

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: licensing

S301

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:06
To: licensingservice
Subject: licensing

Hello

I wish to remain anonymous.

I am writing this email to let you know that i am in full support of the Sheffield licensing. I have been a lap dancer for almost 5 years and i have to say this job has fully transformed my life for the better in so many ways. I fell into the job as i heard about a friend of a friend who was doing it and she had paid off many debts with help from the job. I was bored of my day job and after doing lap dancing for just a few months i decided to take the leap and leave my 9-5 day job and focus on dancing. I am more confident now and i love what the job entails, with meeting different people and the whole social aspect of the job is great! I have been to many exoctic countries in the past 4 and a half years and i now have my own house which i am tremendously grateful for and i know i wouldn't be as happy as i am now or in the good position i am in in life if it wasn't for lap dancing.

Thankyou

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S302

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 18:08
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

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.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S303

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 19:01
To: licensingservice
Subject: Save 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.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S304

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 19:33
To: licensingservice
Subject: Re: Spearmint Rhino

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.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Hearing
Attachments: sr letter .docx

S305 P1

From:]
Sent: 26 May 2019 19:48
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Hearing

Dear Council staff,

Hope all is well. Attached to this email is a letter from myself in support of renewing the license for Spearmint Rhino; I hope the points made therein will be considered in the hearing.

Thanks and best wishes,

--

PhD Candidate
Department of Philosophy
University of Sheffield
45 Victoria Street
S3 7QB

I don't expect you to respond to my email outside your working hours. I respect your working pattern and I am looking forward to your response when you are at work.

Dear staff at Sheffield City Council Licensing,

I am writing to you in three capacities today; first as a local resident, second as a PhD researcher working on Objectification, and third as a friend of a couple of the workers at Spearmint Rhino. I am writing to offer you my views, professional and personal, on why Spearmint Rhino's license should be renewed.

Location

I live within a few hundred yards of Spearmint Rhino. I walk to and from work past it every day, I used to work nights, so have often walked past in the middle of the night and early hours of the morning. I have never felt unsafe around that area. On the contrary, I am glad to know there is somewhere nearby that I know to have security present, and compassionate staff. I often feel unsafe walking down Brammall Lane after a football match or down West Street during Varsity, but no-one has yet suggested cancelling sports or relocating them to a safe distance from any passers-by. Further, there is, as far as I'm aware, there is no evidence of greater crime near the venue. Also regarding the location: the complaint that Spearmint Rhino is too near to Hallam Hubs is unreasonable, as Spearmint Rhino was there before Hallam bought the Hubs building. Finally, this shouldn't need to be said but: students are adults and are capable of making their own decisions; the idea that seeing a strip club near their uni will be a bad influence is paternalistic and insulting.

Exploitation

Next, I would like to make a few notes on the 'exploitation' claims that were made by purportedly feminist groups at previous licensing hearings. Last year, a point was made about women occupying lower paid positions than men in the venue, which is obviously a problem; a problem shared by virtually every institution in this city, including both universities and the council. Next, concerns were raised about the wellbeing of the workers. Notably, these concerns were raised by people who had never worked in the venue, and *no current workers* were consulted on this. The current workers are the (only) experts on the working conditions. Not asking the workers if they experience exploitation, and whether they want their venue closed down, and assuming someone else knows better, denies their agency and is dehumanising. It implies you see them as incapable of making sensible decisions: this is an infantilising and misogynistic. Last year at the hearing, one person described the situation in strip clubs as "consent being muddled by the handing over of money" – a criticism which can be made of *all paid work* or none. On this point: part of a commitment to believing women when they say they have been sexually assaulted is believing them when they say they have not been. Feminists must care about consent to sexual contact, and this involves believing women when they say that consent is present, as well as when they say it is absent. It is extremely harmful and offensive to suggest that the workers experiences of real sexual violence, and their work, are the same thing; some of these women will inevitably be survivors of violence and to tell them their jobs are the same as when they were really raped is disgusting. This claim is connected to the claim that women's options are so limited, that consent to this kind of work is not really valid. But again, this can be levelled at all kinds of work, particularly minimum wage work, and if women's options are limited the answer is not to *limit them further* by closing down legal venues.

Furthermore, if there was a problem with exploitation, or poor working conditions, the solution would not be to shut the venue down (this only makes things worse, by pushing the workers into a precarious financial position), the solution is to improve the rights of the workers. (Relatedly, the rights of the workers have now improved, as they have been unionising in order to strengthen

themselves in the face of attacks from the carceral feminist groups). Consider the University of Sheffield: casual workers at the university are exploited, and MPs such as Louise Haigh have been rightly speaking out against this treatment and the impact of casualisation in general. Notice, no-one has suggested shutting down the university as a result of this exploitation. I hope that if workers at Spearmint Rhino are exploited, then Haigh and others will similarly offer help in campaigning for labour rights, rather than shutting it down.

Objectification

The word 'objectification' gets thrown around a great deal in these discussions, featuring with regularity in last years' hearing, and I those using it don't seem to have coherent conception of the phenomenon. When objectors to the license last year referred to 'objectification' they can be understood as making one of two claims: (1) that the workers themselves are objectified or (2) that the existence of strip clubs contributes to women's subordinate status in general. Let's address these one by one.

i) The workers are objectified

One claim that was made last year was that the workers were conforming to stereotypes about how attractive women should look. This was referred to as objectification, but this is a misapplication of the term. I'll deal with it here anyway before moving on to actual objectification. The criticism of Spearmint Rhino workers for meeting a stereotyped aesthetic buys into two harmful ideologies: firstly, it commits the mistake of prescribing to women how they should and shouldn't dress. This is something we feminists have been fighting against, so for self-proclaimed feminists to make prescriptions about how 'real women' should look is bitterly ironic. Secondly, it subscribes to a 'purity' ideology, which relies on the premise that there is something shameful about women using their bodies for their own benefit, and feeds into slut-shaming and victim-blaming more widely.

Now, on to actual objectification; There are a few possible definitions of objectification, but in the feminist literature most seem to turn on reducing a person to her appearance or body parts and on paying less attention to her other attributes. This happens to us constantly, and is often unwelcome and unpleasant. However, there is very important point in the 'often' here: objectification is not *necessarily* harmful. Sure, it is harmful a lot of the time, but it is not in every single instance, and it is my job as a philosopher to work out *when* it is harmful, and what makes it so. Myself and others argue that objectification is harmful *when it is non-consensual*. To motivate this, consider the following cases: both will count as objectifying on this understanding, but only one is harmful.

Squeeze 1: At a party, a man discreetly squeezes a stranger's bottom, to communicate that she looks sexy. She did not consent to this and is unhappy.

Squeeze 2: At a party, a man discreetly squeezes his partner's bottom, to communicate that she looks sexy. She consented to this and is pleased.

These cases are nearly identical, a key difference being that one is *consensual* and one is not. Given what we as a society agree about sex in general, this should be intuitive: *that non-consensual sexual contact will be harmful, when similar consensual contact need not be.*

One could respond at this point "wait there is another difference; the man in squeeze 1 was a stranger". However, prior relationship between parties cannot be the difference-maker here. To see this, imagine if in squeeze 2 the woman had asked her boyfriend before the party "please don't

touch me sexually this evening, I'm not in the mood", and imagine he still squeezed her bottom at the party. In this case, the prior relationship still exists, but he has definitely done something harmful. This is because she *did not consent*. Similarly, sexual contact between relative strangers can be completely harmless, as long as you are not committed to archaic ideas that casual consensual sex outside monogamous long-term heteronormative relationships is somehow improper.

When someone leers at us at a bus stop, or catcalls us, or spends our job interview staring at our breasts; that is harmful objectification. But when we consent to another person engaging with our bodies in a particular way, that is not harmful. When the workers consent to a customer looking at their bodies, this is not a harm in the same way that any of us consenting to our partners looking at our bodies is not a harm. The workers value the distinction between what they have consented to and what they haven't. To behave as if this distinction is not relevant is to dehumanise the workers, and relies on the myth that some women are always appropriate objects to violate, and that their consent is irrelevant.

The attitude of some of the Spearmint Rhino workers is 'well misogyny is everywhere, so I'm going to be objectified either way, I'd rather do it on my terms and get compensated for it'.

ii) The existence of strip clubs contributes to women's subordinate status in general

It is entirely plausible that various media that display women's bodies in an objectifying way contribute to sexism generally. However, this has nothing to do with Spearmint Rhino. First, Spearmint Rhino *does not advertise* outside the venue. Secondly, and more importantly, there is no reason to believe the (mere) existence of strip clubs does damage to women's status in society on scale even remotely comparable with that of car adverts, clothing adverts, romantic movies and TV shows. If you want the really big contributors, those who have a pervasive and pernicious impact on how men view and treat women, you want Mercedes, Bic, BMW, American Apparel, and every chocolate, beer, and clothing company; you want to shut down every television show and movie which romanticises men harassing women (which is virtually every drama or romcom ever). *There is absolutely no unique contribution from Spearmint Rhino to patriarchy.*

Furthermore, whatever the contribution to sexism in general, it is actively anti-feminist to sacrifice one group of women, particularly an already marginalised group (women in the sex industry) for the sake of others.

Finally, regarding how the workers have been treated. I would like to take this opportunity to forcefully condemn the shocking behaviour from anti-sex work groups and the council. First, it is inexplicable that the council have not invited workers to speak in their own defense at past license hearings. Allowing claims about the workers to be thrown around each hearing without an attempt at hearing what the workers *themselves* actually experience is both foolish and dehumanising. Second, the behaviour of groups Not Buying It and Zero Option has been disgusting on social media and their websites: they have been insulting and attacking the workers, describing them in dehumanising ways like "implants wrapped around a pole", and shutting down any attempt the workers have made to communicate amicably. Lastly and most importantly I was deeply saddened and angered to hear that these groups, along with the Women's Equality Party, have utilised private detectives who violated the workers by filming their bodies without their consent, and sharing that

amongst themselves, and publishing details on the internet. This is a gross violation of their boundaries, and is tantamount to revenge porn and sexual harassment, and has made the workers feel anxious and afraid as they don't know who might've seen their bodies without their consent.

I hope you take all of this into account for the hearing, and I would love to be kept informed on any developments if possible.

Thanks and best wishes,

Subject: FW: Keep Spearmint Rhino's open!

S306

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 20:01

To: licensingservice

Subject: Keep Spearmint Rhino's open!

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 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.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S307

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:13
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

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 its 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.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S308

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:30
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

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.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S309

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 20:32

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save spearmint rhino

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.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Plea letter
Attachments: Striper letter.docx

S310 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: Plea letter

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

To whom it may concern,

I have recently been informed that the licence for Spearmint Rhinos in Sheffield is up for dispute. I am saddened as a woman that in this modern day in which we strive for gender equality that this subject is even deemed worthy of the council's time.

Although I do not commonly frequent the club, I am in close contact with a number of the dancers there and think it ludicrous and prehistoric that people are bringing into question the livelihood of these women. For many, if not all of the ladies who work at Spearmint Rhinos, it is their sole source of income; allowing them to pay their bills, care for their families, and generally be a positive contributor to their community and the economy. To jeopardise that by considering revoking the licence is not only cruel on these women and their families, but also poor business sense when it allows all of these ladies to pay into a system, which is already chronically underfunded, rather than possibly relying on that system to support them financially.

In addition to the financial implications, the lack of gender equality displayed by this motion is disgusting. These women have chosen a career which allows them to have pride in their bodies and earn a living in a way which suits them. I do not see similar motions for the "dream boys" or other such shows to be cancelled, only those which showcase female dancers. The only differences I can see between these shows and Spearmint Rhinos are as follows: one show is in a fixed place whilst one tours the country, and one features males whilst the other females. This may be an oversimplification of the matter but, whatever fundamental issues are being raised against the renewal of Spearmint Rhino's licence should also be raised regarding male dancing, as they are not, I can only assume this is predominantly gender based decision. If this is the case, and the licence is only in question because the dancers are female, then it becomes an issue regarding gender discrimination.

I hope the concerns these women are experiencing over the uncertainty of their livelihood can be brought to rest swiftly due to the lack of any sort of logical basis to them. I also plead you not to repeat the undue stress being placed on these hardworking women again by threatening their income for a reason which has already been addressed previously. They are expressing their free will over how they support their families and contribute to society and enjoying the job as well. I beg you do not remove their choice from them purely because they are females already stigmatised by sections of society.

Yours Sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW:
Attachments: rhinos ple letter.docx

S311 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:36
To: licensingservice
Subject:

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

To Whom it may concern

My name is _____ and I have now been working for Spearmint Rhino for two years , working this job has helped me so much in many ways for an example dancing has helped me out of my debt problems in a stress free way knowing I don't have to worry about whether my pay check is going to be on time or worrying about how many hours I've worked that month to make sure I am able to cover all my bills. I have also recently become engaged and started to plan my wedding for next year, without dancing I would never be able to afford my wedding or my honeymoon because wages these days don't even cover the cost of living without working yourself to death. I used to work in a local student night club in Sheffield right around the corner from where Spearmint Rhino is located and I can honestly say that I am treated better as an individual worker at Spearmint Rhino, I feel valued as a member of the team and not like I am disposable for once. Which are my reasons for leaving my old job and becoming a dancer at this club I never felt like I was enough, I was never praised or told that I was a valued member of the bar team the whole 9 years I worked behind the bar even though I pretty much did everything in that venue.

Here at Spearmint Rhino we are valued, we are looked after and we most deffiently feel part of a team and I Love my job here we feel like one big family and I love that. There is such a high level of trust from us all, everyone working at Spearmint Rhino is truly amazing and I couldn't ask for a better management team any issues us girls might have are resolved as quickly as possible in an outstanding professional way. From the minute I stepped into this venue for an interview I could tell that this was a very good club to work for it felt very comfortable and professional. I was given all the information I needed about how the club worked and the rules, a full guided tour of the venue and an introduction to everyone who worked they're from bar staff to the girls and the doorman. After my interview I went and spoke to the girls already working here and they were very friendly lovely girls, and this made my decision final to work here.

We are not tied to working here we are able to work when we want, we work to suit us. some of us are students some of us are full time mums and some of us care for family members that aren't able to care for themselves! I've never had a job that fits around me and my needs so perfectly as I have said previously, I Love my job here and everyone that works here please think

S311 P3

about the repercussions of what would happen to closing this club down and putting us all out of a job

Many thanks

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Flipnimages@gmail.com

S312

From: Selina
Sent: 26 May 2019 20:40
To: licensingservice
Subject: Flipnimages@gmail.com

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.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Licence

S313

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 20:55

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

My name is . I am the son of who is a dancer at Spearmint Rhino. I have seen such a change in my mum since working at Spearmint Rhino. She is so much more relaxed about money. She seems to love going in to work to be with her friends and has done loads more social things with friends outside of work too, which she really deserves.

I know that my mum would never work in an environment where she felt threatened or in danger. She is way too smart for that. My mum is so kind and giving and has spoiled me and my sister which she absolutely loves doing. I just can't wait to return the favour.

If I was worried about my mum working in such a place, I would be the first one to say 'shut it down' but my mum is happier than she has ever been. Please can you consider all of our views on this and grant Spearmint Rhino their licence.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S314

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino

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.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: SEV Venue Spearmint Rhino

S315

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:25
To: licensingservice
Subject: SEV Venue Spearmint Rhino

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing regarding the proposed closure of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield and the negative impact that the proposed closure would have on the workers. Fundamentally, I believe the closure of the club would be anti-feminist and a reflection on how little people fully understand about the industry. Whilst I do sincerely believe that the feminist organisations have the best intentions in respect to protecting the women in the establishment and the safety of women in society, the people campaigning for the closure are out of touch with the women that they are trying to help.

Painting the image of the club's workers as individuals lacking autonomy is damaging to the feminist movement, and further adds to the 'damsel in distress' portrayal of women in society. Speaking to many of the workers at Spearmint Rhino in Sheffield, it is a job that they feel suits them and that they enjoy. Many of the workers have other careers outside of the industry and are very successful. The choice to work in the club is not one forced upon them and they do so because of various reasons, such as feeling liberated or because of the close friendships that they have made with other workers in the club. The mainstream idea that workers in gentlemen's clubs are there because out of pure desperation stems from a 'Hollywood' perception that people who do not frequent such establishments buy into.

Whilst recently it has been alleged that licensing laws within the clubs were broken, these licensing laws were not consulted with the club's workers initially. Personally, I have never experienced such acts in the club and sincerely believe that it is an isolated incident that should be taken very seriously by the club's management. However, the nature in which this was uncovered I do find abhorrent. As a feminist organisation, sending males into the establishment to video record the workers of these clubs without their consent not only breaks GDPR, but is a complete violation of the worker's rights. I'm sure that an investigation into the illegality of the investigation carried out by the alleged 'feminist' organisation will take place.

Finally, further than seeing this as an abstract moral feminist issue, it is paramount to understand that these are real women's lives. Many of the women who work at this club have been working happily in the industry for over a decade. It is now their careers and is how they feed their children, pay their mortgages and live the happy lives that they do. By closing down the club you are taking away their livelihood and could potentially be forcing them into more dangerous, unregulated sex work.

Whilst I am in full favour of a thorough investigation into the alleged activity, I'm sure you will see reason and renew the license of Spearmint Rhino Sheffield for the sakes of the staff. Furthermore, I hope that you will review the licensing laws of the club with the essential input of the women that work there, who, when I have spoken to, have many great ideas on how to make improvements to the club for the women that work there.

Kind Regards,

Subject: FW: Support of spearmint rhino

S316

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 21:43

To: licensingservice

Subject: Support of spearmint rhino

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.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: SEV license

S317

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:47
To: licensingservice
Subject: SEV license

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.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Renew Spearmint Rhino's License

S318

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 21:48

To: licensingservice

Subject: Renew Spearmint Rhino's License

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 ask that you prioritise the voices of Spearmint Rhino dancers when making this decision that will affect their livelihoods, particularly their concerns that the loss of Spearmint Rhino's license will destabilise their support networks and possibly put them at risk in less regulated fields.

Many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Supporting

S319

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:53
To: licensingservice
Subject: Supporting

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 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.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Petition

S320

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 21:55
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Petition

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 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.

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.

It should be monitored and regulated and controlled for the safety of both the staff and the patrons, not closed.

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 and also illegal.

Yours sincerely,

This page is intentionally left blank