

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 Simon UNDERWOOD URN: [] [] [] []

Age if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer 203747

This statement (consisting of: 3..... 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:

[Redacted Signature]

Date:

08th April 2019

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

My name is Simon UNDERWOOD and I am a Police Officer currently attached to Marlborough Ward, Safer Neighbourhood Team my shoulder number is 3176NW, my beat includes WEALDSTONE HIGH STREET HA3.

I have been a police officer since June 2001 and have under taken a number of roles including supervisory roles and been an acting police sergeant in recent years. I have worked in areas of business including emergency response policing, specialised roles including acting as an independent expert witness for the courts and I have worked on and set up problem solving, community and youth engagement projects.

I have also in recent years worked extensively and in a full time role in youth engagement including working with young offenders, including with those affiliated to gangs. I have also been officially commended for my work in these areas.

This statement is what is commonly termed as an 'Impact Statement' and although at times I may express opinion, this is simply to give a person reviewing its contents an overview in support of other factual and evidenced matters.

In this statement I will be describing the WEALDSTONE HIGH STREET area and the issues that have historically and in some cases still blight the area.

Wealdstone High Road is diverse and busy part of Harrow, akin to a small town centre, there are transport hubs, licensed premises and various businesses and community facilities. Sadly in recent years the area particularly between LOCKET ROAD and main RAILWAY STATION has seen significant issues and offences in relation to alcohol enabled crime and serious youth violence.

Myself and my colleague PC MILLAR 3719NW volunteered to move to the Marlborough Ward to tackle these issues in the latter part of 2018 we moved and started work tackling the issues.

Signature:

[Redacted Signature]

re witnessed by:

.....

Continuation of Statement of **Simon UNDERWOOD**.....

Whilst it appears there has been significant improvement in recent months, the area is still frequented and used as meeting point for persons who 'STREET DRINK' often to excess.

This leads to Antisocial Behaviour, by way of huge amounts of empty cans and bottles often being discarded in flower beds, shop doorways and just left in the street. Rowdy and inappropriately loud behaviour had become normal in previous months. People urinating in the street and vomiting, had, had a very real and significant increase in residents and business owners feeling unsafe.

There were a significant number of individuals that were repeatedly coming to notice in recent months and these interactions led to numerous and repeated requirements to those involved to surrender their alcohol. This work continued in the main between the Junction of LOCKET ROAD and The main RAILWAY STATION.

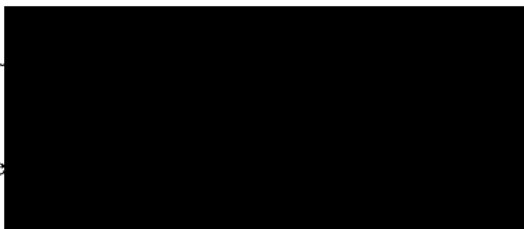
There was at this time a group of persistent and regular 'Street Drinkers' in the area, congregating in the main outside the WEALDSTONE CENTRE, the SQUARE HEADSTONE DRIVE and the front of LADBROKES bookmakers. As time has moved on these groups have actively started avoiding us and starting moving to the areas behind ASDA, the bench on GORDON ROAD junction with WEALDSTONE HIGH STREET and the top of CANNING ROAD.

All have been spoken to on a number of occasions and nearly all issued with COMMUNITY PROTECTION WARNING NOTICES under the ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014.

There are a number of premises that alcohol can be purchased from. All these premises have liquor licences issued through the local authority. I am aware the Local Police Licensing Team have been conducting checks and test purchase operations in and around the HIGH SREET.

I am aware that during a licensing check at EXPRESS FOOD AND WINE , 21 HIGH STREET, WEALDSTONE, HARROW, HA3 5BY on the 19/12/ 2019, during this visit I know that a colleague arrested the member of staff present for immigration matters, there were also a number of cigarette cartons found not to be UK Duty paid. These were seized by Trading Standards. Although I have not had reason to speak to the staff in EXPRESS FOOD & WINE, I was concerned to find out that the member of Staff present was working illegally and the owner had failed to complete the required checks to then employ him.

However what led me to further concern was when the Police Licensing Team carried out a second visit to the premises and the same member of staff was found to be working there. I believe he stated he was only helping out and not being paid, which I find hard to believe after the first arrest. This was I believe the 01/02/2019 only some 8 or so weeks later. It is also my understanding the police have been attempting to view CCTV captured at the premises in relation to an unrelated matter but to date have been unsuccessful in gaining access, which I believe is a breach of licensing conditions in itself.



Signature [REDACTED] Signature witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of **Simon UNDERWOOD**

In regards to the area particularly outside the WEALDSTONE CENTRE, which EXPRESS FOOD & WINE is directly opposite, this appears to be focal point of where 'STREET DRINKERS' meet. It is also true to say that on many occasions upon encountering the more persistent; Street Drinkers' they have not been in possession of alcohol, stating they 'drink before they meet' because we keep taking their alcohol. However it appears they are still able to purchase alcohol locally to consume, and it is often very apparent they are intoxicated at this time, only to find them in further possession of alcohol later in the shift, .

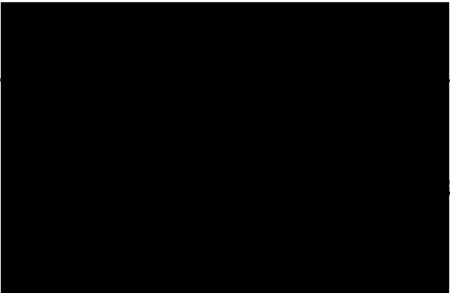
As mentioned it should be noted I cannot state I have had any reason to speak to EXPRESS FOOD & WINE, nor can I attribute any of the historic or recent issues with street drinkers to the premises.

However as the local Ward Officer I know myself and colleagues are working hard to disrupt and engage with those bringing the area down through what I would describe as quality of life crime where residents and businesses quality of life is affected and diminished through such matters as street drinking.

It is my opinion and significant experience in such matters, that where owners / landlords that do not take responsibility and adhere to the rules and break the law, including in matters as important as licensing it is indeed indicative of their wider approach to most matters. This can only serve to attract and encourage those committing crime and anti-social behaviour to remain in the area, and this of course can only be to the detriment of the wider populous for the aforementioned reasons.



Signature:



Signature witnessed by:

Ash Waghela

From: Francesca.Downes [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 April 2019 09:18
To: Ash Waghela; license
Subject: Premises Licence Review Application - Express Food & Wine, 21 High Street, Wealdstone, HA3 5BY

Good Morning,

Please see below the representation from Trading Standards relating to Express Food & Wine, 21 High Street, HA3 5BY.

Kind Regards

PC Frankie Downes 1529NW
Licensing Officer
Partnership and Prevention Hub
South Harrow Police Station
[REDACTED]

From: Abdullahi, Samuel [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 April 2019 23:57
To: Downes Frankie R - NW-CU <Francesca.Downes [REDACTED]>; Beresford Kirby C - NW-CU <Kirby.Beresford2 [REDACTED]>
Subject: RE: Premises Licence Review Application - Express Food & Wine, 21 High Street, Wealdstone, HA3 5BY

Dear PC Downes

Please accept this as my representation in support of your proposed Premises Licence Review application for Express Food & wine, 21 High Street, Wealdstone, HA3 5BY.

I am employed by the London Boroughs of Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service as a Regulatory Team Leader. I am authorised to enforce various statutes including the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 and the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015.

On Friday 1 February 2019, as part of a multi-agency day of action focusing on retailers selling alcohol and tobacco within the Wealdstone area of Harrow. I was working alongside Officers from the Metropolitan Police Harrow Licensing Team, PC DOWNES, PC BERESFORD and PC WILCOCK. One of the premises visited on the day was Express Food and Wine situated at 21 High Street, Wealdstone, HA3 5BY. During this visit I seized 4 x packs of 20s Marlboro Gold and 2 RMD Guthka as they failed to comply with the labelling requirements laid down in the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 in that they failed to display the UK health warnings specified by these Regulations. The cigarettes warnings were in Polish and the warnings on the RMD Guthka were not as prescribed within the Regulations.

Based on my experience, duty on such products has not been paid therefore, causing a loss in tax revenue, allowing the business to sell these at a cheaper price making it easier for children to afford to buy cigarettes and other tobacco products which encourages underage smoking it also undermines and damages legitimate local businesses as they are being undercut by businesses who chose to operate illegally by selling cheap illegal tobacco products that have no place in the British market.

Kind regards

Samuel Abdullahi
Regulatory Team Leader
Regeneration and Environmental Services
Brent Council



www.brent.gov.uk
@Brent_Council

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