

IN THE MATTER OF A LICENSING ACT 2003 REVIEW

B E T W E E N:

[REDACTED]

Applicant

and

AEG Facilities (UK) Ltd

Respondent

WITNESS STATEMENT OF [REDACTED]

1. I am [REDACTED], I am a school boy and keen concert goer. I am fortunate enough to share a passion of music with my father and so have been to a number of concerts. For instance I was at the Gary Numan show when he played Wembley Arena last year, I have been on the Roger Taylor (of Queen) solo tour, and was excited to see Roger at this show by "The Darkness" watching his son Rufus on drums. I have seen "The Darkness" before play large outdoor festivals such as the "Godiva Festival", and have seen other bands such as "The Stranglers", and "Supergrass" play similar events. I have also seen cover bands play smaller venues.

The Event

2. I was at OVO Arena Wembley on Saturday, February 04, 2023, with my father, and we had tickets for seats:
 - Section S3, Row O, Seat(s) 34 - 35, (2 Ticket(s))
 - Event: Black Stone Cherry & The Darkness
3. Initially we were seated uneventfully, watched the Danko Jones band, and the preparation of the stage area for "The Darkness". I went on my own downstairs a few times, to buy diet coke, having to return as they didn't take cash, so he went back with a card, and to visit the toilet.
4. Occasionally, during the darkness show I stood up in excitement and danced a little.
5. The steward who was wearing vest number 7 [REDACTED] ("Steward 7 [REDACTED]"), when I was coming back from buying my diet coke, asked me if the drink was for him. I simply said that it was mine.
6. During later songs in the Darkness set, the Steward 7 [REDACTED] shone his flashlight at me, and used a hand movement to indicate for me to sit down. My father told me to ignore him, so I did.
7. Steward 7 [REDACTED] came up to me later, and tapped me on the shoulder and told me sit down loudly.
8. He came up later and shouted aggressively at my father. I replied "in the words of Justin Hawkins "fuck off"".
9. I then went to the toilet, I was stopped at the bottom of the stairs (the stairs below our seats). Several members of the OVO Arena Security Team stopped me, and told me that they wanted to have a chat with me.
10. They tried to ask my age. I told them that was personal information. They replied "*if that's how you want to play it. we can play it that way*". They then held me against my will, and prevented me from going back to my seat and up to my father. They physically had hold of my T-shirt ((footage 1 -son at the bottom of stairs - 00:00:05)) Please also see a screenshot of this, Tab AJ1. They said "start walking or we'll drag you down" ((footage 1 - son at bottom

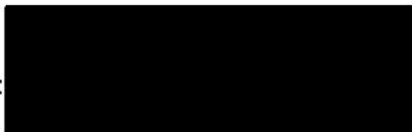
of stairs - (00:00:40)). I was nervous and anxious held on to the railing ((footage 1 -son at the bottom of stairs 00:00:48))

11. I told the OVO Arena Security Team that I cannot come down unless my father comes with me. They said you are coming down whether your father comes or not. I repeated I cannot come down unless my father comes with me. And this exchange was repeated.
12. They said: *"We are not afraid to drag you down the stairs, you are coming with us whether your father does or not."* The OVO Arena Security Team were annoyed and angry. They said *"look we are not here to have a conversation about it"* ((footage 1 - son at bottom of stairs - (00:00:53)) . I replied by saying: *"but you told me we were going to have a chat a minute ago."*
13. When my father gave me the signal to go and they escorted me down the stairs and took me to the main concourse next to the refreshment stalls. During moving down the stairs they also took hold of me physically by the T Shirt.
14. In the concourse I was surrounded by a lot of Arena Security staff, say 3 or 4. I was very scared. I was very worried about my blue top which I thought was still at my seat. I was being held against my will and separated from my father. They interrogated me and got me to reveal my age.
15. When they received info from their radios that they had my father downstairs, they took me to my father. I remember in the conversation between my father and the lady and man, in the corner at the bottom of the stairs, my father saying *"we are all here to have a good time, we are all here to be happy."*
16. On leaving, one of the security was laughing saying, *"smile your on camera"*, so I turned round and waved at her. (Footage 3 - 00:06:46)

Statement of truth

The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signed:



Date:

23/3/23