

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG 11 (T)

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of **Fran Latham** ..... URN: 

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Age if under 18 **Over 18** ..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Officer**.....

This statement (consisting of: .... **2**..... pages 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 anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

Date: **09/02/2015**.....Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am a police constable attached to the Wealdstone Proactive Unit, Harrow Police.

On Thursday 29th January 2015 at 13:35 hours I seized a DVR CCTV system Model XL86TX (s19 PACE) from 120 HIGH STREET, WEALDSTONE in relation to an investigation of serious assault which occurred in the location on 16th January 2015. Mr SRITHARAN had failed to provide police with footage of this incident and when police have returned to secure the footage, Mr SRITHARAN has demonstrated that he is unable to use the CCTV system. Police have had numerous issues previously recovering CCTV from this location.

I was aware of an incident that had occurred at the venue at 22:52 hrs on 28th January 2015 (CAD 9904/28JAN15) where Mr. Sinnathamby SRITHARAN, the manager of the store, had called police in relation to a group of males shoplifting at the store. When police had arrived the store manager had left the scene.

I took the DVR to the Harrow VIIDO Unit to seek the assistance of the unit in order to gather evidence relating to both incidents. I was assisted by [REDACTED] who was able to plug the DVR into a terminal in the viewing suit.

At approximately 16:00 hours I reviewed footage relating to the incident on the 28th January 2015 to ascertain whether offences had been committed. I started the footage at 22:30 hours which was time stamped with the correct date and time. Shortly after I started playing the footage I saw a group of males enter the shop. I know these males to be members of the GREY SET GANG, which is an established London gang predominantly located in the Wealdstone area.

I opened the player for Camera 3. This camera is located at the front of the shop above the window and shows a view of the front section of the shop, the front door is to the left bottom of frame and the till area and cigarette kiosk is to the right of screen. The rear of the shop is divided into two (2) aisles by a shelving unit which runs down the centre of the shop. The alcohol section is located to the left of the shop and left hand side of the frame.

I then watched the footage from 22:30 hours until approximately 23:10 hours.

During this time I saw this group of males who were stood in a circle in the front half of the shop. The males

Signature: [REDACTED]

Signature witnessed by: .....

2006/07(1): MG 11(T)

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Continuation of Statement of **Fran Latham**.....

appeared to be laughing and joking with each other. One (1) of the males was walking around the front area of the shop and appeared to be a main player. I saw this male, who I know to be [REDACTED] who is a prominent member of the GREY SET GANG, go to the alcohol section on the left hand side of the shop and pick up a bottle. He appeared to wander around the front of the shop in a leisurely fashion talking to other members of the group. He approached the door as if to talk to someone waiting outside and continued walking around the shop. At no point did he appear to be challenged or talked to by staff in the shop. Neither did staff appear to visibly ask the males to leave the store. It appeared to me observing the footage that all the males were welcome in the shop and were using it as almost a social venue. During this period of time, members of the public were entering the venue to buy items and interacting with the group in the store.

At approximately 23:00 hours four (4) of the males were still standing in the circle within the front area of the shop. [REDACTED] was hovering at the entrance of the shop and appeared to be speaking to the other males. He has walked back into the middle of the shop. They have then all looked outside the shop. At 23:04 hours all five (5) males have left the shop. Shortly after this police arrive and enter the shop.

The males I saw within the shop during the CCTV review are well known to me and the Wealdstone Proactive Unit. They are gang members and known to be involved in drug supply.

I know these males to be:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

I have reviewed the CAD relating to this incident which shows that police were called by Mr. SRITHARAN at 22:52 hours and arrived on scene at 23:04 hours. Mr. SRITHARAN had already left the scene when police arrived and therefore police were unable to take a report or assess whether any offences had been committed. On reviewing the footage, this group of males were within the venue for at least 20-25 minutes prior to police being called and appeared to be allowed to remain in the store unchallenged.

I then requested the assistance of the Harrow VIIDO unit to secure an hour of footage between approximately 22:30 hours and 23:30 hours from the DVR.

[REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED]

Signature witnessed by: .....