



Witness Statement

CJ Act 1967, s9;

MC Act 1980, ss5A(a) and 5B;

MC Rules 1981, r70;

UPRN:

Statement of:

Age of if under 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Over 18.

Occupation: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Localities Officer.

This statement (consisting of 2 page 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 which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the: 23rd May 2022

Signature:

My name is , I work as Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Localities Officer for Brent Council. I have been in this post for over 4 years and my job entails delivering an effective anti-social behaviour service for Brent, dealing with resident complaints, taking suitable enforcement action where necessary, and coordinating partnership problem solving forums for the resolution of embedded community safety problems within a specified locality.

During my time within the team, there have been a number of complaints regarding Craven Park Road. These complaints range from drug taking, alleged drug dealing and street drinking in the vicinity. These are from local residents and partners of the London Borough of Brent Council.

Vybz Bar at 1 Craven Park Road NW10 is located adjacent to where High Street Harlesden ends and is opposite Crownhill Road, on a busy one-way street. The premise is a venue that opens at night, has a dance floor or other space for dancing by members of the public, and provides music, whether live or recorded, for dancing.

For the duration of July 2020 to the present day, a number of complainants alleged that the premise was continuing to trade outside of their permitted hours after 03:00hrs. Between July 2020 and August 2020 complainants had observed a number of breaches. It was also suspected that the premise was trading as a nightclub, which, at the time of this, these types of business were to remain closed. This was required by the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020. The information was passed on to partners in our CCTV, Licensing and Noise departments.

Subsequently a Prohibition Notice was served on Saturday 15th August 2020 by Principal Nuisance Control Officer for Brent Council on behalf of Senior Enforcement Officer (Brent Council). served the notice to a Ms. Kamika Samuel, who I believe to be the licensee. noted that prior to serving the notice that loud music was heard coming from the front of the premise.

I was informed that Licensing team conducted a number of online checks from 'open source' online material that strongly suggested that whilst the premise was closed from 20th March until 4th July and where, after refurbishment the premise opened for business on or about Friday 4th July 2020. The premise has been open since then and was last seen to be trading on the weekend of 22nd / 23rd August 2020.

During this time, Brent Council's CCTV department also had gathered intelligence around the location of Craven Park Road and footage showed the premise were exceeding its licensable hours with events running on past 03:00hrs.

This was prior to the announcement by the Prime Minister of the stricter lockdowns measures stating establishments such as bars and restaurants were now only allowed to operate until 22.00hrs.

On Thursday 24th September, I received intelligence that Vybz Bar are due to hold an event on Sunday 27th September 2020. It was rumoured to be a DJ event from 3pm-12pm. The next day on Friday 25th September 2020, I was informed the Licensing Police asked the licence holder, Ms. Kamika Samuel about the alleged event, and she confirmed in writing that the timings have been moved due to the new restrictions and therefore will not open beyond 22.00hrs.

On Monday 28th September 2020, [REDACTED], at the time in her capacity as an Licensing Enforcement Officer (Brent Council) went into the CCTV suite to check whether they had abided by this and she confirmed that the last customers she saw leaving was at 22.00hrs.

I was made aware today, 30th September 2020, that [REDACTED] sent a warning letter to Vybz Bar regarding the new government regulations where the premise must now close at 22.00hrs. At least until the restrictions were lifted.

During the last 18 months between Summer 2020 to May 2022, it is clear despite the efforts concerning our partnership work in the past and present associated to Vybz Bar, that this premise is affecting the local community.

The issues with the loud music, alleged drug usage outside the bar and the individuals loitering outside the business and around the Craven Park area in to the early hours of the morning is having a major impact.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date: 23 May, 2022