

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules 2015, Rule 16.2,
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)*

STATEMENT OF: [REDACTED]

Age of Witness: 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: 03/03/2022

Signed [REDACTED]

I am a Senior Trading Standards Officer employed by West Sussex County Council.

On 23rd February 2022, I participated in an underage sales operation accompanied by my two colleagues [REDACTED] (Trading Standards Officer) and [REDACTED] (Trading Standards Officer). A 15-year-old female volunteer was also working under the instruction and supervision of Trading Standards. The purpose of the operation was to ensure West Sussex businesses were compliant in that they were not selling age restricted products to children under the age of 18.

Prior to visiting any of the premises, [REDACTED] and I collected the volunteer and briefed her, and took photographs of her appearance that day. The volunteer was assigned the unique code '6NB' to protect her identity. At the time of the operation, it was no longer mandatory to wear Covid-19 face coverings and the volunteer chose not to wear one for this operation.

At approximately 1450 hours, as part of the operation, I entered Clifton Food and Wine, 123 Clifton Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4DP. As I entered, I saw

and heard that the male working in the shop and who was behind the till area at the time, was on his mobile phone. I browsed around the shop acting as a normal customer would until a few moments later, when the volunteer entered the shop. At this point, I positioned myself near to the till area and I witnessed the volunteer take two bottles of WKD Blue to the till. I heard the male working behind the till advise the person he was on the phone to that he had a customer. I witnessed him sell the two bottles of WKD Blue to the volunteer without asking her any questions whatsoever. The volunteer exited the premises and I then paid for my products and left too. I returned to the support vehicle with my colleagues and the volunteer and [REDACTED] passed me the two bottles of WKD Blue that he had placed into an evidence bag. I completed the information on the evidence bag and gave it the following reference which I now produce as evidence:

LD/CR/01 – 2 x WKD Blue (275ml) – seal. MC00110115

At approximately 1505 hours David Dutton and I returned to Clifton Food and Wine, 123 Clifton Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4DP and I introduced us both to the male working behind the till counter and explained the reason for the visit. The male informed me that his name was [REDACTED] (dob 09/06/1971) and that he was the director of OM Food and Wine Ltd t/a Clifton Food and Wine. I cautioned him at approximately 1507 hours and asked him some questions that were recorded in my pocket notebook. I asked [REDACTED] if he remembered selling the alcohol to the volunteer and he said that he did but he thought that the volunteer was with me in the shop. He initially told me that he thought the volunteer looked 16, but further into the conversation, said that he thought she looked 19 or 20.

I checked the systems the shop had in place to prevent the sale of an age restricted product taking place and noted these in my pocket notebook.

[REDACTED] and I left the premises at approximately 1521 hours.

I now produce as evidence a photocopy of my pocket notebook for the incident as exhibit **LD/CR/02**.

Address: WSCC, Parkside, Chart Way, Horsham, RH12 1XH

Email address: [REDACTED]

Mobile number: [REDACTED]

Other number(s): [REDACTED]

Date and place of birth: [REDACTED]

Married name: [REDACTED]

Female

Dates to be avoided. Delete dates of non-availability of witness:

Month of : January							Month of : February							Month of : March						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

Month of : April							Month of : May							Month of : June						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

Contact details if different from above

Address:

Email address:

Mobile number:

Other number(s):

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND INVESTIGATIONS ACT 1996

Record below anything that may affect the credibility of the person making this statement, e.g.; previous convictions, relationship to defendant. If there is nothing state 'none' below.

None

Dated: 03/03/2022

Signed

[REDACTED]