Subject:

FW: Spearmint Rhino Closure

From:

**Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:28

**To:** licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Closure

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Subject:

FW: Spearmint rhino license

From:

**Sent:** 23 May 2019 18:22 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint rhino license

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Subject:

FW: Perri1992@hotmail.co.uk

From:

**Sent:** 23 May 2019 16:38 **To:** licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Taking away such places leaves many women without a job, a job that many enjoy and have left precious employments of their own will to peruse full time.

Subject:

FW: Spearmint Rhinos

From:

**Sent:** 23 May 2019 16:30 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhinos

I am contacting you with tegard to Spearmint Rhinos.

I do not understand the people objecting to the licence request of the club when there are teo gay saunas, a swingers club and a brothel trade without any interference.

I also know someone who works there and am confident if lewd acts were taking place within the club she would resign and bliw the whistle herself.

The club serves a demographic within Sheffield made up of of students and young people who enjoy visiting the club as part of thier night out.

Therefore i request the you do renew the licence for the club and allow the people whoe enjoy working thier of visiting the club.

Many thanks

**Subject:** FW: Sheffield Strip Club

From:

**Sent:** 23 May 2019 15:21 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Sheffield Strip Club

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Sheffield's only strip club. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight knit community there. I believe we should listen first to the workers themselves before casting judgment about what we or others perceive about their life and their situation. These workers are free, conscientious individuals who deserve the freedom to work in ways that they believe are conducive to their flourishing.

While the dancers at the venue come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. The strip club allows for workers to engage in work that they find valuable in a setting that provides more protections than they would get elsewhere. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health, and their financial well being.

This club is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers *currently* in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Kind Regards,

**Subject:** FW: Sex work is still work

From:

**Sent:** 23 May 2019 15:11 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Sex work is still work

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

**Subject:** FW: Keep Spearmint Rhino open!!

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 08:02 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Keep Spearmint Rhino open!!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

#### Closure of the club will:

- Push performers further afield to look for work- break up community, spend more on travel
- Completely take away the incomes of waged workers at the club (door, bar, management) many of whom are the main earner/support families, have children or are carers.
- Lead to fewer licensed clubs in the UK, creating more competitive working environments in the remaining clubs
- Push workers into more dangerous and higher contact forms of stripping or sex work which is unregulated and will involve more risky activities.
- Negatively economically impact Sheffield
- Ignore the fact that workers within the industry are already unionising for better working conditions (through United Voices of the World trade union)
- Break up a close and supportive community
- Adversely impact the mental health of those affected
- Take away worker's independence and ability to support themselves and their families

Subject:

FW: Assistance

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 09:11 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Assistance

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

**Subject:** FW: stephsimpsonwrites@gmail.com

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 09:20 **To:** licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club would have negative impacts in many ways. Closing the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Spearmint Rhino Sheffield is a venue that has a place in Sheffield City Centre. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience. Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

**Subject:** FW: In favour of this

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 12:30 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** In favour of this

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

As a local resident of Sheffield I am in favour of the SEV license renewal: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

While the dancers at spearmint rhino come from a variety of backgrounds and careers, for some the closure of the club will inevitably mean a move towards riskier, unregulated or higher contact forms of erotic dancing and sex work that they would not otherwise choose. It would also mean breaking up a close and supportive community of colleagues and friends, which will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many workers, their mental health and their financial wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

Subject:

FW: Don't demonise sex workers

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 12:29 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Don't demonise sex workers

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

**Subject:** FW: Don't take away sex workers' livelihoods!

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 11:48 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Don't take away sex workers' livelihoods!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Subject:

FW: spearmint rhino licence

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 11:47 **To:** licensingservice

**Subject:** spearmint rhino licence

Dear sir/madam,

I am writing in support of the spearmint rhino club in Sheffield, which is currently awaiting a decision on its licence renewal. It is a safe venue of legal entertainment. The group lobbying against it, to my knowledge, simply have an agenda against the sexual entertainment industry, hence they have chosen a well known brand as a high profile target.

As a former resident of Sheffield for many years, I know many of the contractors and employees attest to the club being a great place of work. If it were to lose its licence to operate, the lives of those people would only be worse off. It provides a good or often second income to many staff, in an area hard hit in the recession. The generic calls from the lobbying group should not drown out those who actually work in the venue.

Kind regards,

**Subject:** FW: Licensing. Sheffield.

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 11:42 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Licensing. Sheffield.

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield.

The girls who work there need their workers rights protected - if you decide to shut down this place you're taking away a steady income and a safe environment in which to dance.

Please listen to sex workers if you want to help as we know what is best for us regarding our work and how to stay safe. Ask our opinions not those of club managers and certainly not those of supposed feminist organisations who oppose our work based on morality and the view it is a sexist industry.

It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

**Subject:** Spearmint rhinos

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 11:40 **To:** licensingservice **Subject:** Spearmint rhinos

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in regards to the licence renewal of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I hope that by reading the letters from employees of the club such as myself, you will be able to see the importance for Sheffield to keep its only strip club.

I have been working at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for 4 years now. I began working as bar staff initially as I had very low self esteem and didnt feel as though I would fit the conventional dancer criteria. I quickly learned that strip clubs were places where women of all variations could come to earn a living and be worshiped for their femininity and uniqueness. Alongside working on the bar, I was also working two other jobs in order to save up for a deposit on my first house. I was working 90 hours a week and regularly running on very minimal sleep which lead to a diagnosis of chronic IBS as a result of the stress I was experiencing.

I now work solely as a dancer at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Having no cap on my income gives me the opportunity to stay on top of my finances without streaching myself too far while the flexible work hours allow me to take as much time off as I may need when dealing with a flare up. Alongside being a massive asset in building my self esteem, working at this establishment has put me in contact with other employees I now consider life long friends. How many other jobs have so many benefitting factors?

It is baffling to hear there are demands that Sheffield (home of The Full Montey) becomes a stripless city and that the reasoning behind is because opposers want dancers to 'escape' the industry yet they have failed to realise dancers are freelancers. If you close down one club we will simply move to another and instead of removing dancers from the industry they will just be making our commute longer, more expensive and put our safety at risk. Feminism depicts that every woman should be free to do whatever she wishes to do with her mind and body. I am offended that we are not considered to be able to think for ourselves and know whats best for us.

To also hear arguments that the objectification and sexualisation of women outside of strip clubs is a biproduct of the stripping industry is infuriating as it fails to consider that women have always and will still be objectified without their consent in public for free. Women will always be gazed upon and desired because the female anatomy is an amazing, life providing work of art. If we are going to be subjected to this completely natural human instinct, why not profit from it in a safe and controlled environment?

It is widely known that people are driven into all kinds of jobs as a result of economic conditions. SWERFs (sex work exclusionary radical feminists) will never abolish the abuse and exploitation of actual vulnerable women by attacking the dancing community, only by attacking these conditions. If these people are so concerned with how others choose to make a living, why aren't they focused on combating low pay, zero hour contracts and discrimination in other jobs many marginalised women find themselves in?

In summery, this conducted sting operation that threatens the livelihood of me and my fellow dancers has

3215 /2

only driven us to unionize nationwide and seek support from the public where the has response has been overwhelming. We want the WEP to realise that they can't stop people choosing to have a career in the stripping industry on the basis that they don't agree with it. The art of strip tease needs to be tolerated and the voices of the feminists, Dancers, staff and customers need to be heard so that this profession can continue to be moderated and safegaurded.

Sincerely,

**Subject:** Closure of spearmint

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 11:35 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Closure of spearmint

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

I have friends that work for spearmint rhino and they do it for the love of the job and the enjoyment of using their bodies in the way they want to. It promotes body confidence and self confidence!! It's an amazing place

**Subject:** Regarding Spearmint Rhino

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 11:33 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Regarding Spearmint Rhino

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

Workers at Sheffield's only licensed strip club love their jobs which offers:

- Flexible hours- work around health/family/academic/other career commitments
- Good pay on average
- Fun working environment
- Supportive atmosphere
- Tight knit community of colleagues, management, door and bar staff and performers
- Increased body confidence
- Financial means to support families, academic and creative pursuits, travel
- Meeting people from a wide range of backgrounds

#### Closure of the club will:

- Push performers further afield to look for work- break up community, spend more on travel
- Completely take away the incomes of waged workers at the club (door, bar, management) many of whom are the main earner/support families, have children or are carers.
- Lead to fewer licensed clubs in the UK, creating more competitive working environments in the remaining clubs
- Push workers into more dangerous and higher contact forms of stripping or sex work which is unregulated and will involve more risky activities.
- Negatively economically impact Sheffield
- Ignore the fact that workers within the industry are already unionising for better working conditions (through United Voices of the World trade union)
- Break up a close and supportive community
- Adversely impact the mental health of those affected
- Take away worker's independence and ability to support themselves and their families.

Thank you,

**Subject:** Support for Spearmint Rhinos

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 10:51 **To:** licensingservice

Subject: Support for Spearmint Rhinos

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. I believe that this establishment is a necessary and professional place to work and visit.

As a female I have felt welcome and safe in the premises. The ladies who work there have been completely professional and good natured. I have been here with groups of girls, men and a mix. I have never seen anything untoward and I have never seen any violence unlike many other venues in Sheffield.

It is a legitimate business that stimulates the local economy like any other and the government recommends that objections based on moral grounds should not be considered when licensing Sexual Entertainment Venues: sexuality is a natural part of the human experience.

Not everyone need visit or agree with such venues, but venues should not be closed on moral grounds objecting to sexual entertainment itself. Regarding alleged license breaches: the club has a record of legal and safe operation spanning over 15 years, and I believe the club should be given the chance to remedy any alleged misconduct and put in place measures to ensure such breaches are not allowed to take place.

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 10:41 **To:** licensingservice

Subject:

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I'm writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield. Please renew the SEV license: the club is unobtrusive in it's area, and closure of the club will take away many waged positions (door, bar, management, cleaning staff) which provides for many families across Sheffield. It will also take away jobs for many women working as dancers at the club, many of whom are also parents or have caring responsibilities. Workers within the club consistently assert that they are there of their own free will, and that they enjoy their jobs, and the tight-knit community there.

Whilst it should be taken into consideration that the stripclub industry as a whole is not perfect, it is also important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

Finally, I would like to express my condemnation of tactics used by self-described feminist groups. Filming women in the nude without their consent or knowledge is not acceptable, nor is it acceptable to pay others to do so, and those concerned with women's rights more generally must also respect the rights of the women upon whom their actions and campaigns have the most impact. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject such activities, and for action to be taken against those commissioning such footage.

**Subject:** FW: Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

From:

**Sent:** 24 May 2019 12:43

**To:** licensingservice

**Subject:** Spearmint Rhino License Renewal

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

I am writing to ask you to renew the license for Spearmint Rhino. It's important to note that dancers across the UK and in Spearmint Rhino Sheffield are unionising and fighting for their workers rights. Removing a safe and regulated venue from workers who are engaged in this fight does nothing to support them and in fact detracts from this aim by dispersing dancers who are already unionising at work further afield and distracting their focus to finding alternative venues and avenues of work. It is hard to fight for workers rights when you have to fight for the right to work at all! While it is important to focus on exploitation in any industry, it is paramount to listen to the views, experiences and wishes of workers currently in the industry, as it is those people who know best the conditions that will help them.

