Continuation of Statement of: [redacted]

# STATEMENT OF WITNESS

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

URN | | | | |

Statement of: [redacted]
Age if under 18: Over 18
Occupation: Police Constable

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: 23rd of July 2026

This statement refers to my Closure Order application being made with regards to Wazir Food & Wine 97 Dudden Hill Lane, NW10 1BD

I am [redacted], attached to Harlesden Town Center Team, based out of Harlesden Police Station.

The role of the Town Centre Team is to identify local problems such as anti-social behaviour, provide a visible policing presence and to tackle local issues. Once anti-social behaviour or other local issues are identified our team attempts to deal with the issue. This includes using a range of legislation, warrants or referrals to local agencies such as Brent Council.

This statement details the available reports I have researched regarding this address and my own personal knowledge about it and its issues. The reports below are only summarised both to protect individual's personal information and operational security. The reports range over the last year and a half, as this has been a long-term and ongoing issue.

Below are the listed reports I have found which relate to the issues at the address.

**Stop and Searches:**

01/5029075/26 – 02/02/2026 – Male was seen loitering near the shop and had come and gone 4 times on a bicycle. Due to reports of drug dealing in the area and no satisfactory reason to be loitering, he was searched. Nothing found.

01/5029093/26 – 02/02/2026 – Male was seen sat outside the Wazir Food & Wine. Due to being drugs hotspot and giving changing reasons to be in area, he was searched. Nothing found.

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01/5029891/26 – 03/02/2026 – A group of three males were seen by TSG officers watching members of the public as if to size them up for robberies. Upon officers arriving, male turned around and fled into the shop to hide. Property seized from vehicle attributed to one of the males.

01/5043552/26 – 14/02/2026 – patrolling officers noticed a group of males loitering outside the shop and paying close attention to police. Stopped and searched for knives due to recent gang tensions. Nothing found.

01/5177363/26 – 14/05/2026 – 15 males seen loitering outside the shop, paying close attention to police as they passed. Due to recent intel on increased gang tensions and the hiding of weapons nearby, entire group was stopped and searched. Male searched had nothing found.

01/5177498/26 – 14/05/2026 – same situation as previous report. Further information gleaned from grounds namely that a member of public pointed the group out to officers and said they had seen them dealing drugs.

**Intel:**

01/6021208/25 – 1AP – 21/01/2025
Report states drugs are being stored at Wazir Food & Drink and being dealt by Somalian males on the corner outside the shop.

01/6163953/25 – 1AP – 14/06/2025
This intel report details how officers saw CCTV of suspected drug dealing on the corner outside Wazir Food and Wine. The males were seen exchanging bags of white powder and were also seen in and out of the shop multiple times.

01/6171454/25 – 1AP – 21/06/2025
A call to police about two males chasing another with a machete has caused armed police to patrol the area around Cooper Road after one of the machete wielding males were. One of the males has been seen loitering outside Wazir Food & Wine.
One of these males was found with a large quantity of cash, which another male tried to take ownership for, and a mobile phone he was desperately trying to hand off to someone else. While officers were trying to get CCTV from the shop, the group of males outside were attempting to intimidate the shopkeeper into withholding it and required an officer to physically block the doorway to ensure the shopkeeper's safety. It is very likely this group of males is dealing drugs out of Wazir Food & Wine, possibly against the shopkeeper's consent or knowledge.

01/6334097/25 – 1AP – 25/11/2025
Following a stabbing outside Dollis Hill Underground Station, officers viewed CCTV and saw a large number of males loitering around the Wazir Food & Wine. These males were seen performing suspected drug deals, carrying small bags and cash in and out of the shop and,

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while officers were speaking to nearby residents, some of the same males were keeping a close watch on the officers and moving plastic carrier bags around the area. All these males were either IC3 or IC4 with London accents.

01/6202114/26 – 1AP – 09/05/2026
While dealing with a group of young males outside the Wazir Food & Wine shop, a crowd has gathered. One officer saw a brown baseball bat being kept behind the counter, possibly as they fear violence, or else at the demand of the males who commonly loiter in the area.

01/6215143 – 1AP – 19/05/2026
An anonymous source has said she was in the Wazir Food & Wine shop when she saw one of the males who loiter outside enter and offer cannabis to the shop's owner, who took it.

01/6230323/26 – 1AP – 02/06/2026
One of the males who regularly loiters on the corner outside Wazir Food & Wine was seen leaving the shop with a small wrapped black plastic bag and then went halfway down Cooper Road and hid it underneath a car. Given what is known to occur in this area and the behaviour shown, it is assumed this was drugs.

These reports consist of both stop and searches and intelligence reports. The stop and search grounds all reveal a strikingly similar pattern of behaviour, namely that a group of apparently drug dealing youths, sometimes up to 15 strong, are routinely loitering outside the shop, paying close attention to members of public that pass by and also to police as they patrol. The intel reports expand on this, reinforcing the link to drug dealing and other violent gang activity. Alongside the direct ASB this causes, it proliferates the secondary ASB caused by the consumption of drugs, fear of gang violence and acquisitive crime that follows. A closure order would displace this activity to a less advantageous location for the gang, allowing police officers to more effectively tackle the criminal elements. In addition, it would assist in protecting the shop owner and their staff from potential reprisals from gang members or other opportunistic crime.

A warrant was executed on this address yesterday on the 22nd of July. In this warrant no drugs were found however there was an amount of drug paraphernalia. Some of this was on sale with clear official advertising and packaging, however there was one other find which was not official. A blue plastic carrier bag placed in plain view on top of a drinks cooler. Inside were dozens if not hundreds of small, plastic snap-bags apparently imported from America. The only reason these would be on the premises is they were stored there by drug dealers hoping to keep anything incriminating off their person. No drugs were found alongside however the group that routinely loiters was not present at the time of the warrant.

In addition to the intel, my own personal experience of the shop and the surrounding area is as follows. I have worked nearby this area extensively for over five years now and have seen and dealt with the loitering and drug activity going on outside this shop for the same amount of time. It has been an ongoing issue that has also been brought up to me in person by many

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locals and other business owners. It is incredibly common, to the point of it being a majority of the time, that if we pass this shop one or more youths are congregating by the side or the entrance. It is equally common that we receive reports from eyewitnesses claiming drug dealing is happening at the time and when searched, nothing is found, likely as anything illegal is being sequestered in the store somewhere as is a common drug dealing tactic to evade detection.

It is unknown to what extent, if at all, the shop's owner and staff are involved in these activities. I find it difficult to believe, however, that it is occurring completely without their knowledge and at least implicit consent. Regarding the blue plastic bag filled with snap-bags that was found in the recent warrant execution, it was in a prominent location, directly in the line of sight of the tills and would have been impossible to miss either being placed there or noticing it's presence. It is for this reason, that I suggest a full closure order of the address. A caveat has been suggested in that store employees might be allowed access to the building under the supervision of police officers, so as to prevent any further unlawful activity from taking place by intimidated or bribed employees and minimise the impact such a closure would have on the store itself.