

Camden Council ‘Consults’ on a Strip Club Policy that allows Prostitution and Pimping to Thrive

Sexual Contact, Straddling, Pimps: Spearmint Rhino

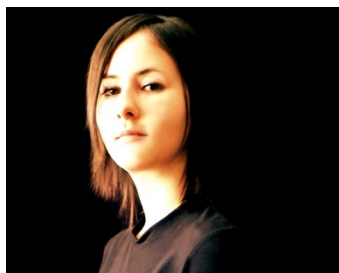
Private Investigators



Camden Council is consulting on a strip club policy that has allowed pimping and prostitution to thrive at its strip clubs. Pressure group, Not Buying It, who exposed the whole sale abuse of Camden’s strip trade, is calling for the Council to retract this policy and consult afresh.

Not Buying It sent in undercover investigators into Spearmint Rhino’s Camden flagship and another club (not currently named due to police investigation).

Sexual contact, including intimate touching and grinding on punters was standard even in the cheapest ‘dance’ at Spearmint Rhino Camden, alongside offers of £600 ‘dances’, “milkshakes” (*not* the kind you get at McDonald’s) and women giving out their phone numbers. When the investigators left they were approached by pimps – who are known to be an ongoing problem associated with all of Camden’s Strip Clubs.



Clubs Always know when Council ‘Inspections’ are taking place

Rachel worked at Secrets Euston



Pimps pose as Cabbies outside Red Rooms and Secrets

Witness Statement



Another club was full of foreign (presumed trafficked) women who were desperately offering £200 hand jobs. Pimps lined the club inside and out. They described the lap dancers as ‘the appetiser’ and urged the investigators to the ‘after party’ – the brothel where many of the dancers were put to work.

“It is absolutely shocking that Camden Council is consulting on a totally defunct policy – one which relies on the clearly false premise that its strip clubs are ‘stringently regulated’” says Not Buying It CEO, Dr Sasha Rakoff.

“Officers at the Council were well aware of our findings before they issued this draft policy. Yet we were specifically banned from disclosing this information at the full council meeting where councillors were asked to approve this draft policy.”

“We emailed every single Councillor afterwards. We got a response once the press got involved. The Council decided to stick to this clearly totally defective draft policy.”



Parkers - Touts, Intimidation Credit Card fraud, Prostitution

Numerous Trip Advisor Reviews



**I worked in strip clubs across London.
Camden's 'Venus' was by far the worst**

Former Lap Dancer

Not Buying It is also concerned that this policy on strip club licensing is being consulted on before the Council has even finished, let alone publicised, its investigations into the evidence the pressure group provided into extreme licensing breaches and criminality in its strip trade.

For all these reasons it believes the Council is laying itself wide open to Judicial Review for the 'totally inadequate' procedures it has followed. Two such Reviews have already successfully been taken against another council (Sheffield) for inadequate dealings with the strip trade – at a cost to the tax payer of £130,000.

Not Buying It also believe that the draft policy, like Camden's current policy, is unlawful as it treats clubs that currently operate preferentially to any new applicant. Despite stating that 'no clubs are appropriate anywhere in Camden' there seems to be such an overriding presumption that all existing clubs *must* be re-licensed every year that a 'rubber stamping' process has in effect been introduced.

Yet for years Camden council has heard evidence of the sexual contact, harassment, prostitution and pimping associated with its clubs, which has steadfastly been ignored.

"It is time for Councils across the UK to wake up to the reality of the strip trade. They are 'brothels light'. They cannot be regulated. They are a hub for exploitation and abuse. And they are a feeder for every other sort of organised crime."

Not Buying It is urging individuals to call on the Council to introduce a real 'zero policy' for the strip trade, close down all its clubs and support all lap dancers into safe, alternative work. You can respond to Camden's consultation on its strip club policy here: <https://notbuyingit.org.uk/strip-clubs-take-action/>

END

Press Enquiries: no@notbuyingit.org.uk

Sexual contact exposed at Spearmint Rhino Camden: www.notbuyingit.org.uk/CamdenSRPIs

Camden's Draft Policy: <https://www.camden.gov.uk/policy-consultation-for-sex-establishments>