

STATEMENT OF WITNESS*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

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Statement of: Constable Tobias Goldhill-Watts

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Police officer

This statement 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.

Signature:



Date: 28 Jan 2024

I am the above named officer. I am a safer neighbourhood's officer in the Wembley Area. I am familiar with the Wembley Central Ward area and the Anti-Social Behaviour it is enduring as a result of alcohol and drugs. On patrolling that area, I have come across instances of blatant misuse of alcohol and drugs in the streets and surrounding alleyways in the Ealing Road area. I regularly see the impact that ASB is having on local residents and businesses.

The impact of ASB has led to a significant drop in public confidence and trust in the police and Brent Council. This means that residents have been reluctant to report instances of ASB.

However, when I have patrolled the streets, members of the public have approached me on multiple occasions, stating that they do not feel safe in their own neighbourhood, due to the rampant use of drugs and alcohol.

Nowhere is this more evident than in BOWRON'S AVENUE, which is just off EALING ROAD. This alleyway is strewn with empty alcohol cans, glass bottles, drug paraphernalia and litter. The cadre of individuals using this alleyway have caused damage to the property of nearby residents and have even attempted to conceal drugs in residents' gardens. Residents have told me that this cadre does not live in the area. Residents complain of the smell of urine outside their own front door.

The number of people gathering in BOWRON'S AVENUE has led to officer safety issues. On one of these occasions, Sunday the 12th of November 2023, I needed to detain and search three people, while my colleague detained another two. My colleague found FIFTEEN INDIVIDUAL WRAPS of cannabis thrown into a resident's garden. This group included a visor nominal. I therefore believe that there is a link between this ASB and acquisitive crime. On the 28th of JANUARY 2024 at approximately 1845 HOURS, I attended BOWRONS AVENUE in plain clothes to take photos. I found NINE MALES in the alleyway who I believed to be engaging in ASB. After the males dispersed, I found FIVE cylinders and three bags of cannabis. I exhibit the image of this as TGW/01. Alongside this was piles of rubbish, including large quantities of empty beer bottles and cider cans.

This kind of behaviour is replicated in the alleyways behind businesses across EALING ROAD, including FRUITY FRESH and BARCLAYS BANK. Due to a perceived lack of action with regard to ASB, these businesses have stopped engaging with police to combat this issue or even report it. On the 28th of JANUARY 2024 at approximately 1900 HOURS I attended DOUGLAS AVENUE, where I found NINE males in their TWENTIES near the public toilets. One of whom was urinating against the wall of the public toilet, and the location was strewn with empty bottles and cans. Following this I went to the service road behind FRUITY

Signature:



Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: Constable Tobias Goldhill-Watts

FRESH where I found two males loitering, behind wooden pallets, and glass bottles and cans around the service road.

I later spoke to the manager at XXXXXXXXXXXX, who told us that broken glass had become a problem in that it had punctured the tires of vehicles using the service road. While speaking to the manager, I was approached and then surrounded by the same NINE MALES I had stopped outside the public toilet on DOUGLAS AVENUE, and a further TWO males from behind XXXXXXXXXXXX. It was clear that the males were attempting to intimidate me and my sergeant by invading our personal space, even after we had provided identification. I believe that if the males were willing to attempt to intimidate police officers, it is more than likely that they are willing to intimidate members of the public. The group's behaviour was undoubtedly fuelled by alcohol. This poses a serious threat to officer safety.

There are also issues on the northern section of EALING ROAD, near WEMBLEY HIGH ROAD. There we stop people drinking on the steps leading to station grove, on the junction with MONTROSE CRESCENT, in the bin sheds of CURTIS LANE and in the service road behind EALING ROAD off CHAPLIN ROAD. I visited this location at approximately 2000 HOURS on the 28th of JANUARY 2024 and found saw approximately FOUR people who I believed to be engaged in ASB. While walking down CHAPLIN ROAD I could see vomit and piles of empty cider.

As it stands, the area already feels lawless, especially in locations of the proposed licensing agreements. I believe that the implementation of any new licensing restrictions will contribute to a dangerous and poorly managed situation. The police and the council need to do better for the residents and businesses of EALING ROAD. That starts with making sensible decisions, like rejecting the proposed licensing agreements.

Witness Signature:



Signature Witnessed by: