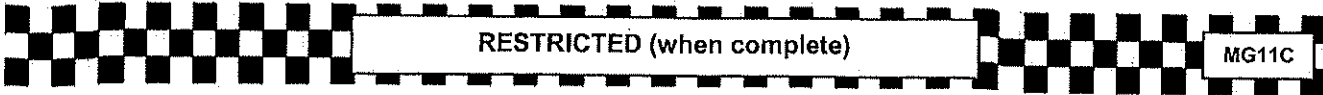


SFO06



RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11C

### WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

Statement of:

Age if under 18: over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Licensing Sergeant

This statement (consisting of  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:  Date: 7th May 2020

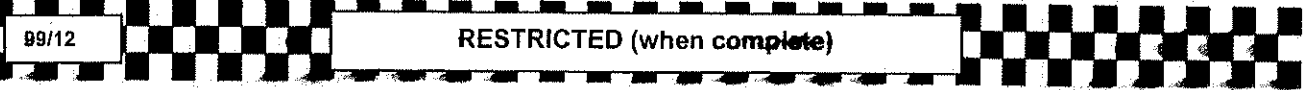
This statement refers to a visit to The Field Public House 249 Neasden lane NW10 ONL on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at around 1640 Hours. On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April I was on duty in full uniform and patrolling Brent borough as part of a serial designated to engage with people out and about during the Corona virus pandemic and encourage them to stay at home. As the licensing sergeant for Brent I was aware of several reports of The Field PH still being open to the regular customers. Some calls were reported direct to police and some reports were received via crime stoppers. At approximately 1635 hours I noticed a male stumble from the front door of the Field public house. I recognised him from previous visits to the venue. This male was stopped by Police and asked where he had been? He eventually admitted to having been in the Field Pub and was very intent on calling someone. I suspected he was hoping to call people in the pub and requested he not use the phone. I mentioned I had the legal powers to force entry to the pub as I suspected licensable activity was taking place and the male stated he had keys to the pub. The male dropped these keys and police picked them up. Everyone walked to the pub and opened the main door with the key and walked in to the venue. Inside the venue you could hear a pin drop as several older males were sat around and at the bar with fresh pints in front of them. There was cigarette smoke at the end of the bar where a blonde haired female was standing. The DPS had been caught in the act of 'business as usual', certainly not adhering to the licensing objectives.

I recognised several people in the bar and reminded them that due to the Covid 19 virus being so deadly, each of them were putting their own lives at risk and to anyone else they encountered. Everyone was told to leave immediately or they could be liable to enforcement action against them. The blonde female produced her UK Provisional drivers licence as ID. I recognised her name as that of the DPS for the venue as of June 2019, Miss Camelia MIHOC. One of the males seen drinking confirmed his name as Tim Sheehan, the former owner of the bar. He was asked to leave or face enforcement.

Police remained with the DPS Camelia MIHOC. She seemed fairly calm when all the males were around but slightly agitated once they had all left. She wanted to know what happens next as she is the responsible party involved and aware the bar was open. I explained to her that I was extremely disappointed and expected better especially given the current circumstances. I told Miss MIHOC that I would be reporting her to the issuing authority at the London Borough of Brent. I also explained that since the new ownership for the venue every visit had revealed issues and it was highly likely the premises would now be taken to a review of its licence. Miss MIHOC acknowledged this and did not reply with much other than

Witness Signature:

Signature Witnessed by Signature: .....



99/12

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Continuation of Statement of:

something like, so what happens now? I explained that further visits could take place and the venue must remain closed to the public.

While in the premises it appeared that there had been a delivery of two new beer barrels. This was pointed out to Miss MIHOC who declined to comment. Police waited while Miss MIHOC turned lights off and exited with her to insure she locked the premises up. Upon return to my station I emailed this matter to the Local authority.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 a call was made to the 999 system. A male and female seemed to be heard arguing about staying away from the door. Police attended and found Mr Sheehan drunk with Miss Mihoc and another male. Officers in attendance spoke to all three and were suspicious that they had been in the pub despite being told NOT to open. Access was gained and officers checked the taps where pints are pulled and they appeared wet. The venue smelt strongly of cigarette smoke as in recently smoked. Officers believe the three had been in the venue, moments before they had arrived. The number to the Police call handler belongs to Mr Timothy Sheehan.

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 I attended the Field Public House and at the rea a male was found sat on the steps. He informed officers he was waiting for Tim to let him in. Tim arrived a short while later and was quite abrupt and rude to officers. Police informed Mr Sheehan that entry would be forced if deemed proportionate or if any suspicion that there was licensable activity taking place inside. Initially Mr Sheehan remained uncooperative and then he gave the other male the keys to let police inside. Once inside it did not appear that the regular activity reported had been or was taking place. The male with the keys (A Priest from Gerrard's Cross) collected a watering can and another bag from inside which was in keeping as to why he was there. Mr Sheehan did not want to engage with officers directly and stated if Police kick the door down he would sue them. I find this comment interesting as Mr Sheehan has nothing to do with the management, ownership or lease of the premises according to his solicitor Robert Sutherland from Keystone Law. The DPS was called and said she can't make it to the venue until Monday.

Based on the reported activity and clear public safety concerns I have reported this venue to the council. All visits are supported by Body worn video as evidence. Police will submit an application for a review of the premises licence. The council will serve the DPS with a prohibition notice to cease trading. [REDACTED]

Witness Signature: [REDACTED]

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....