

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

Statement of: Paul Jennings

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

This statement (consisting of 2 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.

Witness Signature: Paul Jennings PC43000 Date: 01/03/2024

I am the Dedicated Football Officer for Wembley Stadium and Central London, working in the Central Football Unit of MO6 (Public Order and Resources Command) of the Metropolitan Police Service. I have been working regularly within Football Intelligence deployments since 2004 and have been working full time as a Dedicated Football Officer since 2010. I have been the Dedicated Football Officer for Wembley Stadium since November 2021. From when Wembley Stadium officially reopened in May 2007, I have been deployed at the majority of football fixtures there, in an intelligence, Operational Football Officer or Dedicated Football Officer role.

For many years I have found the policing of Wembley Stadium to be a frustrating role due to the high levels of intoxication and the resulting elevated levels of antisocial behaviour that is a direct result of the alcohol consumption amongst a significant number of supporters. The correlation between levels of intoxication and patterns of behaviour including antisocial behaviour and pockets of disorder are clear to see.

The mixing of groups of opposing supporters or when the paths of rival fans cross, is often the catalyst to spontaneous disorder occurring. This is why we consider it to be prudent for supporters not to mix in or outside of licensed premises around Wembley Stadium. It is also the reason for requesting a geographic split of the licensed premises taking different groups of fans.

Much of the good partnership working between the police, the FA and Brent council around licensing and the enforcement of the PSPO could be undone by having supporters drinking in clear view and hearing of opposing fans.

The mixing of supporters around the wider footprint of the event and an increased crossover of supporters could require an uplift in resources. This not only puts greater demands on the

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Signature Witnessed by Signature:

Continuation of Statement of: Paul Jennings
already stretched policing resources and policing operation but inevitably results in the
officers being taken away from front line policing in communities around London.

Up to 60 per cent of supporters arriving at Wembley Stadium arrive via Wembley Park
Station often then using, alongside other fans, Olympic Way to walk to the stadium. Having
fans drinking outside, near to this busy route, potentially within sight and hearing of opposing
fans would create a potential public order problem and given certain groups of fans, could
become the seat of disorder. Before the current enforcement regime around the Public
Space Protection Order, fans would habitually gather and drink in areas along Olympic Way.
These groups would often sing and goad opposing fans as they walked down Olympic Way.
This regularly deteriorated into drinks being thrown and often led to fighting between
opposing supporters.

Having regularly worked football matches over the past twenty years, not only across the
length and breadth of the UK but across Europe I have regularly witnesses disorder ensuing
as rival groups pass a licensed premises where a group of fans are gathered.

Without a significant physical build involved to reduce sightlines and with sound proofing, it is
hard to see how an outside drinking adjacent to Olympic Way would not lead to failure to
comply with the licencing objectives of a premises.

Paul Jennings

Witness Signature: *Paul Jennings*

Signature Witnessed by Signature: