

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss5A(3)a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of [REDACTED]

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Barrister

Date: 5th August 2012

This statement consisting of four pages each 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 in it anything I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

I wish to make this statement in respect of the conduct of the proprietor, employees and visitors to the shop at the ground floor, 17 College Parade, NW6 6RN. The shop is called 'Mace' and it is a convenience store which currently holds a licence to sell alcohol. I live with my husband at an address above the neighbouring property.

College Parade is part of Salusbury Road. It consists of a small parade of commercial premises above which are residential flats. Next to the Mace shop there is an Italian restaurant ('Primi') and next to that, at 15 College Parade is another convenience store called 'Singhsbury's'.

Our bedroom is on the first floor and faces onto the pavement directly above the commercial premises. When we bought the property around 5 years ago we, of course, did not expect a completely tranquil environment as it faces onto a fairly busy road. However, in recent years we have experienced increasing levels of noise, disorder and anti-social and criminal behaviour. This is now regularly preventing us from sleeping and is also creating a threatening environment outside our front door.

The shop's advertised trading hours are 9am to 12am. I have looked at the online version of the licence which has been granted to the premises (licence number 165078) which states that it may sell alcohol up to 11pm. I am certainly aware that alcohol is sold after this time as

I have seen people with alcohol containers well after this time. The shop is regularly open and apparently serving alcohol until around 12.30am.

The shop is family-run. I believe that the licensee is the father of the family. He usually looks after the shop during the day. On occasions his wife runs the shop. In the evenings, however, their son – 'Naz' or 'Nazeem' – is usually in charge of the shop. He is a young Asian man, around 25 years old. It is usually when Naz is in on duty that the problems are at their worst.

The problems with noise and disorder are such that we have called the police on several occasions. We are reluctant to call the police on every occasion that there is disorder as there are more important matters for them to be dealing with. The calls to the police therefore reflect only a tiny fraction of the problems that we experience. Most of the calls that we have made have been to the non-emergency number (101) but on two occasions we have called 999 – once around a year ago when we witnessed a fight with bottles being thrown and once – only last week – when we witnessed criminal damage being carried out.

I cannot recall the details of the fight only that it involved a group of young people and that people were throwing bottles. I do not know the CAD number. I believe police attended but I do not think that I made a statement.

The criminal damage took place in the early hours of Tuesday 31st August 2012. The shop was still open at around 12.20am. I had heard loud voices a little earlier and seen a group of young people hanging around outside the shop. I went back to bed but shortly afterwards I heard shouting outside and again looked out of my window. I saw the same group of young people aged around 16/17 years old. They were mostly male but there was at least one female. They were coming in and out of my view as they kept disappearing directly below the window where I could not see them. Directly below my window is the terrace of the Italian restaurant (the property next to Mace). At the front of that terrace is a wooden flower box which is about 10 feet wide and about 3 feet high. Last weekend my neighbour and I, in attempt to improve the appearance of the area, spent most of the day planting

flower in the box and nailing picket fencing to the outside. We did this to prevent people loitering there, sitting on the box and leaving litter in the box.

I could hear the girl saying, 'There's people going past' and I could see members of the group going back and forth from the flower box. I could not see exactly what they were doing. My husband went down to see what was happening and I followed him. I saw that part of the fencing that we had put up had been ripped off the flower box (it had been attached by screws) and several of the heads had been ripped off the geraniums and thrown onto the pavement. My husband had seen at least one of the group sitting on the box where the fencing had been ripped off. We spoke to one of the group who remained behind. He said that he did not commit the damage. The rest of the group walked off up the road and dispersed.

These are examples of criminal behaviour but the main problem is anti-social behaviour which takes place outside the shop. On most evenings there are groups of young men and women hanging around outside the shop. Usually Naz will be standing with them. Frequently there will be young men with aggressive-looking dogs. There are often people smoking cannabis (evident from its smell). Very frequently they are drinking either from bottles or cans of alcohol or from plastic cups which, I infer from the behaviour of the people drinking, contain alcohol. The premises and the area immediately outside seem to be used as a sort of pub / social club. More often than not the people who are drinking outside the shop are obviously under 18. When there are groups of people outside the shop they create a lot of noise. It is not just a case of the shop attracting unwanted groups of people; the people that congregate are clearly associated with Naz.

The area outside our flat is a designated zone in which people are not allowed to have open containers of alcohol. Further, the alcohol licence for the premises states that people may not drink alcohol on the premises. It also states that alcohol cannot be served by a person who does not hold a personal licence themselves or who is not authorised by such a person. I do not know whether Naz holds a personal licence but I would doubt it judging from his attitude to serving underage people. When he is on duty there is almost never anyone else on duty with him so he cannot be authorised by another person when he sells alcohol.

We have spoken on numerous occasions to the family who run the shop but nothing has changed. It is notable that the other convenience shop which also has a licence to sell alcohol attracts none of the same problems. In my view those who run Mace are unfit to hold a licence. At the very least they should not be permitted to open after 10pm as this is when the behaviour is at its most disruptive.

I know from conversations with the proprietor of the Italian restaurant that the activities of the Mace shop are affecting his business and that he has had to deal with drunk young people hanging around outside. I would like the police to speak to him and to other residents of College Parade.

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss5A(3)a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of [REDACTED]

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Barrister

Date: 16th August 2012

This statement consisting of two pages each 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 in it anything I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

This statement is further to my statement dated 5th August 2012 which has already been provided to the police. Both statements concern the activities at the 'Mace' convenience shop at 17 College Parade, NW6.

I gave birth to my first child last Sunday, 12th August 2012. We returned from the hospital on Monday 13th August 2012. Today, I took him out for the very first time in his pram. I was with my husband. We left the flat at around 4.30pm. As I left the flat I could see that there were several males outside the Mace shop. 'Naz', who I have referred to in my previous statement, was not outside the shop but he was on duty inside. As we left the flat and stood on the pavement waiting to cross the road, one of the males who had been outside Mace cycled close behind us on his bike and said to us in a threatening manner, "F*****g snitching on people".

I took this to be a reference to the fact that we have provided information to the police about the activities at the shop. I know that the shop owners are aware of my complaint to the police as one of the members of the family has mentioned it to our neighbour (who then told us).

The incident today has made me feel afraid about possible repercussions for our involvement in this matter. I am a robust person (my job requires it) but when out with a newborn baby in a pram I do not expect to be approached in this way and I was shaken by it. Although this was not an act perpetrated by any member of [REDACTED] who own the shop, it was clearly brought about by Naz telling one of his associates about the complaint and goes to show firstly, Naz's attitude to the problem and secondly, the type of person who hangs around at the shop.

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss5A(3)a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of [REDACTED]

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Barrister

Date: 31st August 2012

This statement consisting of two pages each 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 in it anything I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

This statement is further to my statements dated 5th August 2012 and 16th August 2012 which have already been provided to the police. All statements concern the activities at the 'Mace' convenience shop at 17 College Parade, NW6.

Last night (30th August 2012) at around 11.30pm I heard shouting from the street outside our bedroom. I could hear a male voice shouting. I heard the following words: "F**k off you black c**t" (this was repeated several times) and "I'm gonna cut you up, you're really in our endz now". The words were being shouted extremely loudly. The person sounded out of control with anger.

My husband then went to look out of the window and told me that he could see that the person responsible for the shouting was a young teenage white boy who had come out of the Mace shop. He said that the boy then got into the back of a car which was driven by an older man who looked like he could have been the boy's father. The car then drove off.

I did not look out of the window until the police and ambulance arrived.

I am totally sick of the disruption which visitors to the Mace shop is causing to our lives.

