

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection
Attachments: SR template objection letter 2019.docx

O281 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 03:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

As a student myself, I feel it would be innapropriate to have a strip club on the university campus, it would send a bad message to students

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE

Dear Licensing

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

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

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

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

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

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

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

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

Kolvin continues with:

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

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

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

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

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

Location

In its current policy, the Council states:

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

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

There are many educational establishments in the vicinity and Brown Street is also an access route to the Sheffield College Granville Road campus and UTC which provides education for children from the age of 14. It is in close proximity to Freeman College which provides

education for students (16 – 25) who have a range of complex learning, mental health and behavioural needs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further grounds for refusal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It is further reported:

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

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

References

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Urgent: Objections to Spearmint Rhino licence by 24 May
Attachments: winmail.dat

O282

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 08:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: Urgent: Objections to Spearmint Rhino licence by 24 May

To whom it may concern,

I am a member of the Know the Line group because I have first hand experience of the implications of living in a place where men's needs are put before women's. Mens freedom is more important than women's basic physical safety and ongoing self esteem and mental wellbeing.

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

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

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

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

The strip club business is based on the sexualisation and objectification of women, seeing women as a 'commodity' and creating a place where men do not have to consider the thoughts, feelings or consent of women, but can simply buy whatever they want from them. Licensing Spearmint Rhino not only encourages these behaviours in men, but legitimises them.

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

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

For all of those reasons given above I expect the Licensing Committee to refuse this license application.
Chair of Know the Line campaign group

Please make the correct decision for all Sheffield citizens.

Yours sincerely

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

O283

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 08:36

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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

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

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

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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

O284

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 08:43

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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Subject:

FW: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

O285

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 09:11

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Sr objection
Attachments: Objection to Licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019.docx

O286 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 09:30
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: Sr objection

Objection to Licensing of Spearmint Rhino 2019

To: Licensing Services Sheffield

Dear Licensing,

This is a personal objection to the application for license renewal above.

- I am aware of objection submissions from Not Buying it Sheffield and of signatories to a submission produced by Zero Option and the Women's Equality Party and many other eloquent individual submissions and do not propose to reiterate those details/arguments.
- I have objected to renewal of the licence previously and am concerned that the previous re - licensing decisions have not given due weight to the concerns of local people. Nor taken proper account of the Public Sector Equality Duty as regards sex inequality. Nor understood their legal powers to decline or take a fresh look.
- At the time of this licensing proposal I am also concerned that information about potentially serious breaches which has been presented appropriately to the council is still subject to an ongoing investigation which is not resolved at the point of this submission.
- By way of preamble, as a woman in this city I have no wish to diminish the experiences of women who have found reason to be working at Spearmint Rhino, with whom there is likely to be common ground in terms of life experience, care responsibilities, financial struggles personal experience, experience of abuse and violence. Nor do I think any less of

- those women and have publicly stated as such including in licensing hearings.
- It is regrettable that some of the public discourse has characterised those of us concerned about the impact of sexual entertainment venues and the impact on all women, as anti-women. It is regrettable that we have been characterised as “Old Hags” in public tweet. Old hags can be body positive and sex positive too(though this club would probably discriminate against women of my age.)
- I take a position not on “so called” moral grounds or because of ambivalence or anxiety about sexual activity. A previous legal judgement against the council reflects that objection on the grounds of equality arguments have been wrongly been dismissed as moral. Inequality and the safety of all women are the critical issues here.
- I note one objector who describes Spearmint Rhino as a haven of sexism. Indeed one woman posting on social media described the working environment as hard work before going on to warn of sexism, bullying and sexual assault.
- It is naïve to imagine that it could be any other; or that it is unusual or that it does not happen in similar establishments. Not Buying It research suggests an endemic and systemic pattern. The breaches under investigation locally are about sexual contact /sexual activity which is against the clubs own rules.
- We have to ask why this happens and understand that for most ordinary members of the public, even those who may be ambivalent about the operation of Spearmint Rhino the overwhelming view is that if rules are broken it should be shut.
- This industry requires, however that women be treated as objects, as Spearmint Rhinos promotional material and social media attest. There is a wealth of evidence about the links

between objectification of women, harassment and violence and a pretence of consent and mutuality does not mitigate that.

- I recently spoke with a professional working in student wellbeing; not specifically about Spearmint Rhino. However that worker referred to experience of working in an office near to the club and feeling uncomfortable; a discomfort exacerbated by realising that some students needed support when “they ran out of money and had to think of going into sex work”. Such choices do not exist in vacuum and if a driver for sex work is austerity, in whatever it’s manifestations, we cannot simply throw up our hands in horror and say that individual choice will sort out the underpinnings of inequality.
- There is also much evidence, clinical and otherwise about the specific impacts of working in the sex trade and since Spearmint Rhino promotes a narrow heterosexist/ hetero normative view of human sexual conduct in which men set the terms and women perform or second guess what men want, whether or not individual women argue that it is empowering it is arguable that overall the maintenance of stereotypes which may not be so sexually liberating and which also help to maintain unhelpful attitudes and beliefs
- Recently in a public arena and during the course of an otherwise informed discussion one woman suggested (a view which is not unusual in the context of these discussions) that it was better that men go into Spearmint Rhino rather than be out on the streets raping women. Setting aside the fact that most rape/ sexual assault is committed in the domestic sphere this is a shocking statement about perceptions of male entitlement and women’s role as servicers of uncontrollable men in the prevention of rape.

- Sexual harassment and violence against women and girls remains endemic. And there is no research which supports the argument that using strip clubs prevents rape. Indeed it might even be an influencing factor. As stated by Karen Monaghan QC “We are not going to get rid of sexual violence if we mandate the sexual objectification of women in licensed premises”.
- It is well within the power of this licensing hearing to refuse this licence and to look at the situation with fresh eyes. To re licence would be a dereliction of obligations in relation to the PSED, and in the absence, despite requests for such of any thorough, critical, substantiated cost benefit analysis of what Spearmint Rhino brings to this city both economically and in terms of the city commitment to equality and fairness, I urge that this opportunity for a Spearmint Rhino free Sheffield be seized. There are implications of this and I support Zero Options recommendations to address those implications proactively.
-

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: I am sharing 'objection.pdf' with you
Attachments: objection.pdf

O287 P1

From:]
Sent: 27 May 2019 09:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: I am sharing 'objection.pdf' with you

Shared from Word for Android
<https://office.com/getword>

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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

Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED]

Date 27.05.2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE [REDACTED]

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

By email to: licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

DATE 27.05.2019

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

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Kolvin continues with:

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

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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

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

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

O288

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 09:57

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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

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

O289

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 09:43
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Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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

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

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

Kind Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to SR licensing renewal
Attachments: SR Objection 2019 .docx

O290 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 10:02
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to SR licensing renewal

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached my objection to the renewal of the Spearmint Rhino SEV license.

Kind Regards,

27th May 2019

To: Licensing Service, Block C, Staniforth Road Depot, Staniforth Road, Sheffield S9 3HD email:
licensing@sheffield.gov.uk

Dear Madam/Sir

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema- both used by children and families -and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

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

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

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

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

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

O291 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 10:44
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

Dear Sir/Madam

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy ("the Policy") on the following grounds:

Discretionary Ground d)

i) Character of the relevant locality

(a) the fact that the premises are sited in a residential area;

The club backs onto student accommodation and the area is increasingly becoming more residential for students and non-students alike.

The city centre's residential population had risen from 6,000 to 30,000 over the last 10 years^[i] with further plans for more residential accommodation within the Cultural Industries Quarter (CIQ) and Knowledge Gateway. Furthermore, "the Alsop Fields development is a mix of residential apartments, studios, offices for the high-tech and creative sectors and places to eat and drink" and ". . . designed to be a destination in itself – a regeneration of part of the Cultural Industries Quarter that will be similar to the trendy parts of Manchester and London"^[ii] for which Brown Street and Paternoster Row are the main thoroughfares.

(d) the premises are sited near premises or areas which are sensitive because they are frequented by children, young persons or families, including but not limited to educational establishments, leisure facilities such as parks, libraries or swimming pools, markets and covered markets;

The Showroom and adjacent Work Station are frequented by families and both host events specifically for children including the world renown Children's Media Conference.

(e) the premises are sited near places and or buildings of historical/cultural interest and other tourist attractions.

It is directly opposite the Showroom cinema, which is "one of Europe's largest independent cinemas paired with the longest-running creative business centre in the city, housed in a converted 1930s car showroom."

It is also opposite the Site Gallery which has just undergone a huge expansion. Spearmint Rhino is not only centrally located in terms of proximity to a number of national and international events locations but it is also a direct access route, for example: Doc Fest; the aforementioned Children's Media Conference; Off the Shelf etc all of which are tourist attractions.

The club is next to Sheffield Hallam Students Union (iconic and a city landmark building).

ii) Use of other premises in the vicinity

The Licensing Authority will have regard to, but not limited to, the following:

(a) schools, nurseries or other premises substantially used by or for children under 18 years of age,

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

The club is also at the epicentre of the designated “Knowledge Gateway” and located on Sheffield Hallam University’s city campus whose masterplan is to further develop the area, which includes “new buildings for the Business School and social sciences, refurbishing the Students’ Union building known as The HUBS, creating a University Green [Festival/CIQ Square] and improving our current estate.”^[iii]

(b) parks or other recreational areas designed for use by or for children under 18 years of age;

The recreational space (formerly known as Festival Square but now named as Cultural Industries Quarter Square on the map of the area which can be found on Sheaf Square) is directly adjacent to the club and the club’s presence is holding back further use and development of this space into its full potential.

(c) hospitals, mental health or disability centres, substance misuse treatment centres, sexual exploitation services, sexual abuse centres or similar premises;

There are a number of charities and organisations in the area which support vulnerable children, young people and adults, one of which is situated directly behind the club. Charles Street is a direct access route from the bus stop on Arundel Gate and the car park on Arundel Street; direct access from both means that service users pass directly past the club through the unused and desolate Festival/CIQ Square.

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

See (e) under (i).

(f) predominately residential areas;

See (a) under (i)

(g) The Cultural Hub (Millennium Galleries, Tudor Square, theatres and library).

The location of the club is a de facto “cultural hub” given it is named the Cultural Industries Quarter. It is also on the direct access route to the 24/7 Addsetts learning centre from numerous student accommodation blocks in the immediate vicinity, which many will be accessing during the club’s opening hours.

(iii) the layout, character or condition of the premises, vehicle, vessel or stall in respect of which the application is made.

The building, despite the removal of signage during its closed hours, is a blacked out sinister presence incongruous with its surroundings and clearly marked buildings. Removal of the signage is “a sticking plaster to a gaping wound” approach by Licensing. Regardless of whether the club’s signage is visible in the day, it is widely known what the building is. Those who are not familiar with the building’s use visiting SHU on open days and viewing properties in the vicinity during the day will be unable to make an informed decision about moving into an area with a sex establishment on the doorstep.

Furthermore, the building could be put to a different use serving a far more diverse and greater number of people thereby enriching the CIQ in a more inclusive and compatible way.

Further grounds for refusal

The Public Sector Equality Duty and Gender Equality

The Policy states under the heading "The Equality Act 2010":

"This Act legally protects people from discrimination in the workplace and wider society. This includes the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which means that the Council must thoroughly consider, in the discharge of its licensing functions, the need to:

- promote equality of opportunity;
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- promote good relations".

This applies for this policy and to the consideration and determination of applications for sex establishments. (p.5)

I believe that sex establishments such as Spearmint Rhino directly discriminate against women by normalising the sexualisation and objectification of women, and that this contributes to their sexualisation and objectification in other areas of society. A 2016 review highlights how these venues undermine women's equality:

"Thus, in objectifying media women's role as a source of male sexual pleasure is emphasized and their humanity is deemphasized. After having internalized the messages of male sexual privilege and female dehumanization, it should be easier for men to envision imposing themselves sexually on women and reacting punitively to women who frustrate their sexual goals."^[iv]

The Council has a fundamental and non-delegable role to give due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, including tackling gender inequality. This applies notwithstanding the fact that Parliament has legislated to allow the possibility for sex establishments to be licensed in specific areas – subject to the choices of the local communities.

The Policy further states that:

"Licences will be refused if the Licensing Authority perceives a venue will have negative impacts on members of the public or vulnerable persons living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area".

Many women have voiced their concerns and fears about the presence of Spearmint Rhino in previous objections, including LGBT women and disabled women. In 2017, many examples of the negative impact of this club were given in objections, for example: one woman giving up her studio at Yorkshire Artspace and a contributory factor was the presence of the club and "running the gauntlet of men hanging around outside the club and harassing women." (objection 12) and others have stated how the club impacts on their business at hearings and in writing.^[v]

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

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

Kolvin continues with:

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

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

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

In addition an Australian article about women and girls' perceptions of safety in urban spaces highlights how they restrict their freedom of movement to avoid zones where there are strip clubs.^[ix]

Lap dancing clubs also reinforce negative gender stereotypes of male insatiable sexuality and female sexual availability which are hugely damaging to both sexes and to non-binary people. The stereotypes upon which they are founded do not foster good relations between the sexes, as evidenced in 2016 by Zero Option at the Villa Mercedes hearing representation and its 2017 oral representation at the hearing^[x].

In their UK study published in 2011 Sanders and Hardy^[xi] reported that 30% of the women performers interviewed said that as a result of doing the job they had lost respect for men; a finding echoed many testimonies of former performers.

The Policy states that “The Licensing Authority will also consider the following factors when deciding if an application is appropriate”:

(b) proximity to areas with high levels of crime;

On 22nd February 2018, it was reported in the Star that Arundel Gate which runs in parallel to Paternoster Row and is approximately 1-2 minutes on foot away depending on walking pace, is 10th in the top 10 areas of crime in the city and that “These offences, including assaults, robberies and sex attacks on women, were recorded between January and November 2017.”^[xii]

This image of a high-end establishment portrayed by this club goes in some way to normalising this type of venue in a very active part of the city, and as such giving the impression that Sheffield as a city condones both the sexualisation and objectification of women, which is in complete contradiction to the Council’s Equality policies. The fact that its location within Sheffield Hallam University buildings and the CIQ also conveys the message that this SEV is culturally embedded within the two and indeed integral to a higher education experience and Sheffield’s local heritage.

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

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

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

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

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

According to the BBC, the number of lap dancing clubs has fallen by a third in England^[xiv]. The same report states that “a survey conducted by YouGov in 2015 found 64% of people in Great Britain said strip clubs were a negative part of British culture.” I ask that the Committee refuse to grant the club a licence for all the reasons outlined and because Spearmint Rhino is anachronistic, it gives Sheffield and our much vaunted CIQ a negative image and may deter investors and developers. At a time when we are hoping to attract large investors and are bidding for Channel 4 to relocate in the vicinity, the Committee needs to turn down this licence application, which it is empowered to do.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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^[i]Sheffield Star 16th January 2018 *Dramatic rise in the number of people living in Sheffield city centre* Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/dramatic-rise-in-the-number-of-people-living-in-sheffield-city-centre-1-8960059>

^[ii] Sheffield Chamber of Commerce *Sheffield’s Cultural Industries Quarter expansion in £10m City Estates project* Available from: <https://www.scci.org.uk/2017/03/sheffields-cultural-industries-quarter-expansion-in-10m-city-estates-project/>

^[iii] Sheffield Hallam University 22nd February 2018 *New campus masterplan places Hallam at the heart of the city* Available from: <http://www4.shu.ac.uk/mediacentre/new-campus-masterplan-places-hallam-heart-city>

^[iv] Wright, P.J & Tokunaga, R.S (2016) Men’s Objectifying Media Consumption, Objectification of Women, and Attitudes Supportive of Violence Against Women in *Archives of Sexual Behavior*

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- [v] *Zero Option oral representation at the Spearmint Rhino hearing April 2017* Available from: <https://zerooptionblog.wordpress.com/2017/04/14/zero-options-representation-at-the-spearmint-rhino-licence-renewal-hearing-11th-april-2017/#more-524>
- [vi] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [vii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.87
- [viii] Patiniotis, J. & Standing, K. (2012) 'License to cause harm? Sex entertainment venues and women's sense of safety in inner city centres' in *Criminal Justice Matters*, 88:1, 10-12.
- [ix] Safe in the City? Girls tell it like it is. March 26, 2017 <https://theconversation.com/safe-in-the-city-girls-tell-it-like-it-is-72975>.
- [x] Slideshare available from: <https://www.slideshare.net/ZerooptionSheffield/villa-mercedes-hearing-8th-september-2016>
- [xi] Sanders, T., & Hardy, K. (2011) *The Regulatory Dance: Sexual Consumption in the Night Time Economy – Initial Findings*. Leeds: University of Leeds
- [xii] Sheffield Star 22nd February 2018 Available from: <https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/listed-these-are-the-10-most-crime-ridden-streets-in-sheffield-1-9030246>
- [xiii] Kolvin, P (2010) *Sex Licensing*, The Institute of Licensing p.90
- [xiv] 23rd February 2018 Available from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

Subject: FW: spearmint rhino objeciton

O292 P1

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:00

To: licensingservice

Subject: spearmint rhino objeciton

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

Date 27/05/19

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

Dear Madam/Sir

I am very impressed with the work going on along Brown street the so called knowledge gateway my workshop is on that street. I am surprised that in our modern, developing city Spearmint Rhino is still open. Its location on the street is totally out of place and holding back any proper development around that area. An area with new business trying to develop, education an internationally acclaimed art gallery a university and much more. It would be great to develop the park area for young and old have a bar and café and bring that area to life instead it is just a dead zone. It is just wrong. I hate leaving my workshop late at night when it is open and I and other women working late at Persistence works often arrange for someone to meet us as we do not feel safe walking to the bus stops in town along that street. I can handle the catcalling I am 60 years old and but I shouldn't have to and younger females should not have to deal with it and be threatened by it.

I also teach joinery at the Sheffield College and hear the opinions of many 16 to 17 years old boys opinions that you would think had disappeared back in the 70s but they have not. There is no respect for the women (birds) who work there they are objects just to be bought. And we are contributing those ideas by simply making it acceptable to have Spearmint Rhino in the centre of town. We have a duty to giving women in Sheffield a safe city and equality. A safe space to live and work and in the 21st Century and equality between the sexes.

I am writing to object to the relicensing of Spearmint Rhino because strip and lap dancing clubs are outdated and harmful and promote inequality between women and men, which is incompatible with the Council's obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Spearmint Rhino has no place in this city and its current location is particularly problematic being next to Sheffield Hallam University student's union, opposite the Site Gallery and Showroom Cinema-both used by children and families - and near Freeman College, attended by many vulnerable young people. On grounds of location listed in the council's SEV Policy the license can be declined

This council has already been subject to two judicial reviews about its failure to consider the effects on all women of licensing strip clubs. On both occasions it has lost. Strip clubs promote a message that it is acceptable to buy women's bodies for sexual gratification, thus treating women as sex objects. This at a time of greater awareness of the impact of such views on both women's sense of safety and

their actual safety and no evidence that violence against women, including street harassment of women, is decreasing. Research shows that men who hold objectifying views of women are more likely to be violent to women. In licensing Spearmint Rhino Sheffield City Council gives a confusing message about its commitment to women's safety and equality.

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

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

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

SIGNATURE

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Objection

O293

From:]

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Objection

Hi All

Hope you're well

I'd just like to add my objection to the Spearmint Rhino application on the grounds of the venue being in an unsuitable location in the heart of the city center in close proximity to key transportation links, Places of Education and was also a factor in Sheffield not being seriously considered for the Channel 4 HQ Bid due to the proposed Site being in such close proximity to Spearmint Rhino.

Thanks



Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject:

FW: Objection for further Spearmint Rhino License

O294

From:**Sent:** 27 May 2019 11:23**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Objection for further Spearmint Rhino License

Objection to a further Spearmint Rhino Stripclub license

I am Sheffield resident, tax payer and have lived in Sheffield all my life and most importantly a concerned mother of 3 girls. I am horrified Sheffield City Council continue to give permission to Spearmint Rhino at all but essentially where it is located.

Such a prominent position in the industrial sector in the city and adjoining the university campus, yards from the train station serves to normalise the objectification of young women and cheapen the city.

I am not a hardened feminist and recognise this activity will always go on and it is important to make it safe. As a psychotherapist in the NHS I dont think we are looking after the women working there. I am not sure what a free choice it is for them and how much voice they have and would hope you include the women working there in the process. Whether it is overt and acknowledged or not there is a power imbalance in the activities that occur there and the Equality Act appears ignored fully.

It feels as a citizen of the city that Spearmint Rhino have you in their pocket. I am confident that in their absence the same business rates could be accrued from a more acceptable to the public establishment.

Sincerely

RMN, LLB, Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapist

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint rhino licence renewal
Attachments: SpearmintRhinoObjection2019.docx

O295 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 11:23
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint rhino licence renewal

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Thanks,

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

O295 P2

15/05/2018

Dear Licensing

Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence renewal

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

I believe that the Council should refuse the licence application under the Discretionary Grounds for Refusal of the current Sheffield City Council's 2018 Sex Establishment Policy and in accordance with the council's equality duties because it is completely inappropriate to have a strip club in that location, in such a central position within our city, close to so many educational and residential buildings and so many other things that should never have a strip club in their midst. This is both because of the direct damage that it causes having a strip club there and also because of the wider impact and message that it sends, having such a club, which is fundamentally based on outdated, stereotypical and harmful views of women, and assumptions that men are entitled to buy power over women's bodies.

I'm 17 years old, born and bred in Sheffield, and I'm amazed that in this day and age that something as old-fashioned and obviously discriminatory still exists, and has been actually approved each year by the council. In school I have learnt about the fundamental principle of respect- it is so vital for our society and the fact that this strip club still exists and promotes such derogatory and damaging views just utterly undermines the general message that we all are deserving of equal respect and rights.

I have several close friends in the LGBT+ community and it is because of places like Spearmint Rhino that I worry for their wellbeing- my friends do not conform to the archaic stereotypes which strip clubs promote, and could be subject to abuse by people who are influenced by the messages these places promote.

I'm currently thinking about my choices of where to go for University, and I would *never* choose a university which has a strip club in the middle of several of the main university buildings and literally next door to the student union.

Subject: FW: Objection to the licence application submitted by Spearment Rhino

O296

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the licence application submitted by Spearment Rhino

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to object to the licence application submitted by Spearment Rhino. The reasons for this objection are:

Giving a licence to this type of 'entertainment' does not fit in with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

By giving this licence you are legitimising the sexualisation and objectification of women.

It is inappropriate for Sheffield Hallam University to have such a premises on their campus.

It is inappropriate to have a strip club in the middle of the Cultural Industries Quarter.

If the current investigation into this premises shows serious breaches of the current licence then another licence should not be given.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Subject: FW: Objection to the current Spearmint Rhino application

O297

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 12:05

To: licensingservice

Subject: Objection to the current Spearmint Rhino application

To whom it concerns ...

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

In this age of #MeToo, where we understand more and more the extent of sexual violence and harassment women experience on a day to day basis, it is not justifiable to grant a licence for any Sexual Entertainment Venue and I have particular reasons for wanting you to refuse this licence to Spearmint Rhino.

No decision should be taken before the outcome of the current investigation is known. If that shows serious breaches of their licence, as Private Investigators have previously documented, a new licence should not be granted.

Such a venue legitimises the sexualisation and objectification of women. For that reason it cannot fit with the Council's Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

I believe that Sheffield City Council should adopt a zero cap on the number of sexual entertainment venues (SEVs). However, if I must bring your attention to the location of the venue ... I object to a strip club(sev) in the middle of the cultural industries quarter of the City or what can be described as the Sheffield Hallam Uni campus.

Kind regards and hoping your agreement with these comments leads to a refusal of a licence to Spearmint Rhino,

--

Subject: FW: Objection to "Spearmint Rhino" application (Sonfield Development)

O298 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:27
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to "Spearmint Rhino" application (Sonfield Development)

I am writing to object to the renewal application of Sonfield Development for an SEV licence for their premises "Spearmint Rhino".

My objection is based on the following grounds:

Unsuitability of applicant

The independent investigation into the premises revealed numerous serious breaches of the licensing conditions. Clubs in the past that have been found to have had licensing breaches have blamed the dancers and have subsequently fired them. However, it's clear that breaches of licence conditions are not the fault of one or two "bad apples" but are systemic in SEVs. If the **management** of the club is unable to monitor and control what goes on inside the club, despite the large number of CCTV cameras in place, it should be refused a licence on this basis.

Locality of SEV

The club is located on a university campus which is one of the most unsuitable locations that could be found for an SEV. As the committee will be aware, it is entitled to take a fresh look at applications each year and can refuse a licence on the grounds of unsuitable location without any changes to the locality. Councils try to mitigate the impact of SEVs on the local community by limiting their opening hours. However, university campuses are vibrant places in the evening and young women should not have to curtail their activities to avoid walking past or near an SEV. The only way to completely mitigate the risk to the local community is by not granting a licence at all.

I have been made aware that claims have been made in licensing hearings in Sheffield that Bristol - where I have lived for the last ten years - has been used as an example of where SEVs are not considered a problem in a central - and increasingly residential - location. This is absolutely not the case. Only a matter of years ago, Bristol had five SEVs in central locations and now it has two. Three have shut down because they either had repeated licence breaches (as has Spearmint Rhino) and the other lost their licence when the licensing committee imposed a cap of two in the centre of the city. The Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Inspector of Licensing and the Mayor of Bristol have all spoken out against the re-licensing of the remaining two clubs' licences.

Need to show due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty

Sex entertainment venues contribute to negative attitudes against women and girls.

Numerous studies have established that, when a man views a woman as an sexual object, he sees her as less than fully human. There is a wide range of work showing that objectified women are also perceived as less competent. Research has shown that, when men view sexualised pictures of women, they subsequently view a female experimenter as doing a worse job. In other words, men "carry over" their views of the sexualised women to another woman who was not scantily dressed. In the 'real world', consider the impact on a man who has been to a lap dancing club on a corporate event with his male peers interacting with his female colleagues the next day; or consider the impact on a member of a stag party who will be interacting with his partner after visiting a lap dancing club.

A study, "Street Harassment – It's Not Ok", published on 8th October 2018 by the children's charity, Plan International UK, revealed that: *"Two-thirds of the girls we surveyed – 66% – had experienced sexual attention or sexual or physical contact in a public place, while 38% had experienced verbal harassment at least once a month. 15% reported being touched, groped or grabbed every month."* The media picked up the story with the headline: *"a third of girls had been harassed while wearing their school uniform"*.

The charity is calling on the government to recognise street harassment as a type of 'gender based violence' and is asking for there to be support for boys and men to change their attitudes and challenge harassment. The report contained interviews with girls, one of whom said "It's just become normal". I hope the licensing committee understands the connection between SEVs which objectify women and the sense of entitlement over women's bodies that leads men and boys to sexually harass women and girls with impunity.

0298 P2

Heflick, NA & Goldenberg, JL (2009). Objectifying Sarah Palin: Evidence that objectification of women causes women to be perceived as less competent and less fully human. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 45, 598-601 and Loughnan, S. Haslam, N, Murmane, T., Vaes, J., Reynolds, C., & Suitner, C (2010). Objectification leads to depersonalisation: The denial of mind and moral concern to objectified others. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 40, 709-717.
<https://plan-uk.org/file/plan-uk-street-harassment-reportpdf/download?token=CyKwYGSJ>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-45777787>

Please refuse this application.

Yours sincerely

Please remove any identifying details if publishing this objection

Subject: FW: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence

O299

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:16
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to Spearmint Rhino licence

Dear Licensing Committee

I would like to register my objection to the renewal of the licence for Spearmint Rhino on the following grounds:

- 1) It legitimises the sexualisation and objectification of women. This is something our city should be working to eliminate for the benefit of society as a whole, not promote by licensing a sexual entertainment venue.
- 2) It is completely inappropriate to have a sexual entertainment venue in the middle of the cultural industries quarter - hardly a great advert for our city's image.
- 3) If the current investigation shows serious breaches of the current license, then another license obviously shouldn't be given.

I expect the council to take their Public Sector Equality Duty seriously and turn down this licence application.

Yours sincerely

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

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

O300

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 12:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Objection to the re-licensing of Spearmint Rhino

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

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

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