

Subject:

FW:

S321

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 21:53

To: licensingservice

Subject: catriona.e.murray@gmail.com

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: Spearmint Rhino

S322

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:04
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: Spearmint Rhino Licence

S323

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 22:10

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licence

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 support

S324

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:12
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino support

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: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Renewal

S325

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:12
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Licensing Renewal

To whomever it may concern,

I am writing this email in regards towards the renewal of the license of Sheffield's only strip current. As a resident of Sheffield, I am in favour of the SEV license renewal. This is because the closure of the club would have many negative impacts such as the lose of paid jobs which would impact many local families including those of the women who work as dancers there.

At no point have any of these women, have said that they are not there of their own free will and they do not enjoy their job. By forcing the club to close, can force many of these women into riskier unregulated work which can affect their mental and physical wellbeing but it also breaks up the supportive community of colleagues and friends which again will have detrimental effects.

Although, on a whole, the strip club industry is not the best, dancers across the UK are banding together to unionise and fight for their workers rights. Removing a regulated venue does nothing to support them and makes it hard for them to fight for their rights and the right to work. It is increasingly essential to listen to those who work in the industry and know first hand the conditions they work in and what can be made better to help them.

Lastly, the tactics used by self described feminist groups are deplorable as it is not acceptable to film women in the nude without their verbal consent or knowledge and it is not acceptable to pay others to do so. Groups who are concerned with women's right must respect the rights of the women who their campaigns and actions impact the most. I urge the council to publicly condemn and reject these activities and for the action to be taken against those who commissioned such footage.

Kind regards,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Concerning the proposed closure of Spearmint Rhino's

S326

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:19
To: licensingservice
Subject: Concerning the proposed closure of Spearmint Rhino's

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.

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.

I would also like to add that the moralistic panic of these SWERF's disproportionately effects women of colour, LGBT individuals and other marginalised groups. Where is the progress, the freedoms that we are so often told make our country great, if individuals cannot support their families because their profession is considered obscene?

Yours sincerely,

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S327

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:36
To: licensingservice
Subject: Save spearmint rhino

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 Sheffield

S328

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:37
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

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.

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. Closing the club will simply result in pushing women into more dangerous and unregulated forms of sex work

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 our stripclub!

S329

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:49
To: licensingservice
Subject: Save our stripclub!

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

To whom it may concern,

My name is ***** ***** and I am a dancer at Spearmint Rhino. I have been dancing now for just over two years. I am a single mother of two and an award winning sex and relationship coach. I love and value my job so much at spearmint rhino because it has changed my world for the better. We have all been tirelessly campaigning to raise awareness

- I no longer have to worry so much about money.
- I love being self-employed as I can choose when I want to work.
- I always feel safe and well looked after by management and door staff.
- I feel completely empowered doing this job.
- I love connecting and helping customers that come in (I give a lot of free therapy!)
- I adore the women that I work with. They are so supportive, strong and intelligent!
- I can provide a lifestyle for my children, where in the past I have always struggled financially.
- This job promotes body confidence.
-

Please can you grant us our license so we can continue to do a job that we love.

Your Sincerely,

Yours sincerely,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: In support of spearmint rhino's license renewal
Attachments: SexWorkersRightsPolicy (1).docx

S330 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:50
To: licensingservice
Cc:
Subject: In support of spearmint rhino's license renewal

FAO The chief licensing officer of Sheffield City Council

I am writing to you on behalf of Sheffield Hallam Students Union (The HUBS) to express our support as an organisation, led by the students of Sheffield Hallam University, of the license renewal of Spearmint Rhino. This includes a full objection to the University itself using our location and existence, among other things, as their reasoning to objecting to the club's license renewal. Sheffield Hallam Students Union represents all 30,000+ students of Sheffield Hallam University, who are all automatically members of our union, and this letter should be taken as support of all 30,000+ of these students, as well as all staff at SHSU.

As the Women's Representative for 2018/19, elected by the student body to represent them, I have been working extensively on policy to support sex workers' rights. Our sex workers' rights policy was passed by Union Council, a representative board of students, elected by students, in November 2018. I have attached a copy of this policy for your attention.

I would also like to draw your attention to a number of other reasons why we object to a letter sent by the university in April 2018, and any further objections raised by them.

The university cites the location of the club as it's main reason for objection to the license renewal, with many sub-reasons. I would like to debunk these.

With reference to the students' union, the university objects to Spearmint Rhino remaining open. This is clutching at straws - the union is rarely open past 11pm, and the club does not open until 10pm. Any students walking past the club to reach the union or library will just see this as they would walking past any club. In fact, clubs that they may walk past in the centre of the city will often have less security on the doors and be much more rowdy.

I have been a student in at the university for five, nearly six, years, and have never heard a single complaint from students about the club. Most don't even know it's there, or think it is already permanently closed due to it not having a sign on display during the daytime.

The university also mentions the UTC being located nearby. This is a moot argument when the club is never open during school hours and has no signage or advertising.

In a similar vein, when the university mentions students walking past the club to access prayer rooms and counselling/medical services, this is also pointless when these and the club are never open at the same time, and the club is incredibly discreet. In addition to this, wanting to shut down a legitimate legal business just because it may offend a handful of people due to their religion is morally wrong.

The university repeatedly mentions families using the areas public spaces - they will not be doing this after 10pm at night. The university also repeatedly mentions their campus plan, proving that their reasoning for wanting the club closed is not anything to do with citizen and students' welfare, but

instead wholly to do with them wanting the space for their own expansion and development. They aim to serve their own agenda only; ignoring the wishes of their students.

The current campaign to revoke Spearmint Rhino's license is vindictive and not at all representative of modern feminism. The campaign has violated the consent of the women working in the club, and should be investigated and discredited itself just for that. Resources would be much better spent investigating sexual harassment and assault on the streets of our city and in clubs/bars where sexual entertainment is not licensed.

Women have a right to do with their bodies as they please, and the work of the women in Spearmint Rhino is not bringing harm to anyone, least of all themselves. Removing their safe space to work will only put them in more danger. SHSU supports the full decriminalisation of sex work for women's safety and autonomy, as detailed in the attached policy document.

I have visited the club during opening hours, and can say that I felt safer there than I ever have in any other club in town. I was welcomed, and there was more security than I've ever seen anywhere else. The women were all professional and from having worked with them on the campaign to keep the club open, I can honestly say that they are all intelligent, free-minded women who deserve to be listened to. As of yet, they have not been, with too many people thinking they can speak on their behalf and decide what is good for them whilst knowing nothing about their reasons for working in this industry, their experiences, thoughts, and opinions.

I urge you to listen to the workers of spearmint rhino, to myself, and other supporters, and to keep the club open.

On behalf of all staff, students, representatives and elected officers at Sheffield Hallam Students Union,

Respectfully,
SHSU Women's Representative

Co-signed by:
SHSU President
SHSU Welfare and Community Officer
SHSU BME Students' Representative
SHSU LGBT+ Students' Representative

--
Women's Representative SHSU
Level 5 Journalism BA, SHU

POLICY DOCUMENT

COMMITTEE: Union Council
SUBJECT: Sex Worker Rights
APPROVAL DATE: 06/11/18
RENEWAL DATE: 05/11/21
CONTACT: Women's Rep

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION NOTES:

1. Sex work refers (but is not limited to) escorting, lap dancing, stripping, pole dancing, pornography, webcams, adult modelling, phone sex, and selling sex.
2. The current regime of austerity, and cuts to services and support have disproportionately affect trans women, trans migrants and trans people of colour.
3. Whilst sex work is not illegal in the UK it is still criminalised, sex workers who work on the street can be picked up on soliciting or anti-social behavioural order charges, and sex workers who work together indoors for safety can be charged with brothel keeping.
4. The rise in living costs, debt, the increase in tuition fees, and the slashing of benefits for disabled people, it is highly likely that some students do sex work alongside their studies in order to get from month to month.
5. Regardless of the reasons for entering into sex work, sex workers of all backgrounds deserve to have their rights protected.
6. Transgender Europe's recent report declares that 88% of murdered trans people in Europe are sex workers (<http://transrespect.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/TvT-PS-Vol16-2017.pdf>).

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION BELIEVES:

1. The pushes for legislation which would criminalise the purchase of sex (and introduce what is known as the 'Nordic Model') are often spearheaded by anti-choice, anti-LGBT+, right-wing fundamentalists and radical exclusionary feminists.
2. Often, legislation of this kind is brought forward in the name of anti-trafficking programmes, when in reality they are laws which aim to control what people can and can't do with their own bodies, combined with dangerous anti-immigration initiatives.
3. Criminalising the purchase of sex puts sex workers, especially those who work on the street, in danger.
4. Decriminalisation reduces police abuse, harassment and violence against sex workers.

5. Organisations that support the decriminalisation of sex work include the World Health Organisation, UN Women, Amnesty International, the Global Commission on HIV and the Law, Human Rights Watch and NUS Women's and LGBT+ Campaign.
6. Decriminalisation would ensure that sex workers feel able to report unsafe clients or violence at work without the worry of criminal repercussions, and that those who wish to leave the sex industry are not left with criminal records as a result of their job.

SHEFFIELD HALLAM STUDENTS' UNION RESOLVES:

1. To support and campaign for the full decriminalisation of sex work.
2. To support sex worker led organisations, such as the English Collective of Prostitutes, SWARM, Sex Workers Alliance Ireland, and SCOT-PEP, who work to improve the lives of sex workers across the UK and beyond.
3. To campaign against any attempted to introduce the Nordic Model in the UK.
4. To adopt a sex positive and anti slut-shaming attitude through further campaigns and policies.

Subject:

FW: PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SPEARMINT RHINO - VERY IMPORTANT.

S331

From:

Sent: 26 May 2019 22:56

To: licensingservice

Subject: PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE SPEARMINT RHINO - VERY IMPORTANT.

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,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: To whom it may concern

S332

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 22:58
To: licensingservice
Subject: To whom it may concern

To whom it may concern,

My name is ***** and I have danced for 12 years and spent the majority of that time at Spearmint Rhino in Bournemouth.

I am not here through any means of coercion or because I can't do anything else as a means to earn money, I am here solely out of choice; I graduated from university 4 years ago and have a degree in special effects for film and TV. I could easily go in to that as a career but choose not to. The reasons for that choice include the flexible hours, and the steady and sometimes lucrative earnings. Being a dancer has also given me the opportunity to buy my 1st home at the age of 25; this is all thanks to dancing. I feel the woman's groups should really come in to the clubs and talk to the girls, instead of just presuming we are in some kind of need.

I dance in a safe and controlled environment with strict rules that must be adhered to by both the dancers and the patrons. If strip clubs were forced to be closed I feel entertainment venues would go underground where these controlled environments wouldn't be adhered to and brothels would be used more frequently. Is that a better alternative than light hearted fantasy adult entertainment?

The woman's groups that attempt to close these establishments have never reached out to us, the dancers, or attempted to ask us how we feel doing this job. They are attempting to take this choice away from us without giving us a voice.

I request that my personal information is kept private and not accessible to the public.

Spearmint Rhino dancer

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino

S333

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 23:49
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,

Subject: FW: Submission re: Spearmint Rhino's SEV application

S334 P1

From:
Sent: 26 May 2019 23:56
To: licensingservice
Subject: Submission re: Spearmint Rhino's SEV application

To whom it might concern

I am making this submission on behalf of United Voices of the World the union in support of the Spearmint Rhino SEV application.

United Voices of the Word (UVW) is a members-led, campaigning trade union representing some of the UK's most marginalised and precarious workers. Since 2014, UVW members won significant victories for low waged and migrant workers in the service industry, securing a living wage, safe working conditions, dignity and respect for thousands of workers.

Since 2018, UVW has been organising with strippers working in clubs across the UK. We have been representing workers at Spearmint Rhino Sheffield since early 2019 and make this submission on behalf of our members working at the club.

UVW is extremely concerned by the potential loss of jobs in the event of the SEV application being rejected by the Council. The club currently engages 25 dancers, as well as bar staff, DJs, security and cleaning staff, all of whom depend on the club for their income, including many supporting family members. A rejection of the SEV application will result in the closure of the club and a loss of around 40 jobs. Our members are extremely anxious about this potential and significant loss of earning and the consequences this will have on their ability to pay for housing, bills, food and university fees.

We request that the committee considers this very serious and grave effect on workers livelihood and their economic survival.

The loss of the license will predominantly and disproportionately affect women (making around 75% percentage of the club's workforce), who are at a direct an immediate risk of being pushed into poverty and more precarious, unregulated and criminalised forms of work in the sex industry, where they will not be able to access trade union representation and legal protections.

We request that the committee considers this prospect very seriously, including the risks to women's safety and the wider effect this would have on their families and communities.

We are aware of the recent unlawful attacks against our members by groups such as Not Buying It, taken explicitly in order to harm workers and revoke the club's SEV license. While we contest the accusations and alleged 'findings' in the illegally obtained videos, we also wholeheartedly object to the political motivation behind the campaign, which silences women and undermines their rights as workers.

We request that the committee follows government guidelines, stating that SEV licenses should not be granted or revoked on 'moral grounds', and maintain its impartiality when considering the application.

Having organised with dancers at Spearmint Rhino over the past few months, we are aware that some aspects of the club's work require improvement, none of which include concerns around the terms of the SEV license. We are working with members to identify and raise concerns around contractual issues, which fall within trade union remit, as well as supporting them in organising around wider issues in the club and the community.

UVW is currently in advanced negotiations with Spearmint Rhino over trade union recognition in the chain's clubs across the UK. A recognition agreement will ensure that strippers gain collective bargaining rights over issues concerning pay and condition and benefit from all the legal protections afforded to union members, including legal representation. Spearmint Rhino strippers are looking to make demands around holiday pay, sick leave, adequate training, setting up a formal and effective grievance and complaint procedure and around issues regarding management conduct.

Organising to ensure workers' rights for Sheffield strippers will only be possible if the club remains open.

We therefore ask the committee to consider this application favourably and grant Spearmint Rhino Sheffield its SEV license.

We are happy to meet the licensing committee and council members to discuss all the above in more detail.

Yours in solidarity,

Trade Union Organiser
United Voices of the World

www.uvwunion.org.uk
www.facebook.com/uvwunion
[@uvwunion](https://www.instagram.com/uvwunion)

Subject: FW: Save spearmint rhino

S335

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 00:08

To: licensingservice

Subject: Save spearmint rhino

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,

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

S336

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 00:46
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the licensing renewal due at Sheffield 'Spearmint Rhino' and wish to stay anonymous.

I fully support the renewal of the clubs license, as a dancer who has worked in the industry for 8 years. Dancing has enabled me to save money, travel, and become the person I want to be, all because of my career allows me the freedom to do so. I was never forced into dancing to pay the bills or my tuition fees, and every night I actively choose and look forward to my work.

I am a university graduate, free spirit, and would absolutely identify as a feminist. It's important that these spaces exist for pro choice and positive expression of the female body.

Regards,

Sent from my iPhone

Rhodes-Evans Emma (CEX)

Subject: FW: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - Letter of Support
Attachments: Letter of Support for Spearmint Rhino SEV.odt

S337 P1

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 08:42
To: licensingservice
Subject: Spearmint Rhino Sheffield - Letter of Support

Dear Sheffield Council Licensing,

I am writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield, to offer my support of the dancers' campaign to maintain the license of this SEV (also see attached letter). I am an academic, based at the University of Lincoln, who has an expertise in erotic dance (see for example Colosi, 2010; Colosi, 2015; Hubbard and Colosi, 2015); my support is evidence-based, I would therefore urge you to take this into account when making your decision about renewing the license of Spearmint Rhino.

Firstly, the research I have conducted suggests that erotic dance, including lap-dancing, is a stigmatised form of precarious labour; this stigmatisation continues to impact upon the lives of the workers (dancers) in different ways (see Colosi, 2010); opposition to SEVs is a consequence of the stigma associated with this work (see Hubbard and Colosi, 2015). Secondly, where the licenses of SEVs are denied or revoked, as well as exposing women to poverty through unemployment, those who wish to continue to work as dancers, but are unable to find work in SEVs, may have no alternative but to seek work in unregulated spaces of erotic dance, increasing their risk of experiencing further exploitation. There is evidence to suggest that those working in unregulated spaces of erotic dance are exposed to more risks, including non-payment of labour, and increased incidents of sexual and physical violence (see Colosi, 2010).

Given the evidence, I would again urge you to take this into account when considering the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, to ensure that these women are not exposed to increased risks, poverty and further marginalisation.

The views expressed in this letter are independent of the University of Lincoln, and do not necessarily reflect the University's position.

Yours Faithfully



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26/05/19

Sheffield City Council

Town Hall

Pinstone Street

Sheffield

S1 2HH

Dear Sheffield Council Licensing,

I am writing regarding the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, Sheffield, to offer my support of the dancers' campaign to maintain the license of this SEV. I am an academic, based at the University of Lincoln, who has an expertise in erotic dance (see for example Colosi, 2010; Colosi, 2015; Hubbard and Colosi, 2015); my support is evidence-based, I would therefore urge you to take this into account when making your decision about renewing the license of Spearmint Rhino.

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Given the evidence, I would again urge you to take this into account when considering the licensing of Spearmint Rhino, to ensure that these women are not exposed to increased risks, poverty and further marginalisation.

The views expressed in this letter are independent of the University of Lincoln, and do not necessarily reflect the University's position.

Yours Faithfully

Subject:

FW: Spearmint Rhino

S338 P1

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 08:44

To: licensingservice

Subject: Spearmint Rhino

To whom it may concern,

I am contacting you in support of Spearmint Rhino's license renewal, who operate a legal business in Sheffield, under tight restrictions and are yet again under attack from campaign groups 'Zero Option' (ZO) and 'Not Buying It' (NBI).

As chair of the LGBT+ Hub of Sheffield's Equality Hub Network, I can confirm that when ZO presented their campaign to the LGBT+ Hub it was universally rejected (minus two abstentions from SCC employees). I was also present at the Women's hub when the SEV debate took place, where again although there was a split, ZO was again rejected by the majority (87%). I am aware that the topic has been debated at the other hubs (BAMER, Disability, Age, Religion) and, while there was some split, none of whom would give a majority backing to ZO.

While the ZO/NBI campaign groups claim to be challenging the license renewal based on equalities and standing up for women and marginalised groups, the marginalised groups at the equality hubs have very clearly said that they do not support these campaigns.

I also spoke this week with a number of the workers from Spearmint Rhinos at a panel event they hosted (something the ZO/NBI groups have repeatedly refused to do) and met a group of articulate women who were incredibly clear that stripping is their choice for a variety of reasons, and that they support womens choice not to do that line of work if they dont want to, but request the same respect from others for those who do want to do it.

They also spoke of the distress caused to them not by customers or management, but by the campaign groups who have secretly filmed them and shared footage with an undisclosed number of people/organisations. I am absolutely horrified that groups, (especially those who claim to be feminists and have been involved in campaigns against upskirting, revenge porn etc) have paid men to film women in a state of undress without their consent. I back the calls of the workers and their union for this footage to be destroyed and to not be accepted as 'evidence'.

On a personal level over the past 20 years I have been a student at Hallam, worked for two charities within a block radius of SR, and been a regular at the Rutland just a couple of doors down, so have spent more time in the immediate vicinity of SR than I have in my own home and possibly more time than anyone else in the city (and certainly more than objectors who have been actively encouraged to post objections from outside the city who likely have never stepped foot on the street). I am aware that the crime statistics show that there is not an issue in that area, but would also confirm that as a young(ish) woman that I have never had an issue, indeed the presence of the SR doorstaff actually makes me feel safer when I am waiting for my taxi home outside Rutland of an evening. There are areas in the town centre (e.g. West St, Division St) where I have repeatedly been hassled, witnessed violence and felt unsafe, Brown St is not one of these areas.

I would also like to highlight the recent case against Peterborough council where a similar campaign group took the council to court over their SEV licensing policy. The judge not only rejected their campaign but ruled that it would be unlawful to restrict legal business by applying a 'nil cap' city wide, stating that the zero option could be applied within a specific locality to manage the spread of businesses across the city, but could not be used to bypass the law. I would urge the council to consider their decision in the light of this recent test case.

If SFN/NBI groups wish to see a change to the law, then that is what they should campaign for, but law change is outside of the powers of Sheffield City Council, and I therefore back the SR workers and the consulted marginalised groups in supporting the license renewal of a lawful business.

Regards

LGBT+ Hub Chair
Sheffield Equality Hub Network

Subject: FW: Sheffield Strip Club closures

S339

From:
Sent: 27 May 2019 10:11
To: licensingservice
Subject: Sheffield Strip Club closures

Dear Sheffield Council Licences,

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.

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: Keep spearmint rhino open!

S340

From:

Sent: 27 May 2019 11:10

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.

Yours sincerely,