

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: Journalist

Date: 5th 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.

I have read my wife's statement and agree with its contents.

I would like to add only the following:

I have often spoken to Naz's parents – having long given up trying to change Naz's behaviour – about the way their son conducts himself. However, it changes nothing. In particular, Naz's father, who, I believe, is the licensee, seems to believe that none of the anti-social or criminal behaviour that takes place outside his shop, by people being served in his shop, often illegally, is his responsibility.

The other night, just after the incident in which criminal damage occurred to the flowerbed outside 'Primi', he was driving away at about 12.30am and I asked to speak to him about what had just happened. This group, I said to him, had just been served in 'Mace' – well after the shop should have closed – and there was a direct connection between his irresponsible attitude and the criminal damage that had then taken place. He drove away, telling me to "call the police" if I had a problem. This attitude is typical.

Naz's father's lack of care and awareness is frustrating, because it means Naz is always allowed to carry on as before. Naz is always at the centre of illegal or antisocial behaviour on the street when it occurs. Last night (4th August), for instance, I watched as Naz lit a spliff, and passed it around a group of his friends who had gathered at around 11pm. I knew it was marijuana because, when I went downstairs to ask the group to disperse, I could smell it.

Also, people don't tend to share roll-up cigarettes between groups of five, and this joint had been passed around the group.

All of these events are relatively minor, compared to what the police has to deal with on a day to day basis in London. But their cumulative effect – on me, on my wife, on our neighbours, on the really good businesses that we share College Parade with – is corrosive, upsetting and terrible for the area. Our neighbours have a young daughter. We will shortly have our first child. 'Mace' aside, this is a lovely area. We want it to continue to be.