

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

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Statement of: Constable Euan Varney

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:



Date: 03 Nov 2022

This statement is a continuation of my previous statement, in relation to VYBZ BAR, 1 CRAVEN PARK ROAD, NW10 8SE. Vybz Bar is currently subject to a closure order which was put in place on AUGUST 9TH 2022 and is due to expire on NOVEMBER 9TH 2022. This order was granted at WILLESDEN MAGISTRATES COURT before being appealed at HARROW CROWN COURT on SEPTEMBER 30TH 2022. The appeal was not upheld and the closure order has remained in place as a result. During the appeal, the Judges expressed a number of concerns regarding the reopening of Vybz Bar. In particular, they were concerned about the lack of responsibility taken by Mr Samuel in relation to the number of violent incidents taking place both inside and outside of his venue and, as a result, the lack of concern shown to those affected by said incidents.

In addition to this, Vybz Bar has had its premises licence revoked on AUGUST 22nd 2022 by BRENT COUNCIL under the Licencing Act 2003. The Council expressed concerns regarding Mr Samuel's ability to manage the premises and his lack of qualifications to do so.

From a policing perspective, the closure of Vybz Bar has had a number of positive effects. No longer are there large crowds converging on Craven Park Road NW10 at 05:00 on weekend mornings, which has led to a noticeable decrease in calls from the public complaining about anti-social behaviour outside the venue at these times.

This trend is not exclusive to anti-social behaviour calls and reports also. The number of calls relating to violence or disorder in the area has also dropped drastically. This can be observed when looking at the heat maps I have generated, which show recorded crimes in the Harlesden area, including Vybz Bar and its immediate surrounding area.

Furthermore, I have taken two statements from local community members. These statements detail the positive effects that the closure of Vybz Bar has had on their quality of life.

It is the view of the MPS that Vybz should remain closed and that the existing closure order should be extended by the courts. Previously, I presented the argument that Vybz Bar was a serious safety risk to the public, with the risk of serious injury or even death occurring at or just outside the venue being very high. The Courts accepted this argument on two occasions. My role as a Police Officer is to manage risk and prevent harm; the existing closure order does precisely this within the context of the risk presented by Vybz Bar.

Signature:



Signature Witnessed by: