formally working for respect and equality between men and women for the last 15 years, and the very existence of Spearmint Rhino is a denial of this.

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

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

Kolvin continues with:

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

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

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

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

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

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further grounds for refusal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is further reported:

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

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

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

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

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

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

2019 <https://www.sheffieldtelegraph.co.uk/news/why-we-want-sheffield-to-be-a-strip-club-free-city-1-9695166>

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

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

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Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: objection letter for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application by Spearmint Rhino

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 10:20**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** objection letter for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application by Spearmint Rhino

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

By email to: licensingservice@sheffield.gov.uk

24th May 2019

Dear Licensing,

I am a 29yr old woman, who works as a young women's advocate, supporting 11-18yr old who have experienced or at risk of sexual violence. I am also a survivor of male violence and have previously been exploited by "women and girls empowerment for men's pleasure".

I mention these at the start of the letter to highlight my position, and my first hand knowledge of this degrading, exploitative nature of objectifying women and girls.

I believe normalising and supporting sexual entertainment venues upholds sex based oppression of women and girls, forcing females into a subordinate position under men; allowing our bodies, finances and our power to be controlled by males, for the male gaze. I believe if sexual entertainment licences are awarded, the council are supporting the idea that females are here to satisfy men's need and be objects for men to play with.

I recognise links between sexual abuse, broken norms of boundaries, self-esteem and the use of problematic substances. I also recognise and know the false feeling of "empowerment" of feeling like we, as women and girls are in control of who looks at our bodies, and what men do to our bodies.

Instead of supporting male domination, we have to look at the routes in and

out (potentially leading to on and off street prostitution and exploitation of females) of sexual entertainment venues for females.

I also recognise the importance of financial pushes into "sexual entertainment", instead of supporting the male desire, we should be supporting women into work that is not objectifying our bodies.

This is an objection letter for the Sexual Entertainment Venue (SEV) licence application by Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS.

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

Sheffield City Council has "statutory obligations in relation to disability race and gender" (sic as the protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010 is "sex" and not "gender") ensuring that these factors are not used to discriminate against anyone.

I believe that sexual entertainment venues directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexual objectification of women which contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. SEVs are both cause and effect of inequality between the sexes.

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the town is impaired in comparison to that of men. Where relevant these considerations ought properly to be taken into account by authorities at the decision-making stage, and possibly at the policy-making stage" [2].

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

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

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

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

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

d) a Hospital, Mental Incapacity or Disability Centre or similar premises; There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children and adults, many of whom will have PTSD.

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

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

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“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’.”

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

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

I would be happy to speak further about this with you, and hope you recognise the degrading nature of sexual entertainment venues.

I look forward to hearing from you.

-

References

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

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

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

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

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Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Action: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 15:45

To: licensingservice

Subject: Action: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir or Madam:

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Best regards,

0144 P1

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection letter to licence renewal for 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS
Attachments: Letter to SCC Licensing Service re 60 Brown Street application (24.05.19).pdf; Appendix 1.pdf; Appendix 2.pdf

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 16:57
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection letter to licence renewal for 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS

Dear Licensing Service,

Please find attached an objection in relation to the application for a renewal of a licence for 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS. Also attached are the two appendices mentioned in the letter.

Kind Regards

Head of the Vice-Chancellor's Office
Sheffield Hallam University
Tel: [REDACTED]



WORKING TO REDUCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

DO YOU NEED TO PRINT THIS EMAIL?

0144 P2



Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Sheffield Hallam University
City Campus
Howard Street
Sheffield S1 1WB

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

www.shu.ac.uk

Vice-Chancellor

[Redacted]

MA PhD PGCE

24 May 2019

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Re: Spearmint Rhino, 60 Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS - Application for renewal of a licence under Part II and Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

I am writing as the Vice-Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University to object in the strongest terms to the above application on the grounds outlined below.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 in Schedule 3, paragraph 12 outlines the grounds on which a licence may be refused. Sheffield Hallam University is submitting this objection pursuant to Schedule 3, paragraph 12(3)(d), by maintaining that the renewal of the licence would be inappropriate, having regard to:

- i. the character of the relevant locality; and
- ii. the use to which any premises in the vicinity are put.

Section 7 of Sheffield City Council's Sexual Entertainment Venue Licensing Policy (the "Council's Policy") states that "the Council will not licence premises that it feels are in close proximity to:-

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

We submit that the premises are too close to (a), (b), (e) and (f), and in this letter we set out concerns relevant to each of those. Furthermore, our response will set out our contention that the presence of a sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield does not meet the City Council's Public Sector Equality Duty as introduced by the Equality Act 2010, and severely impedes upon our ability to do so as well.

A: The locality and nearby premises

- 1. 60 Brown Street is sited in what is now a residential area with student living accommodation located directly to the rear of the Spearmint Rhino's venue on Arundel

Lane. Furthermore, there are planned developments to provide private rental accommodation within the surrounding area (e.g. Allsop Fields and Furnival Square) which will vastly increase the number of residents living within a short distance of the establishment.

The route past Spearmint Rhino's venue is a high traffic area for students. The route for students to many of Sheffield Hallam University's buildings takes them directly past the venue at all hours of the day and night (note: Sheffield Hallam University's Learning Centre is open 24/7 and the core teaching hours are up to 9pm). Our students are entitled to, and need to, feel safe and secure during their studies at university. The central location of Spearmint Rhino's venue undermines the perception of safety, equality and diversity that Sheffield City Council and the two universities in the City are dedicating considerable resources to develop and ensure. The current location of the venue portrays the area in an anti-social light, which is not conducive with its setting in the City's Cultural Industries Quarter, and with the potential to create a perception of fear and crime rather than safety and vibrancy.

2. 60 Brown Street is a short distance from the University Technical College which is attended by pupils of the ages 14-19. The premises are also adjacent to Festival Square, a public open space used by members of the public including families with children and those under 18 years of age. Sheffield Hallam University has recently been working with the Site Gallery on improving the Festival Square and increasing the amount of cultural animation and activity around the square, both during the day and at night, with the aim to enhance its prominence as one of the City's key cultural hubs.

The continued presence of a sexual entertainment venue directly adjacent to a cultural area threatens to jeopardise the long-term plans for the area. The Council's Policy states that it will not licence premises that are within close proximity to educational or recreational premises or areas used by or for children under 16 years of age, and we assert that 60 Brown Street clearly meets this criteria.

3. 60 Brown Street is sited near to Sheffield Hallam University's Prayer Rooms and Multi-Faith Chaplaincy, which regularly attract a large number of students seeking a place of worship, spirituality, meditation or reflection. Also nearby are the Counselling and Wellbeing services available for staff and students of Sheffield Hallam University. These services provide specialist support, including for survivors of sexual assault and harassment. The route to these facilities takes visitors past Spearmint Rhino's venue. Female students and those students of particular faiths may feel that the location of Spearmint Rhino limits their enjoyment of the space and compromises their safety due to the clientele Spearmint Rhino attracts.

Sheffield Hallam University has made a significant commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and has committed to '*ensure an inclusive, accessible and open working and learning environment for all staff and students*'. It is our view that there should be no spaces which create an intimidating hostile, offensive or degrading environment for our students or staff. We owe a duty of care to our students and staff and need to ensure that in creating an inclusive, accessible and open environment we have appropriate safeguards in place. The Council's Policy states that it will not licence premises that are within close proximity to places of religious worship or premises that provide health and wellbeing support, and we assert that 60 Brown Street clearly meets this criteria.

4. 60 Brown Street is adjacent to the building of Sheffield Hallam Students' Union, "the HUBS", formerly the National Centre for Popular Music. This is an iconic building, a Sheffield City Landmark, and of cultural interest. 60 Brown Street is in an area of cultural interest, given that it is within the Cultural Industries Quarter. The premises are located on a main gateway from Sheffield Rail Station and the central transport interchange to and from the City Centre, just metres away from the designated by Sheffield City Council 'Gold Route'.

The presence of a sexual entertainment venue in the heart of the Cultural Industries Quarter is inappropriate. The focus for this area is arts, media and education, mixed with industrial heritage. The location of Spearmint Rhino's venue gives a negative impression of the City and Sheffield Hallam University, and undermines the considerable improvements that are planned for this part of the City Centre.

Spearmint Rhino's venue is also directly adjacent to the only designated Public Space in the Cultural Industries Quarter, which is not currently used to its full potential. The presence of a sexual entertainment venue in the immediate vicinity prevents the creation of a day and night active frontage onto the public space.

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

The Council's Policy states that it will not licence premises that are within close proximity to the 'Cultural Hub of the City', a central gateway to the city, or other city landmark, and we assert that 60 Brown Street clearly meets this criterion.

5. Sheffield Hallam University has recently launched an ambitious vision and plan for its city campus to great acclaim both locally and nationally. Sheffield City Council has had significant involvement in the development of the plan and has been very supportive of the university's proposals.

Phase 1 of the plan, which will be implemented over the next five years, intensifies development in the Cultural Industries Quarter, and focuses on the establishment of a new gateway to the University and the City. This will commence with the demolition of the Science Park to make way for new developments on the site and on that of the Science Park Car Park. It will see the creation of a 'University Green' on Arundel Lane, immediately adjacent to the premises currently housing Spearmint Rhino. We draw your attention to Appendix 1 which shows the new buildings on the plan and the close proximity of 60 Brown Street to the prestigious new developments of Phase 1.

The Sheffield City Council's City Centre Plan 2018-2028 includes a section on its ambition to be a Knowledge City (section 4.3). An extract of this can be found in Appendix 2. It covers in great detail the importance of Sheffield's City Centre educational establishments, stating that '*the Council will continue to work closely with each institution to ensure full integration of the Campus Masterplans with the wider City Centre Plan*' and that they will '*work in partnership to implement high quality public realm and connectivity*'. If the Council renews the licence for this sexual entertainment venue located in such close proximity to our university's Phase 1 planned improvements, it will directly contravene what the university is trying to achieve and will prevent the accomplishment of a '*high quality public realm*'.

The planned development of the Knowledge Gateway by improving the street frontage on Brown Street in front of Spearmint Rhino's venue and along Paternoster Row demonstrates that Brown Street is a valued location for the Council's sustained cultural and economic development. We would like to highlight the significant conflict that the Council communicates through its continued decision to grant the licence for Spearmint Rhino in its current location. If the licencing department at the Council believes that the venue makes some cultural or educational contribution, then it is questioned as to why the venue is not highlighted throughout the City Centre Plan.

Having worked with stakeholders across the Cultural Industries Quarter and the City, including Sheffield City Council, in the development of the vision for our university's new campus, we believe that there are compelling reasons for the Council not to renew the licence to Spearmint Rhino. Indeed, if it were to be renewed, then we believe that the Council would be placing itself into conflict regarding its own plans for the development of the City Centre and jeopardising both the potential impact of the Knowledge Gateway investment and the proposed plans for a number of key stakeholders to obtain external funding and continue to develop this part of the City into a thriving cultural hub at the immediate gateway to the City Centre.

Again, we assert that 60 Brown Street is in close proximity to the 'Cultural Hub of the City' and on a central gateway to the City Centre, and therefore meets the criteria outlined in the Council's Policy for not qualifying for renewed licence.

B. Objection under the City Council's Public Sector Equality Duty

Sheffield Hallam University is subject to legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 as a provider of higher education, a service provider, and an employer. Therefore, alongside Sheffield City Council, the university must ensure that it is fulfilling the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty to:

- Eliminate Discrimination, Harassment and Victimisation;
- Advance Equality of Opportunity; and
- Foster Good Relations.

It is our position that the licencing of Spearmint Rhino is not conducive to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty, that it impedes our university's ability to meet our objective to '*ensure an inclusive, accessible and open working and learning environment for all staff and students*' and also threatens our university's ability to fulfil our own Public Sector Equality Duty.

In 2016 Universities UK (UUK, the representative body for universities in the United Kingdom) published the '[Changing the culture](#)' report which examined violence against women, harassment and hate crime affecting university students. The investigation into this matter was at the request of the Minister for Universities and the report has been considered by the Women and Equalities Committee in Parliament, which has repeatedly cautioned universities that sexual harassment "*and other violence against women is blighting women's experiences of university*".

The UUK report stated that universities have a duty to ensure that all students are able '*to enjoy a safe and positive experience at university*' and that the potential impact of any sexual violence on a student may be so serious in nature that universities must be equipped to respond effectively and also to engage in prevention initiatives. A survey carried out by the End Violence Against Women coalition in 2016 found that 85 per cent of women aged 18-24 reported that they had experienced unwanted sexual attention in public places and 45% had experienced unwanted sexual touching. The role of universities in tackling these issues is therefore extremely important.

Since the release of this report, Sheffield Hallam University has responded proactively to the recommendations and made significant progress in developing reporting mechanisms; appointing specialist wellbeing practitioners to support reporting parties, setting up partnership working with the police, the Students' Union and local agencies; organising bystander initiatives and staff training, and raising general awareness. We are also proud of the positive and respectful culture that we are engendering within our community.

It is our position that the continued licencing of a sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield normalises sexist and misogynistic behaviour. Attitudes and behaviours that in any other workplace or public environment would be considered to be sexual harassment and gender

discrimination, are legitimised in sexual entertainment venues. It is naïve to believe that these attitudes and behaviours are not carried beyond the venue into society, and therefore we assert that the presence of a sexual entertainment venue in Sheffield City Centre does not eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, it does not advance equality of opportunity, and it does not foster good relations.

Sheffield Hallam University is committed to cultivating a tolerant, respectful environment for our staff and students, within which violence, harassment and hate crime of any kind has no place. We have an excellent working relationship with Sheffield City Council and have achieved so much for the regeneration of the City Centre together.

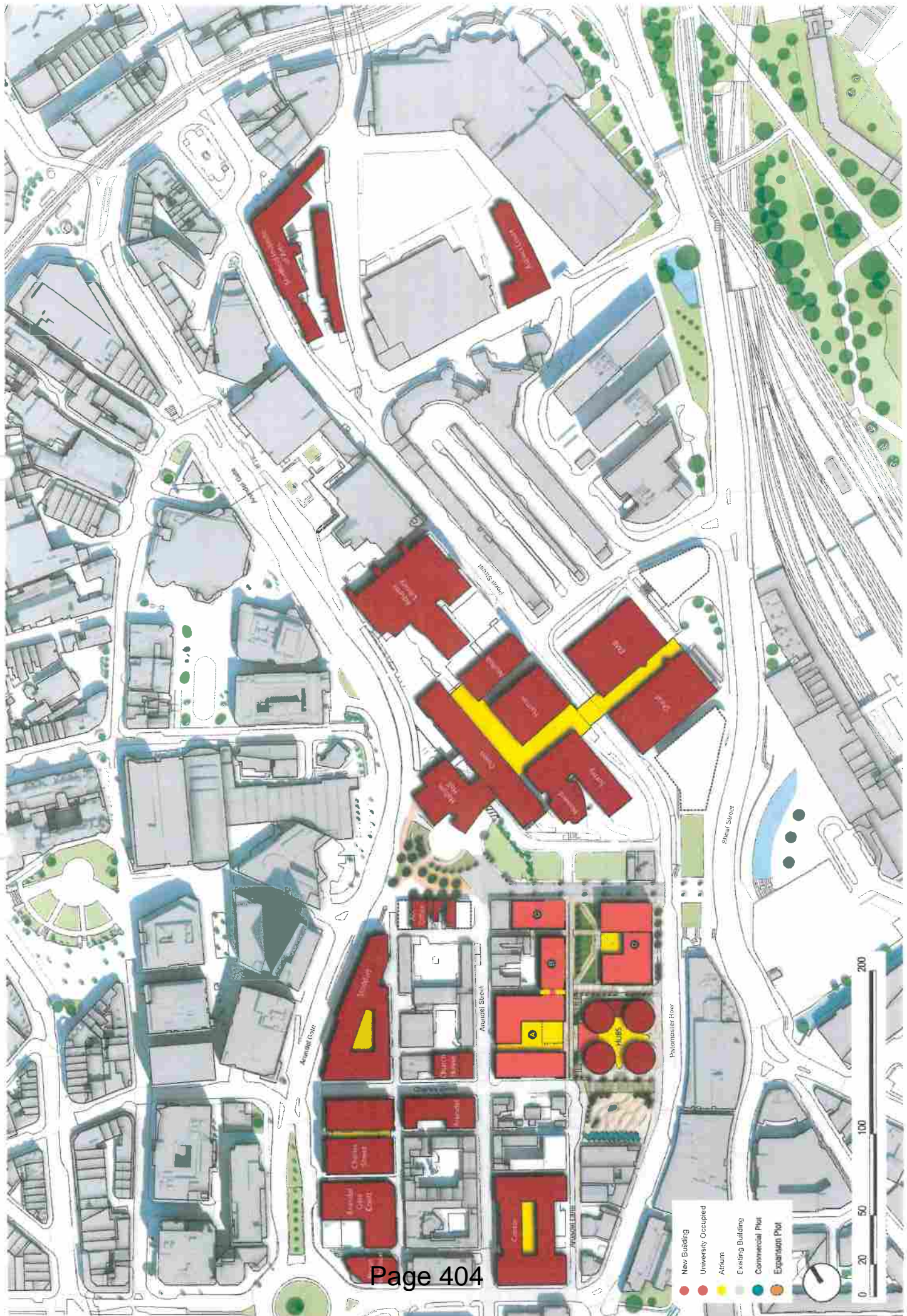
C. Conclusion

We hope that the Council will take into account the numerous objections that have been, and will continue to be, raised against the granting of a renewed licence for Spearmint Rhino, and will this time act decisively in a manner that supports the interests of the planned future development of the City to recognise that this venue does not adhere to the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty and not renew the licence.

Yours sincerely,



Vice-Chancellor, Sheffield Hallam University



- New Building
- University Occupied
- Atrium
- Existing Building
- Commercial Plot
- Expansion Plot

The Council will continue to work closely with **each institution** to ensure **full** integration of the campus Master Plans with the wider City Centre Plan.

Major campus **enhancement** programmes are under way for both Universities supported by the City Council and City Region.

The University of Sheffield is investing significant sums in its Public **Realm** together with funding from SCR. These changes focus **on** the extension of the Gold Route axis of high quality public spaces from Devonshire Green through **Portobello**, **Leavygreave** and across Western Bank (completed) to the **Arts Tower** concourse and **Weston Park**. Key outcomes of these interventions are the creation of a high quality and well connected setting for the Faculty of Engineering, one of the highest rated in UK, the Arts Tower (the University's most well known landmark building) -- and a development platform for the new Faculty of Science at Hounsfield and **Leavygreave** West. The campus will also be served by a high quality **public** cycle and **pedestrian** route with significant improvements to **accessibility** and safety. Improved connections to and through the **North Campus** are also planned linking it to the major cluster of city centre student accommodation in the St Vincent's Quarter (see plan vii page 30).

For **SHU** a new extended **high** quality setting for investment and expansion will be commenced by the Knowledge Gateway Project again supported by the Council, the **City** Region and SHU. The project will create an enhanced and more cycle and pedestrian friendly corridor linking the core of the Cultural Industries Quarter at Paternoster Row and SHU's **Howard** St main buildings with further expansion sites and the new Sheffield Institute of Arts at Fitzalan Sq (see plan vi page 29).

The route will also improve connectivity to the Heart of the City via **Esperanto** Place/Norfolk St and to Digital Campus and **Park Hill** via Pond Hill. This is important as the Pond St area offers significant expansion room for both SHU and the Central **Business** District.

Wherever **possible** it will seek to co-ordinate improvements to the campus public realm with the Streets Ahead highway repair programme, as well as **improvements** to wayfinding, road safety and pedestrian connectivity.

With 60,000 students and 12,000 staff, many living in or close to the City Centre the education institutions have a very large impact on travel patterns to and from the City Centre. The City Council is working with them to encourage more walking, cycling and use of public transport and incorporating improvements to access for each of these modes in improvements to campuses identified **above**. (see also Transport Chapter).

Both universities are now significantly involved in the events calendar of the City Centre as exemplified by the Festival of the Mind, Sheffield Food Festival, Tramlines and Off the Shelf, in support for the City Centre Business Improvement District (see also Retail Chapter) and new areas of partnership have also been developed in applied research and city animation.

In recent years the potential to harness academic knowledge and research capacity to analysing and tackling the city's challenges in a more **systematic** way and over longer time has been seized in projects such as Renew Sheffield, the Castlegate Partnership, Grey to Green, Love Square and many others and this will continue and grow led by the respective Civic Engagement teams of both Universities.

EACH YEAR SHEFFIELD HOSTS AROUND

70,000

STUDENTS, MANY LIVING IN THE CITY CENTRE



University of Sheffield new Engineering Building – 'The Diamond'

SUMMARY OF KNOWLEDGE CITY PROPOSALS

- Support the implementation of Campus Master Plans for both universities and Sheffield College and work in partnership to implement higher quality public realm and connectivity
- Continue to encourage and support higher education involvement in the City Centre events calendar
- Work with the universities and colleges to promote sustainable, safe and healthy travel options
- Develop more focussed and long term urban research programmes in partnership with the higher education sector
- Encourage graduate retention and enterprise in the City Centre by providing a full attractive and distinctive offer of housing, leisure, cultural and retail provision

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 09:22

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

Dear Madam or Sir,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

--

Best wishes,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 17:13
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

On a personal level, I was affected by the misogynistic attitude and objectification this club endorses. I was walking to my workplace near the club in the early morning of late January last year. Two well-dressed young men were walking up from the strip club (it had just closed for the night) walked past me and one pointed at me, saying to his friend deliberately loudly enough for me to hear, 'she's rapeable'. I believe their attitude of seeing women as sexual objects had been heightened by the strip club, where they had been literally commodifying women, and they were in a giddy sort of misogyny buzz.

Please remove this license. When you say some women can be bought and sold, it ingrains the idea that all women are sex objects.

Finch Shimla (CEX)

From: licensingservice
Subject: FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

From: Sent: 24 May 2019 17:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

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

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 17:23

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Kind regards,

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 16:42

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 16:33**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 15:51

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 15:09**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

As a frequent visitor to the city of Sheffield, and in particular to the general location concerned, I object strongly to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. It is an inappropriate and unsuitable location for this kind of establishment, raising concern for the safety and well being of students and others going legitimately about their work & studies. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few additional cameras are not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 14:54

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

0154

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

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

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 14:31
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Yours sincerely,

0155

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

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

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 12:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:**Sent:** 24 May 2019 10:25**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write to object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. This creates the possibility that men coming to ogle women will be brought in to contact with young women in the shape of female students. I am relieved that my daughters are not students in Sheffield!

As I believe you must be aware, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicence on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, I understand that recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras.

I also understand that The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. On the basis of this I don't believe a new manager or a few more cameras is going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit.

If this club is re-licensed it places the council in a position of knowingly licensing a venue which will breach its licensing conditions and is also knowingly putting women at risk.

I therefore request Spearmint Rhino is not re-licensed.

Many thanks for taking my views into consideration.

0157

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 10:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

From:
Sent: 24 May 2019 11:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Please do not ignore the points being made. Women and girls safety relies on legislators understanding all the issues thoroughly. Strip clubs are a problem wherever they are located.

Many thanks

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

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

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 11:40

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

Dear Licensing service,

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

Finch Shimla (CEX)

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

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

From:

Sent: 24 May 2019 12:17

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

I object to this licence as its location is entirely unsuitable even according to your own policy - it is even on a University campus. As you should know, a strip club CANNOT legally challenge a decision not to relicense on the grounds of unsuitable locality.

Further, recent independent investigations have shown extreme levels of sexual contact and sex acts at this club, despite numerous regulatory measures. Sexual contact was also shown at the flagship Spearmint Rhino in Camden - despite 63 CCTV cameras. The Rhino chain has a 20 year history of prostitution, drugs, drink spiking and pimps under different managers and CEOs. A new manager or a few more cameras is obviously not going to make any difference whatsoever in Sheffield. The licence holder is clearly unfit. You cannot prevent crime and disorder and you cannot abide by equality law.

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

You are also undermining gender equality - i.e. women's equality by continuing to run thi skind of establishment.

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