

APPENDIX E

Representations - Support

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino licensing renewal

From:

Sent: 02 May 2019 21:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino licensing renewal

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today to show my support for spearmint rhino Sheffield, yet again the licence is up for renewal, and yet again all the dancers, management, staff plus there family and friends are having to band together to protect there jobs and there wellbeing. This is a huge stress each year for all involved, due to the uncertainty of there future and there job security, as well as the club being forced into the limelight at each renewal in a negative way, which affects the clubs business and reputation.

My girlfriend has worked at the club for 2 years and the confidence and independence this job has given her is amazing, the flexible hours allow her to spend more time with me, her friends and family, because she has control over when she wants to work. I also see how much she enjoys her work, and how close she is to everyone at the club, this reassures me because I know each girl that works there is looked out for and protected. I know the management and security will take good care of her so I never need to worry, they listen to each girl and if anyone makes them feel uncomfortable or acts inappropriately they are removed from the club straight away, they also call each girl a taxi at the end of the night so they have a record of the licence number and driver, and walk each girl out to the taxi to double check they are safe, and if anyone is hanging around outside they won't let the girls leave until it is safe. I am confident no girl is left out or uncared for emotional, as all the girls are good friends, always talking on the group chat together and helping each other out if they have any problems.

I know there are certain groups out there that claim to want to help these girls, and that they think that attacking the club will achieve this, they claim to have the girls best interest at heart, yet have not spoken to a single girl that works here to find out what they want. This simply does not make sense, and you have to question there motives here.

I urge you, listen to the women that work for spearmint rhino, listen to there friends and family, listen to the customers that have shown support, and listen to the majority of Sheffield that support these women in doing what they want to do.

This is simply an administrative matter that shouldn't be allowed to be turned into a spectacle each year because that benefits know one. Women should not have to fight for there jobs and there rights every year, know matter what profession they choose to do.

Kinds regards

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield

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

From:
Sent: 03 May 2019 12:21
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino - Sheffield

To whom it may concern - Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

I am a High Court Enforcement Agent working on behalf of the courts enforcing warrants and high court writs. I am certificated by the judge at Nottingham County Court who has to be satisfied I am a fit and proper person to carry out my role.

I have been doing this job 13 years and have experienced enforcing warrants at similar venues at the other end of the spectrum to where this venue operates. I feel the venue is being put under unfounded scrutiny based on a stigma that seems to be associated with the industry.

I have visited Spearmint Rhino Sheffield on several occasions over many years having been on my own, with my partner, and also held a work party there. I have always been impressed with how the venue is ran and the safe environment the staff have to work in.

I have never witnessed any trouble inside the club and every member of staff I have met there enjoys their work and I know some of the girls personally who all seem to have concerns there is a chance they could lose their employment due to unfounded circumstances beyond their control.

My partner works in the same industry (no connection to the venue whatsoever) and has commented it is the best environment for the industry she has ever seen.

I am fully behind this venue and the staff there and feel I am in a very good position to judge this venue based on my extensive dealings with similar venues in the same industry across the country.

Can you please confirm receipt of this email.

Kind Regards

High Court Enforcement Officer

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

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

From:
Sent: 03 May 2019 13:17
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence Renewal

To whom it may concern,

I have worked at the Sheffield Spearmint Rhino for many years now. This establishment has become far more than just a place of work for me. It is a place where I have built some of the strongest bonds and made the closest friends i've ever had in my entire life. It has also given me the opportunity to be the best parent I could possibly be.

When I first started working here, I was a single mum caring for a 4 year old. I had struggled to find a job that would suit my needs as a full time parent and was so relieved to have found somewhere with such flexible work patterns that allowed me to spend as much time as possible with my child and provide him with optimum care and opportunities with my above minimum wage earnings.

Stripping plays an important role in positive body image and self esteem. The job role requires us to be resilient to offence and rejection. We deal with this at Rhinos by constantly lifting and supporting one another, there is no room for jealousy or competitiveness as we understand this does not aid in creating a friendly atmosphere for our customers or ourselves. This is something that many other strip clubs and women in society still struggle with. The job also provides fantastic social aspects for people such as myself who may have otherwise struggled to maintain a healthy social life while being both parent and bread winner. Each day I work at at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, I know I am able to talk to my fellow employees and management about anything I may be struggling with and this gives me immense peace of mind.

It is not only the dancers and staff that this establishment positively affects. Throughout my years at the club I have come into contact with both male and female customers seeking refuge from stress and social anxiety. I have experienced them arriving at the club feeling depressed and suicidal from damaging relationships or socially impaired from disability or mental health issues and shortly after conversing with dancers and staff who hold no judgment or prejudice, leave feeling nurtured and validated.

Society needs to abolish the idea that stripclubs scam and degrade their customers. What we offer is emotional labour and adult entertainment. We provide a niche service to a wide demographic and even if one does not use this facility, it should be accepted as important by all.

Objectors are campaigning for a striplless city but I see no logic in attempting to completely abolish something that is in such high demand. In hindsight, we know this just pushes people to seek out service from illegal venues which Sheffield has a lot of. Shouldn't we be collectively striving for a city that moderates our work to ensure it is always carried out safely?

Moreover, the underhand tactics opposes of the club have recently carried out have actually had the opposite affect on what they supposedly should have. Dancers are now more scared than

ever to return to work in fear of being exploited and filmed against their will. What was once a place where we felt protected by our bouncers and management has been violated by the very people who claim to want to help us. I do not see how this is beneficial for the individual or our community. I feel it will ultimately lead to the separation of the people I have considered family for quite some time now.

In conclusion, I believe Spearmint Rhino Sheffield operates as the most effective strip club in the UK for all employed by or buying into the industry. To destroy what has been cultivated here would certainly be detrimental to the city and all involved. I hope that council members are able to see this and will allow us to continue providing our service to the city. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further insight into how we operate as a strong family unit.

Sincerely,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spirmint Rhino Support

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

From: Sent: 03 May 2019 23:04

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spirmint Rhino Support

Good afternoon,

My name is xxxxx xxxxx and I'm emailing to support the place I work.

Spearmint Rhino it is not just a place where I work, moreover this place made me feel like I'm in a big family. Practicing this job it's allow me to continue my university classes on the day time.

I use to dance to other clubs but for almost two years I decide to stop to Spirmint Rhino because it have professional staff which is helping me not only on work but it is always in there for anything the dancers needed. Moreover, I feel safe and protected.

In here the dancers are not just work colleagues but also a family.

Please feel free to ask any more information if you need.

Kind Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: renewal of spearmint rhino license

From:

Sent: 05 May 2019 12:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: renewal of spearmint rhino license

as a user of spearmint rhino over several years I support the renewal of their license as while I have been in there I have never seen any inappropriate actions .

speaking to the dancers they are doing this to support their studies or families.

to my knowledge of them they have gone on to become lawyers ,accountants and nurse's.

so by denying the license you are denying the ladies the chance to better their lives and futures

I know this is likely to be printed in the court reports and would like to be anonymous

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Open letter for Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:
Sent: 07 May 2019 09:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Open letter for Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

Due to the recent accusations which threaten the licence renewal for, Spearmint Rhino Sheffield, I thought you may like to receive an opinion from one of their most regular customers.

I am a single man of 37 with no partner and no children. My job requires me to be constantly working up and down the country and as Sheffield is very central, it has become my routine stop off in between work and home, as well as a location I routinely need to work. I feel very fortunate to have found this network of incredible people, it can be hard for me to socialise as I generally have to spend a lot of time on my own. But the convenience of knowing I can step into Rhino's six days a week and be able to relax at the bar with such friendly and welcoming people really makes my commute bearable.

I was sorry to hear that the radical organisation, Not Buying It, had made demands for the closure of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I no longer see the dancers at Spearmint as merely objects of desire, they have become some of my closest friends and the club my home away from home. Seeing how much of an affect this scandal has had on their mental health and wellbeing has being very sobering.

I find it ironic that Not Buying It will seem to stretch to any lengths, even exploit, abuse and betray these women in an attempt to prevent them from being exploited, abused and betrayed by their industry. I can see that this club is somewhere the girls feel safe. There is security at every door, management and fellow dancers are always checking up on each other to ensure the quality of care is kept at a high standard. I don't see or hear of any other club in Sheffield, let alone in the UK that upholds such strict monitoring.

If you were to revoke the licence. I believe it would have a really negative impact on Sheffield tourism. I see customers from accross the world visiting, claiming that this club has the best reviews nationwide. These customers mostly range from business men, stag parties and university reunions. The city would certainly lose all this custom with no strip club to visit.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my perspective and opinions. I hope this will be taken into account and I will be able to continue visiting this establishment that plays a very important role in my life.

ST

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Support for Spearmint Rhino

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 15:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Support for Spearmint Rhino

Dear whom it may concern,

I am a friend of one of the dancers at Spearmint Rhino. I am writing to express my support for the license of Spearmint Rhino to be renewed.

I have sat and discussed the current issues with my friend and listened to her thoughts. She expressed to me how much she enjoyed her work and how much it meant to her, including how dramatically it has helped her confidence and body image. I believe that women have the right to work in whatever jobs they wish, the same way that men do.

In regards to the claims that the license rules have been broken, I understand the girls involved have been suspended for their behaviour and so the rest of the workers should not be punished too. I don't believe that revoking the license of the club would prevent any further unlawful activity or breaching of strip club rules as the dancers would most likely be forced to move to other venues including non-regulated ones. If the primary concern is to remove dancers that are not complying to the rules then Zero Option Sheffield should only be interested in the dismissal of those particular girls and not shutting the whole club.

I have also read in the media that there is supposedly video footage of the sex acts taking place. This in itself seems of a higher concern than the acts themselves. How can it be fair, legal or safe for girls to be filmed in their place of work let alone without their consent?

My friend has explained to me all the actions that have been taken in order to improve the club and keep the dancers safe.

If this 'women's rights group' has such strong views on protecting potentially vulnerable women they should provide support services for the dancers, not attempt to put them out of work.

Thank you for your consideration.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield Licence Renewal

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 15:52

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield Licence Renewal

To whom it may concern,

I ask that you treat this letter as an honest rendition from someone who can offer you valuable insight into an industry you may not understand or have preconceptions about.

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I am not trafficked nor abused. I am not striving to feed an addiction or a need to feel validated. It is not that I am under-qualified for any other line of work or even that I work here as a means to an end. I work here because I enjoy creating unique fantasy experiences for people who require my services, these range from entertainment to therapy. I work here because the flexible hours give me the opportunity to balance work life with personal fulfilment. I work here because the employees of the club provide me with a strong sense of community that is rare to find in so many workplaces.

Spearmint Rhinos offers adult entertainment in the form of striptease and pole dancing performances for both men and women, while offering jobs to dancers, managers, security and bar staff. To withhold this would only turn both dancers and customers to club's in other cities, taking revenue away from Sheffield's economy and separating the family unit of dancers, staff and regular customers that has been built over the years.

I fear that customers may even turn to alternative illegal venues such as brothels where women are actually at risk of being exploited. Sheffield has more brothels per square mile than any other city, yet the council seems far more concerned with destroying the only safe haven it has for dancers and customers, this seems completely nonsensical.

I have worked in club's in other cities and was astonished at how poorly both management and dancers operated with one another as well as towards customers. Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is actually renowned for providing the most friendliest atmosphere in the UK, this is largely to do with how harmoniously we operate as freelancers under one roof. We should be seen as a model example of how strip club's should be run, Instead we are penalised each year at our license renewal and told to restrict our dance choreography, limit our advertising and even remove our sign from the building. The council should be proud of what we have achieved at Spearmint, not relentlessly trying to squeeze us out.

As a feminist, I completely reject the notion that we as dancers are exploited and need to be saved. It is the pinnacle of feminism to respect the rights of each woman to do whatever she wants with her body and not up to the council or anyone else to claim autonomy over it. When I strip, I am ultimately requesting payment to be gazed upon, something all women are constantly subjected to in society. I cannot feel exploited when I am profiting from and completely in control of the situation, yet when this happens on the street, in a nightclub or even the supermarket, I am vulnerable and defenceless. Stripping helps me gain power back from the misogyny I deal with in day to day life, this is why it is such a crucial drive in the feminist movement.

I understand that there are many objections against the club being allowed to keep its licence. Many will say it is because they want to prevent us from being exploited and sexualised. However no one has actually taken the initiative to contact any dancer at the club to ask us what we want or how we feel. Perhaps if this was done, objectors would be able to gain a better understanding of how to actually support and protect us. Likewise we would be more likely to approach outreach if we knew our firsthand accounts were being held in higher regard. There is simply no logic behind making a decision on assumptions and not through discussion or research.

I sincerely hope that the points I have outlined will help anyone with a negative opinion if Spearmint Rhino see it's value and necessity. Only by working together will we be able to ensure safeguarding for the citizens who depend on this establishment for more than just a living wage. It is our family, it is our home.

Sincerely,

Dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Regarding license of Spearmint Rhino Sheff

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

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 17:29

To: licensingservice

Subject: Regarding license of Spearmint Rhino Sheff

Hi sir/madam

FAO of licensing department in regards to Sheffield Spearmint Rhino

I'd just like to have it noted I fully support this establishment. I believe there license should be renewed without issue.

I don't believe a word what these so called "Feminists" groups are saying have occurred there.

I've never met a more friendly, caring, down to earth lot in my life.

They have all helps me better my life, as for many years I had suffered from severe social anxiety and depression and for long time never used to leave the house. Due to fear of having to speak to people.

A friend of mine took me a in there one evening on a night out, at first I was very reluctant having never been in a strip club ever in my life and only seen them in films and expected dirty, smelly, downriden place. Lucky to my surprise it was very clean and very well maintained and odourless. One of nicest bars I've ever been in around Sheffield. I won't name worst here..

Anyways got taking to few girls and felt very relaxing being able to talk to whom was complete strangers at the time, simply about anything n everything from weather to politics. They're very well educated girls in there and that blew me away from my stereotyping expectations of airheads Anyways fast forward a year now since I first visited and I find myself visiting often for a catch up with girls who I now class as friends who work there. Also given me less anxiety of talking to people that n general and very rarity I'm depressed these days. I put this down to girls in there and then just treating me with kindness and as a nice human being. Unlike most in my younger days who bullied me all the time.

Please note for record and in context of the above, that I don't drink alcohol either. I've been t-total since I was 21 and I'm now 35.

Please renew the license so we can keep these girls in well paid jobs they choose to do. As well as Door staff, bar staff, cleaners, maintenance person(s) and management.

Thanks

Photographer based in Sheffield

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

From:]

Sent: 07 May 2019 20:43

To: licensingservice

Subject:

To whom it may concern

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino and I wanted to write this email to show my support of the company. I enjoy working at within this industry and also enjoy working With Spearmint rhino as well. They are supportive and helpful in my roll.

I wish for my data to be kept private and not publicly available.

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Supporting letter

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

From:]

Sent: 07 May 2019 21:12

To: licensingservice

Subject: Supporting letter

Good evening,

My name is xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxxx, I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino . I wanted to write a letter of support because I love working at Spearmint Rhino because it allows me to spend a lot of times with my family.

It's a friendly and supportive environment.

I wish for all of my personal data to remain private.

Kind regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW:

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

From:]
Sent: 07 May 2019 21:18
To: licensingservice
Subject:

To whom it my concern

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino and I wanted to write this email to show my support of the company.
I enjoy working at within this industry and also enjoy working with Spearmint Rhino as well.
They are supportive and helpful in my roll.

I wish for my data to be kept private and not publicly available.

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

Subject:

FW:

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

From:

Sent: 07 May 2019 21:33

To: licensingservice

Cc:

Subject:

Hi! My name is xxxxxx xxxxxx xxxxxx I am a dancer working at Spearmint Rhino and I am sending this email because I am enjoying working at Spearmint because I earn easily my money I have plenty of time to study during the week and spend time with my family! I am very happy with my job and it is interesting to meet new people,earn money and have fun in the same time !

Best regards!

I wish for my personal information to be kept private.

S14

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence

From:
Sent: 07 May 2019 22:39
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino, ever since I started stripping I have loved every night working here. Having this job has allowed me to earn an income that allows me to have the freedom to spend with my family and friends unlike most of the other daytime jobs that have restricted me of less time and less income.

The community of this strip club is like no other place I have been to, the workers are very professional and friendly, something that is rare to find in other places of work in general. Working here can also improve and provide skills like self-confidence, time-management, communication, dedication and diplomacy but mostly provides a job that is enjoyable.

Dancing and stripping is not something that should be penalised or stopped due to someone else's opinion, especially those who have never experienced working as a stripper. It is not exploitation, I have never been forced or told to do something illicit. The dancers code is always followed, we have our rules already set, adding more would be unnecessary and would proceed to ruin the brand, the customers satisfaction, encourage defamation of Spearmint Rhino and result in job losses, which is something that is increasing in the UK in general, that would be adding to insult to injury, becoming detrimental to the nation as a whole.

Please reconsider revoking the licence.

I would like my information to be kept private and confidential.

Kindest Regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

From:
Sent: 08 May 2019 19:54
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern

I am writing with the application of Spearmint Rhino.

I agree with the club as it is a controlled environment for these women. I look at it this way at least these women are safe in the club and not working on the streets, and the main thing they are just trying to earn money for their families and at least they are not just claiming benefits.

If this is the way they want to earn their money this way who are we to judge.

Kindest Regards

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McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmintrhino supporting letter

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

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 20:08

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmintrhino supporting letter

Hi , my name is xxxxxx xxxx , I'm a dancer at spearmint rhino I'm enjoying working here because the SR team are professional ,helpful and supporting!

I wish that my data remain private and confidential!

Sent from my iPhone

McConaghy Julianne

To: McConaghy Julianne
Subject: RE: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

From:
Sent: 08 May 2019 20:15
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I wanted to draft a letter regarding spearmint rhino Sheffield.

I myself have worked here for over 15 years as a door supervisor and have thoroughly enjoyed my job here. All the girls here are fantastic and admire them for the opportunities this club has given them with a lot of them excelling in their own projects which without their earnings at the club would have been unachievable.

I hope I can continue enjoying my job here and I'm sure I speak for the rest of the employees in this respect.

Yours sincerely

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

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

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 20:34

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino supporting letter

I work at Spearmint Rhino, I have worked at numerous different clubs and I have found the team at SR to be the most professional and supportive in both my professional development as well as assisting me with my educational development.

I have a great sense of pride being a member of the Spearmint Rhino team and hope that we can push forward and lead by example of how a gentleman's club should be run.

Best regards!

House mum at Spearmint Rhino!

I wish my data to remain private and confidential

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

From:

Sent: 08 May 2019 20:37

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

Good evening,

I'm a friend of a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - I want to support as I've seen how much my friend loves her job, the stability it has given her in life is immense and I've watched her confidence blossom since she started this job. I have no concerns for the running of the club, I myself have visited numerous times and the management and girls are all happy, friendly and welcoming! I've never seen anything unprofessional happen in the club. I'm failing to see what the grounds are for revoking the clubs licence?

Surely, the worst thing that's happened in this club, is the fact that women have been photographed, filmed and blasted online without their knowledge or consent?

If anyone is to face consequences in this instance, should it not be the the person/persons, who entered the club under false pretences and filmed women who are doing nothing but working, to feed their families, fund their university courses - or what ever reason they decided to work where they do? After all - strip clubs are legal and I thought it was the choice of a woman what she does with her body, if she isn't breaking the law?

Kind regards,

McConaghy Julianne

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino supporting letter

From:**Sent:** 08 May 2019 20:38**To:** licensingservice**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino supporting letter

I'm a dancer at Spearmint Rhino, my name is xxxxxx xxxxxx.

I love working in this place because I feel very secure. Everything it's in the right place how it's supposed to be. We have a great management, who's looking after all of us, they make sure we are enjoying our job.

The most amazing thing it's that I can make my own shifts, that encourage me to plan my free time the way I want.

I wish for my data to remain private and confidential.