

Appendix F – Trading Standards Supporting Evidence

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules 2020, Rule 16.2,
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

STATEMENT OF: Elaine Sarah Lucas

Age of witness (if over 18, enter "over 18"): OVER 18

Occupation of Witness: SENIOR TRADING STANDARDS OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 3 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 1st Day of August 2023

Signe



I am the above named person and I am employed as a Senior Trading Standards Officer within West Sussex County Council Trading Standards Service. I have held this post since 20th February 2023 and previously worked within Hampshire and Southampton Trading Standards since 2008.

On 24th May 2023 I was involved in an underage sales test purchase operation with Senior Trading Standards Officer, Laura SANDERS and Trainee Trading Standards Officers Natasha ALI and Peter LEGGETT.

The purpose of this operation was to inspect West Sussex business' compliance with legislation that prevents the sale of age restricted products to children under 18.

A volunteer who is 17 years old participated in the Underage sales test purchase day, under the instruction and supervision of WSCC Trading Standards. The volunteer was assigned a unique code "NZA1" to protect their identity.

At approximately 15:48 I entered Express Supermarket 68-70 Newland Road BN11 1JX with Laura Sanders, Laura informed me that they had sold a bottle of WKD Blue to NZA1. At 15:54 Laura cautioned the male behind the counter, he was a slim built Asian male, around 60 years old. Laura then questioned the male. The male gave his name as [REDACTED] and confirmed he was a sales assistant. [REDACTED] stated that he did not think NZA1 looked under 18. [REDACTED] stated that for the last 2 years he worked at the shop 3 days a week, for 7 hours a day and he works alone. [REDACTED] gave the owner details as Mr BALA, he did not know what the legal entity was. The receipt showed that it is Visual Business retails, 2 Cambridge Road KT1 3JU. I produce this receipt as **ESL/1**.

When asked [REDACTED] showed us that when an age restricted product is put through the till an alarm sounds and buttons come up to press yes or no. [REDACTED] was able to explain what different age restricted products are. [REDACTED] stated he was not aware of the challenge 25 policy but asks for identification for anyone under 18. [REDACTED] stated that he thought the volunteer looked 19 to 20 years old. [REDACTED] stated he had been trained to ask for identification. The training was 6-7 months ago, verbally, but he did have to sign to say he had the training. There were not any training records provided.

[REDACTED] showed Laura Sanders the refusals log, the last entry was on 23/05/2023 and started in February 2023, Laura Sanders took photos of the refusals log. [REDACTED] stated that the CCTV could not be accessed in the store.

At approximately 16:10 Laura Sanders and I returned to the Horsham office.

[REDACTED]

VISUAL BUSINESS RETAIL
2 CAMBRIDGE ROAD
KINGSTON UPON THAMES
KT1 3JU
TEL:

TRANS ID : 1462568

Staff ID: 101

Date: 24/05/2023 15:53

1	CUTTERS CHOICE EX FINE	19.99	19.99
1	CHICKEN TIKKA	1.59	1.59
1	SAUSAGE ROLL	1.49	1.49
1	ES SUGAR FREE ENRGY PM50	0.50	0.50
1	FRENCH FRIES C & O PM125	1.25	1.25

* SUB TOTAL 24.82

* CARD PAYMENT 24.82

* Number Of Items : 5 *

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CUSTOM.
PLEASE COME AGAIN.

VAT NO: