

Strip Sleaze

250+ Incidences
100+ Clubs
1/2 UK Strip Trade

masturbated in front of them.

slavery raid

Two undercover officers were offered sex with girls at £500 for 30 minutes in a private room, Highbury Corner magistrates were told.

Lap dancing club spiked customers' drinks and then overcharged for dances by £93,000, report claims

Punter attacks stripper

14th January 2017

Glasgow kingpin's lap dancing club shut after girl dumped on street



dancers were simulating sex with customers

"quasi-brothel".

Hanley gentlemen's club ST1 has been closed permanently after evidence of fraud, drink spiking, drug dealing, violence and prostitution were heard by a licensing committee.

the footage also showed strippers straddling customers
cocaine on the premises

"This included, but was not limited to, financial fraud and human trafficking."

Lap dancing club 'Sex for sale' undercover police

serious concerns as to the levels of violence

During a 31 month period there were 16 violent incidents at the venue.

SUMMARY

250 incidences in 100 Clubs - over 1/2 the UK Strip Industry

These are the records of rules breaches, abuse and exploitation **Not Buying It** has found associated with the strip trade. Most of these have been recorded since the industry became 'better regulated' in 2011. This is when strip clubs stopped being licensed as leisure venues (like cafes) and started being licensed as sex establishments.

The information here is primarily from hard evidence such as CCTV, undercover operatives and police logs alongside some club-specific testimonies from performers and journalists.

This does not include dozens of other (non-club specific) performer statements or research studies (with evidence from 100s of performers), which further highlight abuse as industry-wide.

Over 250 incidences have now been documented in at least 100 clubs across the UK, more than 1/2 the entire UK strip industry*.

This is likely to represent just the tip of the iceberg, given a major industry player – the former Vice President of Spearmint Rhino - has openly stated how hard he works to **keep information suppressed**.

These records show that men buy (often extensive) sexual contact as standard in strip clubs (an automatic breach of clubs' licensing conditions). Sexual, physical and verbal harassment and assault of performers is equally rife – by management and security as much as customers. This can include rape and gang rape on premises. Sex acts (hand and blow jobs) are often expected for a 'VIP dance'. Prostitution, pimping & touting, mass fraud, drugs & dealing, drink spiking, suspected trafficking and underage dancers have also been widely recorded. In addition, clubs typically serve as nothing more than a feeder for prostitution including for the local brothels and all the harm and criminality associated with this.

Notable are the number of clubs that councils allow to continue operating even after significant breach of licensing conditions, including illegal activities. This is a recurring pattern for the Spearmint Rhino chain, with a near two-decade record of sexual contact, prostitution and more.

Even when breach of licensing conditions and criminality has led Councils to close some clubs, they continue to license others. Councils appear to be under the impression that abuse in the strip trade is a 'one off' phenomenon rather than a clear industry-wide pattern.

*In 2010 the industry was believed to comprise approx. 300 clubs - by 2019 it was estimated to be approx. 150. These records span this time frame.

ENGLAND & Wales

England and Wales introduced specific licensing and regulation for strip clubs in 2011. This allowed clubs to be treated as part of the sex industry instead of leisure venues, as previously. So how has this new licensing worked in practice?

* Councils deemed '*best practice*' for their regulation of the strip trade & support of dancers' welfare

Accrington

icandy [2012] Tries advertising for lap dancers in Job Centre

Barnsley

Wildcats [2015] Man assaulted inside club

Wildcats Prostitution?: Reviews

Basildon

Katz [2008] Attack by punters puts man in coma

*Birmingham

Birmingham is deemed '*gold standard*' by pro-sex industry academics for its regulation of the strip industry

Police Complaints [2016] Numerous complaints to police about Birmingham clubs

Legs 11 [2017] Drink spiking and sexual contact. Not Shut

Legs 11 [2017] Slavery raid, fraud. Both Clubs in chain. Shut

Legs 11 [2019] Owner of Legs 11 tries to open a new strip club

Birmingham [2019] 2,000 sign petition to stop yet another strip club opening

Rocket Club [2021] Gang rape led by management

Blackpool

Blackpool used to have a dozen strip clubs. All but 4 have been closed since the law changed (in 2011) which stopped them being licensed like cafes. In 2021, **Blackpool** introduced a policy for 'zero strip clubs but, buckling under pressure from the powerful sex trade lobby, it (we believe unlawfully) exempted all 4 currently operating clubs, so allowing them to continue indefinitely.

Eden1 [2016-2020] Several complaints of fraud: Trip Advisor

Eden1 [2018] Fraud, Propositioning: Police Complaints

Eden1 [2019] Punter torched, 2nd degree burns. Not Shut

Sinless [2020] Underage dancers, drugs, fraud?

Sinless [2020] Manager dubs allegations a 'smear campaign'. Not Shut

Blackpool [2021] Unlawfully exempts 4 existing clubs from its new policy for zero clubs

Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole

Bournemouth had 3 strip clubs – with a long history of abuse. When this council merged with 2 others to create BCP (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole) council a new policy was created. In 2021 the new council consulted, twice, on a new SEV policy. Ignoring feedback from local residents, it then further opened up the industry by placing no limit on strip club numbers. This policy was successfully challenged in the High court. In 2023 it then emerged that equality leads who had heavily influenced this policy were possible sex buyers.

FYEO	[2013] Credit Card Fraud (also seen at other branches)
Spearmint Rhino	[2014] Illegally serves alcohol to drunk punters
Spearmint Rhino	[2014] Multiple allegations of financial fraud
Spearmint Rhino	[2014] Sexual Contact & Straddling
Spearmint Rhino	[2016] Punter sues for intoxicated spending. Not Shut
Spearmint Rhino	[2022] No longer operates in Bournemouth, license transferred to Temptation
Temptation	[2022] 'Come get Pussy' workers shout outside club
Wiggle	[2013] Dancers straddling punters & other Sexual Contact
Wiggle	[2016] Wants outdoor seating
Wiggle	[2018] Credit Card fraud
Wiggle	[2018] GBH leaves woman with lifelong scars
BCP Council	[2021] Ignores concerns of harm and creates new policy for UNLIMITED strip clubs
BCP Council	[2023] High Court rules policy unlawful
Private Eye	[2023] Possible sex buyers heavily influenced strip club policy
BCP Council	[2023] Equality lead with allegations of domestic abuse/sex buying pushed unlawful policy

Full list of incidents related to Spearmint Rhino chain at end of this document

More incidents relating to Wiggle and its owner [here](#)

Brighton

Brighton	[2015] Student exposes the harm of the Brighton strip industry
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*Bristol

Bristol currently has 2 strip clubs, both under the same ownership. In 2021 it consulted on a policy for zero clubs, resulting in a campaign of **threat & intimidation** by the sex trade lobby - including cyber stalking a local woman, posting pornographic images on a charity facebook page and an incendiary petition **targeting MPs** & other public figures. Bristol is deemed '**gold standard**' by pro-sex industry academics for its regulation of the strip industry. A key argument used to keep its clubs open is that women will otherwise have to strip at 'unsafe private parties'. But the **club owner** is already doing precisely this - sending lap dancers & topless waitresses out to private parties in men's homes.

Bristol Police	[2011] 50m zone around strip clubs 'hot spot' for sexual violence
Manager	[2013] 'We'd need 10 doormen if we were to intervene immediately'. Licensing Hearing
Temptations	[2013] Sexual Contact, club fined. Not Shut
Jack of Diamonds (formerly Temptations)	[2017] Sexual Contact. Shut
Urban Tiger	[2015] Banned from using school girl images
Bristol	[Aug 2015] Bristol's 2 strip clubs now under same ownership
Urban Tiger	[Sep 2015] Ads joke about stalking

Urban Tiger. Police Report Appen. H	[2017] Multiple assaults, often by bouncers. Police: 'Do Not Relicense'
Urban Tiger. Police Report Appen. H	[2017] 40 sexual offences in 1 year in vicinity. Police: 'Do Not Relicense'
Urban Tiger	[2018] Lap dancers: 'Club saved my life'
Urban Tiger	[2019] Prostitution?
Urban Tiger	[2019] Lap dancers: 'Club's a big happy family'
Urban Tiger	[2020] Punters ejected approx twice/month into local area
Bristol	[2019] NGOs abused for objecting to strip clubs

Bristol	[2019] New draft strip club policy takes un-evidenced pro-industry statements as fact
Bristol	[2019] Consultation on new policy pulled as failed to consider advice of experts
Bristol	[2019] Former strip club now thriving tapas bar and film location
Bristol Clubs	[2021] Dancer confirms serious sexual assault resulting in conviction [at 15.15]
Bristol	[2021] Head of Women's Group dubbed 'misogynist' for opposing strip trade
Bristol	[2021] Local woman stalked by pro sex trade lobby with attempts to get her fired
Bristol	[2021] Libellous, incendiary petition targets MPs and other public figures
Bristol	[2022] Council back tracks on promise for zero clubs, new policy instead opens up industry

Cambridge

Talk of the Town	[2010] Advertises on school route & in vouchers at Fresher's week
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* Camden Overview

Camden had 7 (now 6) strip clubs. Its policy states no clubs are appropriate but (unlawfully) 'exempts' all existing clubs from this. Camden is deemed '**gold standard**' by pro-sex industry academics for its regulation of the strip industry. In 2021, the police stated **pimps have long been associated with all Camden's strip clubs**, including its **strip pub** (open during the day, located near schools). The council has only detected breaches once in any of its clubs. It inspects each club *once* on a *pre-announced* visit and **may** carry out one further annual visit.

By 2022 it had not completed its own investigation into hard evidence we provided 3 years earlier of breaches at 2 of its clubs. In 2021 it instead unlawfully started publishing the name and home address of everyone who objects to strip clubs. This resulted in a dozen objectors receiving aggressive, libellous letters from one strip club threatening legal action. It was only after 'robust conversations' with the Information Commissioner, with extensive powers to fine, that it **finally backed down**.

Summary of Concerns	[2019]
Undercover Journalist	[2018] Harassment, assaults, propositioning, drugs in Camden clubs
Police: Pimps associated with all Camden strip clubs/pubs	p283 [2020]

Camden Parkers

Touting, intimidation, fraud/prostitution? [2018] Trip Advisor

Camden Red Rooms

Summary of Concerns

Touts/Pimps p285	[2017] Illegal Promoters/Touts: Police Report
Touts/Pimp p16	[2017] Touts/Pimps: Police Report
Unlawfully touting p286	[2017]: Illegal Touting by venue: Police Report
Pimps	[2018] Pimps pose as cabbies outside: Local Resident
Fraud App. 8	[June 2018] Punter claims fraud
Fraud App. 9	[July 2019] Fraud against vulnerable adult: Trading Standards
Fraud App. 9	[July 2019] Concerns of fraud: Trading Standards
Tax Owed App. 9	[July 2019] Club owes council £1/4million in business tax: Trading Standards
Theft App. 8	[Aug 2019] Theft
Assault, Touts App.8	[Sep 2019] Illegal Touting & Assault
Fraud, Poisoning? App.8	[Oct 2019] Fraud, possible poisoning. Club pays off accuser
Assault	[Oct 2019]: Assault (ABH) outside venue (Suppl Agenda, 2020 Hearing)
Fraud, False Imprisonment, Poisoning, Sexual Contact:	[Nov 2019] (Suppl Agenda, 2020 Hearing)
Serious Assault	[Dec 2019] Life threatening stabbing in club, club does not even tell police
Police: 'Risk to Public'	[Dec 2019] 'Serious concerns venue cannot operate without risk to public safety
Police: 'Suspend License'	[Dec 2019] Police call for immediate suspension of license
License Re-instated:	[2020] Club challenges suspension. License re-instated with 'more conditions'
Trading Standards: 'Unfit Applicant'	[2020] 'Unfit Applicant, do not grant license': Trading Standards
Sill Open 3.10-3.14	[Jan 2020] Council merely sends warning letter & requests 'more training
Touts	[Feb 2020] p284 : Unlawful touting by club: Police Report
Shut	[2022] Red Rooms does not reapply to have its license renewed

Camden Secrets Chain

Summary of Incidences at the 3 Camden Secrets clubs

Sexual Contact	[2013] Chain fails in court to allow dancers to touch themselves sexually
Debt	[2018] Chain £4.7 million in debt
Tax Payers Money	Suppl Agenda p9 [2020]: Chain seeks £90,000 from Late Night Levy
Secrets	[2019] History of incidences not allowed to be included at 2019 licensing hearings
Secrets	[2019] 'Never been any serious incidences at any of my clubs' Secrets owner at Hearing
Secrets	[2019] Not Buying It raises section 21 complaint 'applicant lied to council'

Camden Secrets Gray's Inn Rd

Touting	[2017] Club breaches license conditions by touting
Council	[2020, 2021] Council ignores evidence of abuse in chain at club licensing hearing

Camden Secrets Parker St

Soliciting App. 10	[2017]	Soliciting, unsafe for women: Local Residents
Pimps	[2018]	Numerous Pimps pose as cabbies outside: Resident
Sexual Contact p 251	[2019]	Club given 'Yellow Card': Council Inspection
'No breaches'	[2019]	No sexual contact' observed on <i>Pre-Announced</i> Council Inspection
Pimps p285	[Feb 2020]	Numerous 'sex touts' in vicinity: Police Report
Touting p 284	[Feb 2020]	Unlawful touting by club: Police Report
Police 'Revoke License' p 286	[2020]	Police call for license to be revoked: Police Report

Camden Secrets Eversholt Rd

Sexual contact, assaults	[2008]	Lap dancer
Sexual Touching	[2011]	Touching even when performing for women: Evening Standard
Assault p148	[2016]	GBH. One customer Assaults Another: Police Report
Council Incompetence p2		Council unaware of 2016 assault at club's licensing hearing
Fraud App. 10	[2016]	Financial Fraud vs intoxicated customer: Trading Standards
Fraud App. 10	[2017]	Financial Fraud vs intoxicated customer: Trading Standards
GBH App. 10	[Jan 2017]	GBH vs lap dancer, club do not inform police: Police
Assault p 149	[May 2017]	Drunk customer complains of assault, police not called: Police
Assault p149	[Nov 2017]	Drunk customer assaults waiter, security do nothing: Police Report
Fraud App. 10	[2018]	Financial Fraud: Trading Standards
Sexual Contact App.9	[2018]	Rampant Sexual Contact, no club intervention: CCTV/Police
Sexual Contact App. 9	[2019]	Rampant Sexual Contact, no club intervention: CCTV/Police

License transferred to Sophisticats, which still trades as Secrets Camden Ltd:

Camden Sophisticats

License still held under the name of Secrets Camden Ltd (above)

See also incidences at Westminster Sophisticats

Fraud	[2019]	13 reports financial fraud including drink spiking: Trading Standards
Sexual Contact	[2019]	Multiple incidences: Police
Sophisticats	[2019]	Workers/Supporters defend club
Owner	[2019]	'Many punters spend £50,000 in one night'
Club provides mental health therapy to lap dancers	App. 16 [2019]	
Mette, survivor: 'Don't put clubs in charge of dancer 'welfare''		

Camden Spearmint Rhino

Touts (pimps)	[2013] Judge states touting (pimps) unstoppable & due to club
Organised Crime	[2014] Sexual contact, organised crime, PTSD: ex lap dancer
Touts (pimps)	[2014] Numerous police logs of (pimps) touting outside
Chester Council buys venue	[2014] Sells the venue but still operates from it
Pimps	[2015] Pimps outside, porn events, topless advertising
Sexual Contact	[2017] Sexual Contact & Straddling, performers fired
'Racist'	[2019] Hosts 'Chocolate Men', a black male stripper troupe
Sexual Contact, Pimps	[2019] Widespread sexual contact, pimps outside: Undercover Investigators
Camden Council	[2021] Council not completed investigation into breaches we exposed in 2019

Full list of incidents related to Spearmint Rhino chain at end of this document

Carlisle

Rouge	[2018] Assault between dancers. Not Shut
Carlisle	[2019] After assault at its current club, Council considers licensing another

Cheltenham

The law has a so-called 'frequency exemption' loop hole. This allows unregulated venues to host 'occasional' lap dancing. As a result, 'pop up' strip clubs during race meets has 'turned Cheltenham into a walk-thro brothel'. But Councils' can lobby to end this loophole. Instead of doing this, Cheltenham's new strip club policy uses this loop hole to justify having licensed strip clubs 'instead' (even though the presence of licensed venues has never stopped 'pop up' venues!)

Cheltenham	[2018] 'Pop Up' Strip Clubs – legal, unregulated
Cheltenham	[2018] The Problem with 'Pop Up' Strip Clubs
Cheltenham	[2021] Uses 'frequency exemption' to justify having licensed venues
PCC	[2021] Calls for end to strip clubs including 'pop up' clubs

Chester

Platinum Lounge	[2015] Sexual contact, drugs, prostitution: Undercover Investigators. Shut
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City of London

Charlie Brown's	[2012] Sexual Contact & other Licensing Breaches
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City of London Corporation has since adapted and implemented a policy for zero strip clubs

Coventry

Heat [2006] Sexual contact and poor management: Lap dancer

Doncaster

Bentley's [2017] Serious assault on Lap dancer

* Durham

Red Velvet [2012] Drug dealing: Police raid. Shut

Durham has since introduced a policy for zero strip clubs

Ealing

After years of serious incidences at its strip clubs, **Ealing Council** finally sought to introduce a policy for zero clubs in 2019

LA Confidential [2017] Bouncer charged with GBH. Police: 'club a serious risk to public'

LA Confidential [2018] Club seeks to extend opening hours & lower age limit

LA Confidential [2018] Sexual Contact, Prostitution: Undercover investigators. Shut

Purrlesque [2018] Former Ealing councillor seeks to open strip club

Epsom

Stir [2018] Punter attacks passer-by on leaving strip club

Hackney

Hackney has a policy for zero strip clubs but its 3 currently operating clubs are (we believe unlawfully) 'exempt'

Ye Old Axe [2019] Owner found guilty of life threatening arson. Not Shut

Halifax

La Salsa [2011] Underage dancers, prostitution in sister Huddersfield club

La Salsa [2019] Councillor visits strip club 'to ask women if they are trafficked'

La Salsa [2020] Assault inside club (unfit management even when no lap dancing): Police

Council [2019] Council 'lied to' by club lawyer, refuses to consider PCC evidence

Council [2021] Council still ignorant of law, refuses to consider PCC evidence

Harrogate

- Villa Mercedes [2015] Sexual Contact, 'Audience Participation'. Shut
- Kings Club [2019] Club told 'fix Panic Buttons'

Heathrow

- Spearmint Rhino [2003] Prostitution, Drugs: Employee whistle blower. Not Shut
- Spearmint Rhino [2003] Club settles case out of court with whistle blower. Not Shut
- Spearmint Rhino [2009] Serious assault by security guard on CCTV: Ex dancer. Not Shut

Full list of incidents related to Spearmint Rhino chain at end of document

Huddersfield

- Cleopatra's Lounge [2016] Dancer refuses sex, punter causes £1,000s damage
- La Salsa [2011] Underage dancers, prostitution: Police raid. Owner arrested. Shut

Leeds

Leeds Council's **new policy [2018]** states zero strip clubs are appropriate but all 4 currently operating clubs are exempted. For 6 years, Leeds also operated a disastrous prostitution 'Managed Zone' (shut 2021)

Silks: Lap dancers not paid: Worker Reviews

Numerous clubs take council to court when not relicensed (all lose)

* Leicester

Leicester is deemed '**gold standard**' by pro-sex industry academics for its regulation of the strip industry.

Angel's [2016] Sexual Contact, suspected underage dancers

Lily's Lounge [2016] Club (unsuccessfully) takes council to court for refusing to relicense

Liverpool

- X in the City [2015] Punter attacks lap dancer when she refuses sex
- Liverpool [2017] Convicted rapist forces girlfriend to lap dance
- Liverpool [2020] Council unanimously approves 24 hour strip club
- Pro-prostitution group to '**support lap dancers**' [2020]

Maidstone

Player's [2015] Former director steals van, sets fire to club and threatens ex-wife

* Manchester

Manchester council is deemed 'gold standard' by pro-sex industry academics for its regulation of the strip industry, yet has a long history of serious incidences at its clubs. In 2021 it is looking to introduce a policy for zero clubs to fierce opposition from the sex trade lobby, making **intimidating, threatening** (and libellous) assertions against international NGO, White Ribbon Campaign

Baby Blue	[2012] Strip club opens without planning permission
Baby Platinum	[2013] Man stabbed outside club. Not Shut
Council	[2014] Denies new strip club license due to sexual assaults
Totties	[2016] Mass brawl outside strip club leads to murder. Shut
Silks	Lap dancers not paid: Worker Reviews
Silks	[2017] Known Criminals, unfit manager, police call for license to be revoked
Silks	[2017] Several Serious Brawls. License transferred to new operator
Obsessions	[2019] Sexual Contact rife: Undercover Investigation. Not Shut
Victoria's	[2019] Sexual Contact rife: Undercover Investigation. Not Shut
Club Supporters	[2019] Defend clubs despite breaches

Middlesbrough

Secrets [2010] Sexual Contact. Previous serious assaults at club. Shut

Newcastle

Newcastle's policy allows for 8 strip clubs and (unlawfully) states equality law 'is not relevant'

Blue Velvet [2018] Assault (with hospitalisations & 6 arrests) outside club

Newcastle [2018] Over 200 calls to police over Newcastle's 8 strip clubs

*Newquay

Newquay is deemed 'gold standard' by pro-sex industry academics for its regulation of the strip industry but there was so much trouble at its 5 clubs that it was known as the 'Wild West'. Campaigners successfully shut down the industry and helped change the law to stop strip clubs being licensed like cafes. The town is now thriving without its strip clubs:

Halos	[2011] Consistent rule breaches: CCTV. Shut
Divas	[2009] Sexual contact, underage dancers. Shut
Divas	Owners found guilty of fraud after club shut
Channel 4 Dispatches	Exposes consistent breaches in Newquay clubs
Newquay	'The new Magaluf'
Newquay	Thriving without its strip clubs

Plymouth

- Divas** [2011] Fraud and other license breaches. Shut
- Temptations T2** [2018] 2 men hospitalised after assault in club
- Temptations T2** [2019] Punter reports assault and being prevented from leaving

Portsmouth

Portsmouth's **policy states there is nowhere where it is appropriate to have a strip club** but its 2 pre-existing clubs are (we believe unlawfully) exempted from this (an exemption apparently **made behind closed doors**). Both clubs are owned by the same operator who runs other problematic strip clubs in the Southwest including **Wiggle, Bournemouth**. In 2022 it appears one of the clubs ceased trading

- Elegance** [2006] Bouncer shot. Not Shut
- Wiggle** [2012]: 'Threatening verbal harassment outside': Local Residents
- Consultation** [2012] 3.7 : Sexual contact, drugs, dancers fined, prostitution: Former Dancer
- Wiggle/Elegance** [2013] 'Owner unfit to hold license': Police/Council. Not Shut
- Elegance** [2021] Owner fined for letting 'high risk' unlicensed property
- Portsmouth clubs** [2012] 3.70: 'These clubs are unfit': Lap dancer
- Harassment** [2012] 3.12: 'I'm regularly harassed outside' : Local Resident
- Elegance** [2022]: Ceases trading

Preston

- Room 32** [2014] One dancer assaults another causing serious injury
- Perfect 10s** [2015] Drunk customer destroys club & threatens female manager

Reading

- Black Diamond** [2019] Sexual contact, straddling: CCTV. Not Shut, hours extended

Rotherham

Rotherham introduces a policy for zero strip clubs after abuse exposed at its one long-standing club

- Renoirs & Rouge** [2018] Under investigation for excessive rule breaches

Sheffield

Sheffield had one strip club, Spearmint Rhino, which it defended in **2 unsuccessful High Court** cases and it continued to license even after whistle blowing by former workers, numerous locals **reporting fear of assault** outside with rampant sexual contact/**sex acts exposed** inside. It also leaked 700+ emails (including those of rape survivors), had a **councillor linked to an escort agency** deciding strip club policy, had a **councillor using inciteful language against protestors** and allowed whistle blowers to be called 'liars' at public hearings:

Council breaching law	[2016] Council breaching equality law when licensed club: High Court
Council taken to court again	[2018] Local resident has to crowd fund to take council to court again
Council still breaching equality law	[2018] Council new strip club policy breaches equality law: High Court
Summary	[2018] Summary of Court Proceedings vs Sheffield City Council
Whistle blowers	[2018] Harassment, assault, intimidation: 3 former lap dancers
Whistle Blower	[2018] 'Managers are very seedy': Dancer Review
Spearmint Rhino	[2018] Workers/supporters defend club
All Objections (145) to Spearmint Rhino	[2018]
Whistle Blower	[2019] p828 Management abuse: whistle blower
Sex Acts	[2019] Extreme sexual contact: Undercover Investigators
'Too Offensive'	[2019] Councillors walk out of public meeting where breaches are detailed
Objectors to club	[2019] Sheffield Councillors & MPs, clubs' former dancers
200 Breaches	[2019] 200 breaches, unfit management: Council Report
Supporters defend Club	[2019] Workers/Supporters defend club
Breaches Continue	[2020] Still breaching licensing conditions
Supporters Defend Club	[2020] Workers/Supporters/Trade Union defend club
Crime Stats	[2020] Deserted street with strip club, hot spot for sexual violence
No Go Zone	[2020] Numerous women report assault/fear of assault, do not use local area
3rd Legal Challenge	[2020] Judge allows 3rd legal challenge against Council
For Sale	[2020] Spearmint Rhino puts its venue up for sale
Shut	[2020] Building sold, club shut. Council never refused license
Council	[2023] Council still not created new, lawful strip club policy

Full list of incidents related to Spearmint Rhino chain at end of this document

Skegness

Flirtz [2017] Class A Drugs. Not Shut

Southampton

FYEO [2019] Fraud

Financial fraud has also been reported in other branches of the FYEO chain

Stoke-on-Trent

ST1 [2017] Drink spiking, drug dealing, violence, prostitution

Swindon

It wasn't until 2018 that **Council banned** straddling, 'grinding' & sexual contact – to protest by clubs/workers/supporters

Fantasy Club Owner destroys interior when club shuts

Tower Hamlets

Tower Hamlets has a policy for zero strip clubs but still licenses 4 (down from a staggering 12, in 2010)

Charlie's Angels [2015] Sexual contact. Harassment by 'feminist' Moslem Lib Dem candidate during Ramadan
Nag's Head [2017] Sexual contact, serious sexual assault of dancer
Nag's Head [2017] Management/Staff support club, deny incidences
Nag's Head [2017] Club worker and union member defends club
Whites [2019] Sexual contact: undercover investigators. Shut

Twickenham

Playhouse [2012] Punters drunk & disorderly, license holder convicted of 11 offences. Shut

West Bromwich

Bing [2017] GBH, suspected prostitution/trafficking/underage performers

Westminster

Westminster policy allows for 25 sex venues (of these, approximately 12 are strip clubs) in one small region (Soho). We would argue this is incompatible with equality law.

Westminster clubs [2018] Harassment, assaults, propositioning, drugs: Undercover journalist
Capricorn [2009] Strip Club run as brothel
Sophisticats [2005] Judge rules Council cannot restrict opening hours
Sophisticats [2019] Hacking to increase google rankings. Black listed by google
Sophisticats [2020] 'Back to school' promotion, touting
Sophisticats [2020] Complicit in Credit Card fraud
Platinum Lace [2016] Sexual contact, management claims 'set up' by rival
Platinum Lace [2019] pg 20. Sexual contact: Undercover investigators. Not Shut
Windmill Theatre [2018] Sexual contact, prostitution: Undercover Investigators. Shut
Windmill [2019] Former strip club reopened as thriving celebrity cocktail bar
Westminster [2020] Selfridges steps in to stop new strip club opening opposite. Not Licensed

Weston-Super-Mare

- Shadow Lounge** [2010] 14 year old lap dancers
- Weston-super-Mare** [2019] Punter ejaculates on dancer's leg
- Weston-super-Mare** [2011] Former strip club now a thriving family business

Wigan

- Baby Platinum** [2016] 8 police call outs, including for drugs
- Baby Platinum** [2019] Staff 's bag, with her baby scans, snatched

Wolverhampton

- Cobra Club** [2011] Man stabbed in club

Worcester

- Black Cherry** [2019] Slavery Raid

Scotland

Until 2021, all strip clubs in Scotland were still licensed as 'leisure venues' as distinct licensing for strip clubs had not yet been brought into law.

Some Scottish regions, such as Edinburgh have an entrenched strip trade (and the organised crime that goes hand-in-hand with it). By 2014 a sting operation was needed against 3 clubs owned by **one lap dancing mogul, Steve Macdonald** with prior violent convictions. Both Macdonald and another strip club kingpin, Tony Cochrane, had been on a Holyrood **taskforce on sex trafficking**. Other Scottish regions have moved to end or prevent the industry (like East Lothian – the first Scottish council to pre-emptively ban the **strip industry**)

Aberdeen

- Private Eyes 2** [2015] Lap dancer attacks another, later acquitted of serious assault
- Private Eyes** [2017] Places unauthorised fly posters across town
- The Mask** [2019] Incidences lead to closure order forced by Police
- The Mask** [2020] Club manager assaults punter causing permanent disfigurement. Closed

Edinburgh

In Scotland, strip clubs were still **licensed like 'leisure venues'** until 2021. Despite this lack of regulation, Edinburgh embraced a now deeply entrenched strip industry, including hosting a so-called 'pubic triangle'. In 2022 it introduced a policy for no strip clubs and was taken to court by clubs and workers. In 2023 a Judge ruled the council was fully entitled to introduce a zero policy but the policy document itself was unlawfully worded.

Police sting at multiple Edinburgh clubs [2014]

Strip clubs still licensed like 'Leisure Venues' [2021]

Scottish Judge: [2021] Strippers 'undertake risk of violence and abuse'

Burke & Hare [2021] Lap dancers Not paid money earned, sexual contact, stalking: Whistle blower

Edinburgh Council [2012] Creates new policy for zero strip clubs

Policy Challenge [2022] Judge rules policy wording unlawful but Edinburgh entitled to have a zero policy

Glasgow

Spearmint Rhino [2009] Sexual contact exposed months after opening. Shut

Seventh Heaven [2009] Sexual contact

Legs N Co [2013] Tax Fraud

Diamond Dolls [2017] Half clothed, drunk lap dancer dumped on street

Spearmint Rhino

Spearmint Rhino is a household name, the largest, most powerful and 'most stringently regulated' strip chain in the UK. Yet there have been **problems (prostitution) at the chain** ever since it opened. Despite this, no branch appears to have ever been shut for breach of license. The chain is currently operating in the UK at a near **£5million loss**, which in itself raises serious questions.

UK Club-by-Club

Camden [2002] 'Club operating as brothel': Undercover Investigators. Not Shut

Camden [2013] Touts (pimps outside 'unstoppable & due to club': District Judge. Not Shut

Camden [2013] Fails in Court to stop Council accessing CCTV & extend opening hours

Camden [2014] Numerous logs of touting pimps: Police. Not Shut

Camden [2014] Sexual contact, organised crime, PTSD: former dancer. Not Shut

Camden [2014] Club unsuccessfully challenges ban on ad vans & forcing dancers to drink alcohol

Camden [2015] Pimps touting outside, porn events, topless advertising. Not Shut

Camden [2017] Sexual Contact & Straddling, performers blamed & fired

Camden [2019] Hosts troupe of male black strippers – 'The Chocolate Men'

Camden [2019] Sexual contact, pimps outside: Undercover Investigators

Bournemouth [2014] Illegally serving alcohol to intoxicated punters. Not Shut

Bournemouth [2014] Multiple allegations of financial fraud. Not Shut

Bournemouth	[2014] Sexual Contact & Straddling. Not Shut
Bournemouth	[2022] License transferred to another operator
Heathrow	[2003] Prostitution, Drugs: Employee whistle blower. Not Shut
Heathrow	[2009] Serious sexual assault by security guard on CCTV: Ex performer. Not Shut
Sheffield	[2016] Council breaching equality law: High Court. Not Shut
Sheffield	[2018] Council still breaching equality law: High Court
Sheffield	[2018] Harassment, assault, intimidation over years: 3 ex dancers. Not Shut
Sheffield	[2019] p828 Management abuse: Whistle blower
Sheffield	[2019] Extreme sexual contact/sex acts: Undercover Investigators
Sheffield	[2019] Councillors walk out of public meeting where club breaches described
Sheffield	[2019] 200 breaches, unfit management: Council Report. Not Shut
Sheffield	[2020] Still breaching licensing conditions
Sheffield	[2020] Deserted street with strip club -hot spot for sexual violence
Sheffield	[2020] Numerous women report assault/fear of assault, do not use local area
Sheffield	[2020] Spearmint Rhino puts venue up for sale
Sheffield	[2020] Rhino sells building sold, club shut. Council never refused license

Across the Chain

1995: Founder of entire Spearmint Rhino chain denies he has multiple criminal convictions

2003: Sexual Contact and Prostitution exposed across UK Chain. No Clubs Shut

2004: Ex detective hired to 'clean up' the chain's UK clubs

2007: Spearmint Rhino UK goes to Court to ensure lap dancers have no employment rights

2008: Simon Warr, UK Vice President tells Parliament 'Lap Dancing isn't Sexual'

2009: John Specht, new UK Vice President brought in to 'clean up act'

2011: John Specht: "There's a no touch policy"

2011: John Specht 'Encourages students to strip'

2011: John Specht Swears on his mother's life he never targeted students

Rhino UK Finances

2014: Rhino sells its Camden branch sold

2017: Camden branch now leased from landlords, Chester Council

2016: Sheffield branch for sale at £1.7 mil (not bought)

2020: Sheffield branch sold at £1.6 mil

2015: Spearmint Rhino UK £10 profit

2016: Spearmint Rhino UK in debt

2017: Spearmint Rhino UK £2.5 million in debt

2018: Spearmint Rhino UK £3 million in debt

2020: 'Very High Credit Risk' 'Significant Issues': Experian Credit Report

Rhino USA

Santa Barbara 2007: Punter dies after forceable removal and physical restraint by bouncers

Dallas 2013: \$10.5 mil settlement for serving drunk punter who then crushed woman with monster truck

Rialto 2013: Dancer shot with semi automatic by punter who then commits suicide
West Palm Beach: Club sued for inadequate security when shoot out outside club leads to 2 murders
USA Chain Courts demand chain pay out \$3.6mil to underpaid dancers
USA Chain 2013 Ad uses baby picture of 'one of their strippers', then a 14 year old girl

Worker Reviews

UK: 'Seedy managers/hierarchy of girls' 'Favouritism'
USA 'Managers take dancers tips', 'Favouritism', 'Stressful'
USA 'People with no moral code', 'Expensive house fees', 'Men want you to go home with them'
USA 'Worst place I've ever worked', 'Poorly managed', 'Rude punters', Horrible customers
Unknown: 'Soul Destroying', back-stabbing, not paid, 'Management doesn't care' 'Cons: Hours Money, Environment'

Worker Testimonies

Sarah 'It's called Rhino because that's how thick skinned you need to be'
Irina: 'There were a lot of drugs and dealers'
Mel: 'I was threatened with attack dogs'
Sammy: 'How many times I was called a piece of sh*t'