

‘Sexual Contact and Unfit Management at Spearmint Rhino’ says Council Report



Video: <https://youtu.be/VsPWSCXsXgo>

Sheffield City Council has completed its investigation into allegations of sexual contact and sex acts at its Spearmint Rhino strip club. It found 145 breaches of licensing conditions including lap dancers straddling and grinding on customers, masturbating themselves and customers and lap dancers having oral sex with each other. All of this was provided as a matter of course, much in a standard £20 lap dance, without any request ‘for extras’.

In light of this, the report questions the suitability of club management – management that has been in place for many years, some of whom *still* contest that the club ‘is well run’, five of whom were ‘interviewed under caution’. This team includes CEO John Specht, who was brought in to ‘clean up’ Spearmint Rhino nearly 10 years ago, after prostitution was exposed throughout the chain. Under him, there has been a further near-10 year history of sexual contact, pimping and even a reported rape.

Despite this, lap dancers at the club (along with their friends, mums and dads and punters) have written in support of the club, for its pending licensing hearing.

Many state it is lap dancers who know best and should be listened to and that ‘unionising’ is the way forward. Yet at the same time, they state that it is a ‘safe’ environment and that they ‘are not coerced or forced into anything they do not wish to do’. They also state that they love their job, find it empowering and great for their self esteem. Workers from other strip clubs have added their voice claiming the Sheffield club ‘is one of the best run in the country’.

This begs the question, what difference will unionising make if those in the industry are perfectly happy with how it is currently (illegally) run and simply want to continue in a job that they find fun and empowering?

It also begs the question what on earth is happening in the rest of the strip industry, if this club is deemed a model of best practice?

END

More Information: no@notbuyingit.org.uk

Council's report into evidence of sexual contact:

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/s36185/Investigation%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

Information for the Licensing Hearing (scheduled 16 Sep):

<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=19818#mgDocuments>

Spearmint Rhino's 20 year History of Abuse: <https://notbuyingit.org.uk/Publications#PressRhino>

3 Former Lap Dancers from Sheffield Rhino expose the truth:

<https://youtu.be/3lWqjNQtNpk>

<https://youtu.be/CLpUOYeG08c>

https://youtu.be/nBgv_VFSPQLQ