

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 PS Christopher [redacted] URN:

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

This statement (consisting of: 4..... 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] Date: 21/07/2022

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

I am the above named Police Officer currently attached to the Harlesden Town Centre Team based at Harlesden Police Station. This statement refers to my dealings with VYBZ BAR, 1 Craven Park Road NW10 8SE over the weekend of 16th-17th July 2022

The Harlesden Town Centre Team is one of 24 new town centre teams across The Met, they have been bought in to tackle violence in the 24 Town Centres with the highest rates of crime. In the first 2 weeks of February 2022 the Harlesden Team were met by a number of members of the community including Local Councillors, Ward Panels members and Youth leaders. All of these community members told me that they and the members of public they spoke with all had the same concerns about antisocial behaviour in Harlesden making it into somewhere people did not want to visit. The behaviour they listed included street drinking, loitering, the open supply and use of drugs, street prostitution and the open "cat calling" of women as they walked in the streets. I conducted research and found that the London Borough of Brent has in force Public Spaces Protection Orders till 19/10/2023 which mean that a Police Officer, PCSO or Council Official can require any person to stop drinking alcohol and surrender and open containers of alcohol.

On Saturday 16th July 2022 at about 0300 hours I was on duty in uniform as operator of a marked police minibus in company with [redacted] 2097NW, on patrol on HARLESDEN HIGH STREET NW10 and CRAVEN PARK ROAD NW10. As we passed VYBZ BAR 1 CRAVEN PARK ROAD NW10 I noted the shutters were up but doors were shut and there were 1 or 2 people outside in the street. They did not appear to be doing anything and they did not appear directly involved with VYBZ bar at that time but VYBZ was the only premises open.

Signature: [redacted] Signature witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of

On the same day at about 0400 hours I was still on duty in uniform as operator of a marked police minibus in company with [redacted] 2097NW but now also with PC [redacted] 2701NW and PC [redacted] 1170NW. Again we passed VYBZ BAR. The shutters were still up and the doors were still closed and again there were still a couple of people loitering outside, one directly outside the doors.

On the same day at 0455 I was still on duty in uniform as operator of a marked police minibus in company with [redacted] 2097NW PC [redacted] 2701NW and PC [redacted] 1170NW but now also with PC [redacted] 2279NW on patrol on HARLESDEN HIGH STREET NW10 and CRAVEN PARK ROAD NW10. As we got to VYBZ BAR there were approximately 40 people in the street outside VYBZ BAR with people actively leaving through the front door of the bar. There were people strutting about aggressively and pushing and shoving happening. It appeared to me that a fight had either just taken place or was about to take place. I spoke to a few people outside the venue and ended up talking to a male holding a torch at the front door who appeared to be acting as a bouncer as he was standing with his arm across the front door controlling who could go into or out of the premises. He told me his name was [redacted]. I would describe him as a black male with a shaved head in his 30s of stocky build about five feet eight inches tall wearing all dark blue. [redacted] had cuts to the knuckles on his right hand, I asked him about this and he told me that a male had been trying to get into the bar and that he had had to take him to the floor to stop him getting in and had scraped his knuckles on the floor in doing so.

People who appeared to have come from VYBZ BAR were stood smoking cannabis outside. I took a spliff from one male who was openly smoking it. Another group dropped a cannabis grinder full of herbal cannabis as we approached a number of people who appeared to have left VYBZ BAR and were congregated outside were also street drinking. I seized alcohol including a glass bottle of Heineken Beer, a glass bottle of tonic wine (16.5% ABV) and a glass 70cl bottle of Wray & Nephew Overproof White Rum (63% ABV). I found the male who appeared to have been ejected by [redacted] he was a small black male in a white T shirt with blood on it. He was quite irate and nearly impossible to get any coherent answers to questions due to his rage.

We left after about 15 minutes when it had calmed down and the crowd appeared to have started to disperse. As we left it appeared more people were being let back out of VYBZ BAR by [redacted]

On Saturday 16th July 2022 at about 2310 hours I was on duty in uniform as operator of a marked police minibus in company with [redacted] 2097NW, PC [redacted] 1170NW, PC [redacted] 2279NW and John McGANN of Brent Council Licensing. We attended VYBZ BAR 1 CRAVEN PARK ROAD, HARLESDEN, NW10 8SE to conduct a licensing

Signature: [redacted] ... Signature witnessed by:

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check. There were no customers inside and only a couple of staff. Mr McGANN spoke to the staff. Walking round the bar the premises is only about 4 meters wide at it's widest. The doors open onto a dance floor about 4m by 6m with an elevated DJ Booth at the back right corner. Next to this there are 3-4 stairs up to the bar area that is situated in a narrow thoroughfare, at this point the building is only about 3m wide. The bar is about 3m long but appeared well stocked with a range of beer and spirits including Wray & Nephew rum and small bottles of tonic wine. Back from this were the toilets that I did not enter and an exit to the right to the garden to the rear garden that appeared to be set up with outside seating, a BBQ and seven 3m gazebos giving cover to most of the garden. I estimated the garden to be 21m long by 4m wide. There appeared to be more space outside than inside. PC [redacted] checked by the front door and told me there was not a sign about the premises drug policy as required in their license. Mr McGANN had talked to the staff at the venue and I heard him telling them we would be back to check again at their 3am closing time.

On Sunday 17th July 2022 at about 0300 hours I was still on duty in uniform as operator of a marked police minibus and still in company with [redacted] and John McGANN of Brent Council Licensing. We attended VYBZ BAR 1 CRAVEN PARK ROAD, HARLESDEN, NW10 8SE to conduct a licensing check. Upon arrival there were a few people outside in the street, [redacted] was outside now in all grey with his torch in his front right pocket. When asked by Mr McGANN [redacted] said he was security however backtracked slightly when asked for his license and could not show one. [redacted] said he would go and get the manager of the premises for us, as he went in I could see people inside. After about a minute [redacted] came back out and told us the manager was coming and would be a couple of minutes.

I could hear music coming from inside and see through the window to the right of the door that was not fully covered. From my restricted view I could see it was quite dark inside with flashing disco lights. I could see a number of heads moving on the dance floor, somebody up in the DJ booth and a number of people in the bar area. I estimated that even with my narrow view in a thin strip diagonally across the premises I could see about 20 people and assumed there were more around them that I could not see.

We had been outside for 5 minutes at this point. I asked [redacted] how long the manager would be and he said "A COUPLE OF MINUTES". While we were waiting a group of 5 males turned up appearing to be looking for entry. I told them the bar was closed as it was supposed to close at 3am and one of said words to the effect of "NO, IT CLOSES AT 5". I pointed out to the males that none of them met the dress code advertised outside the bar including "NO HOODS/HATS" "NO TRACKSUITS" and "NO SPORTS TRAINERS" and they laughed and one replied

Signature: [redacted] Signature witnessed by:

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“MONEY TALKS”. I assumed this meant that they would bribe their way in. We waited 5 minutes from [REDACTED] saying “A COUPLE OF MINUTES” and nobody had come out so we left.

I was equipped with bodyworn video during all of these incidents except the first, I have reviewed some of the footage prior to writing these notes. I am not currently exhibiting any of the footage but have saved it in case it needs to be exhibited later. [REDACTED]

Signature: [REDACTED] Signature witnessed by: