

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

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Statement of: [REDACTED]
 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: [REDACTED]
 Date: 21 Jul 2022

This statement is made in relation to VYBZ BAR, 1 CRAVEN PARK ROAD, NW10 8SE.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a Police Officer attached to HARLES DEN POLICE STATION with the HARLES DEN TOWN CENTRE TEAM. Since I began working on the team in June I have noticed that VYBZ BAR has been contributing to the ongoing anti-social behaviour issues in the CRAVEN PARK area. In addition to this, I have identified a number of violent incidents outside VYBZ BAR that have been started or aggravated by patrons leaving the venue.

HARLES DEN is in the London Borough of BRENT. BRENT is one of the most diverse boroughs in the UK and from the 1st APRIL 2021 to 1st April 2022 received 13533 reports of ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB). These fell into 10 categories:

- Littering / Drugs Paraphernalia
- ASB - Personal
- Street Drinking
- ASB - Nuisance
- Prostitution Related Activity
- ASB - Environmental
- Noise
- Nuisance Calls
- Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour
- Begging and Vagrancy

The Ward Boundary for HARLES DEN received 4239 reports of ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR creating 31.32% of the ASB recorded in BRENT.


In this statement, I will refer to crime reports, CADs, intelligence reports which evidence the issues created by VYBZ BAR that contribute to the previously mentioned problems.

CRIME REPORT 1916830/22: Grievous Bodily Harm/ Wounding. After both have left VYBZ BAR between 0530 and 0545 on 25/06/2022, victim and suspect have been involved in an altercation on CRAVEN PARK ROAD. Suspect has hit the victim with a glass bottle before stamping on his head. Incident captured on CCTV.

CRIME REPORT 1914165/22: Grievous Bodily Harm with intent on 28/05/2022 at 2230. Victim self-presented at NORTHWICK PARK HOSPITAL with stab wounds. Threats to stab made inside VYBZ, stabbing occurred when victim went outside. Suspects successfully entered VYBZ BAR armed with knives.

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CRIME REPORT 1911567/22: Actual Bodily Harm on 30/04/2022 between 0400 and 0430, previously classified as GBH/ Wounding. Victim states she arrived at the VYBZ bar at 0330 and went to the bar. Suspect then assaulted victim by throwing a glass bottle at her, causing injuries consistent with Actual Bodily Harm.

CRIME REPORT 1903327/22: Theft on 05/02/2022 between 0010 and 0300. Victim reporting that his phone and wallet had been stolen inside the VYBZ bar.

CRIME REPORT 1908663/22: Actual Bodily Harm on 02/04/2022 at 0440. Victim alleges he was grabbed by the neck, thrown to the ground and ejected from the VYBZ bar. Victim felt excessive force was used to eject him after being advised about lawful use of force in regard to ejection. Bar was packed upon Police arrival.

CRIME REPORT 1912851/22: Crime related incident on 16/05/2022 at 0001. Informant stated that they were assaulted by security at the VYBZ bar.

CAD 1566/18JUN22: ASB call at 0530 on 18/06/2022. Informant states that a BMW has pulled up outside the venue playing very loud music, with VYBZ customers that were leaving the bar now continuing the party in the street outside. Once the car left, the crowd remained and continued engaging in ASB.

CAD 1515/11JUN22: ASB call regarding a car parked outside VYBZ BAR playing loud music with a crowd gathering around it. States the crowd was drinking alcohol in breach of the public space protection order.

Intelligence report QKRT00524752: Email received from Inft in relation to CAD 1515/11JUN22 as previously mentioned.

A small update on Vybz Bar:

The building previously had a wooden pergola built in the back garden which was refused planning permission in 2021 and was ordered for removal. This structure has now gone and patrons in the backyard currently shelter under collapsible gazebos.

It is unclear if this back yard is considered part of the licensed area. Activities in the backyard include drinking and food preparation on a small domestic BBQ which obviously has no chimney or extraction venting for the fumes expected in most commercial kitchens. This BBQ seems to be the only on-site cooking facility despite licensing condition 7. "Substantial food and non-intoxicating beverages (including free drinking water) shall be available during the whole of licensed hours". Licensing hours are 11am to 3am

Sound is always audible from Vybz Bar when the DJs are playing. At 5:36am 11 June patrons were still milling around on the street and one had even set up a sound system on the roof of their car to continue the party ref CAD 1515/11Jun22.

CAD 1401/29JAN22: ASB/ Nuisance call. Informant is a local resident reporting ongoing noise issues with VYBZ BAR between 0500 and 0600, stating these issues are consistent every weekend and throughout the week. Informant advised to contact local council to report the matter. Anti-Social Behaviour report created to be dealt with by Safer Neighbourhood Team.

CAD 1779/17JUN22: "Outside of Vybz Bar large noisy crowd car NY04HSU playing loud music. Vybz shutter not closed yet, people still in doorway despite 3am licensing. Man doing Nox balloon."

CAD 1428/03JUN22: "Vybz Bar Harlesden NW10, venue should have shut at 3am, people still leaving noisily, drinking in street in breach of PSPO, male urinating on parking meter"

CAD 892/02JAN22: "inft is calling to report Vyvz bar being open until 4-5am every single night for the the past 3-4months +

They have a bar with a large back garden, music is always very loud,

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lots of smoking going on (incl cannabis, where smoke comes into inft's room etc)

Inft has not called police previously but she has reached the end of her tether.

Could this be passed on to Licensing to review please as late opening every single night until the times suggested by inft seems excessive."

In addition to these reported incidents, I have also identified a number of unreported incidents that were captured via local CCTV cameras, exhibited as KG/01 and SH/01 and then compiled as exhibits DAB/01 and DAB/02 as storyboards.

12/06/2022, 0505: VYBZ patrons can be seen exiting the venue in a steady stream at around 0500, after which they begin to congregate outside. An argument begins between two of said patrons before turning into a mass brawl which spills south down the road into Harlesden High Street. There are no door staff present to prevent this and the fight continues until approximately 0510.

18/06/2022, 0515: VYBZ patrons can be seen exiting the venue from approximately 0450 before congregating in the street outside. A small group move northbound up Craven Park Road and begin milling around the Harlesden Food Centre, where blatant drug use and drinking in the street can be observed. At 0515, a fight breaks out between VYBZ patrons who can be seen stamping on someone who is on the floor. There is no door staff present to prevent this.

25/06/2022, 0450: VYBZ patrons can be seen congregating in the street outside the venue. Blatant drug use in public can be observed, with VYBZ patrons appearing to be receiving nitrous oxide balloons from a white Mercedes Benz parked outside VYBZ before inhaling from them. At 0502 a male who can be seen exiting VYBZ at around 0450 can be observed assaulting another male in the street outside the Harlesden Food Centre. The attacker kicks the victim whilst he is on the floor and the victim does not stand back up again for the remainder of the clip, which lasts for approximately 20 minutes. No door staff is present to prevent this or offer medical assistance to the injured male.

01/07/2022, 0301: A hooded male can be seen kicking a rubbish bag north up Craven Park Road, it splits open and the rubbish is left strewn around the street. He stops doing this outside VYBZ before entering the venue.


02/07/2022, 0500: VYBZ patrons can be seen slowly exiting the venue at 0500. A fight spills out of the front door to VYBZ between two males, before more patrons decide to join in themselves. One of the originally involved males then begins to fight a different male, which prompts more people to get involved in the fight. This eventually gets out of hand and spills south down the road onto Harlesden High Street. Throughout the clip there is one male attempting to calm down the situation whilst the rest of the crowd decide to join in with the melee. The crowd then moves northbound up Craven Park Road towards Harlesden Food Centre. From 0504 to 0505 the originator of the fight picks up a glass bottle that has been left near a bin and begins to move back towards VYBZ before being disarmed by another male. He then attempts to strangle the male that has just disarmed him before being dragged away by another group and pinned up against the shutters of Prestige Hairdressers. Two Police Officers then arrive on scene but are unable to successfully detain the male due to the size of the crowd of VYBZ patrons that has now gathered. There are no door staff present that are able to contain the incident.

From the incidents I have identified here, a number of key issues can be highlighted.

Firstly, VYBZ habitually allows their customers to stay in the venue past their licensed hours. The venue is due to shut at 0300 every day however it can clearly be observed that the majority of customers are consistently leaving at around 0500. This two hour extension is perhaps causing the customers to consume more alcohol which may be the cause of these violent incidents I have highlighted above.

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Secondly, VYBZ does not employ licensed door staff to keep the venue and the local area, and therefore the local area's residents, safe. This can be seen in the CCTV highlighted above. Additionally, Police attended the venue at 0300 on 17/07/2022 to conduct licensing visits with Brent Council and were met by a male acting as a security guard at the front door. The male stated that he did not have an SIA badge when challenged before backtracking and stating that he never said he was security. When asked, he was unable to inform Police where the licensed security were. This was captured on body worn video.

VYBZ owners are clearly giving no regard to the local residents of Craven Park Road who have to put up with this constant stream of anti-social behaviour. Whilst attempts have been made by the Council to make contact with the owners of VYBZ, these attempts were not reciprocated. From this, it is clear that the owners of VYBZ are not interested in working with either the Police or the Council to make attempts to rectify the ongoing problems I have highlighted.

In conclusion, it is clear that:

- Patrons at VYBZ Bar are engaging in disorderly and offensive behaviour inside the premises.
- The use of the premises has caused a serious nuisance to members of the public.
- There has been and, unless the premises is closed, there is likely to be serious disorder near the premises associated with the use of the venue.

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