

### Witness Statement

(C.J.Act 1967 - S.9, M.C. Act 1980 – ss5A(3)(a) and 5B, M.C. Rules 1981 r.70)

Statement of: Denise Power  
Age if under 18: Over 18  
Occupation: Senior Enforcement Officer

This statement (consisting of 3 pages 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 which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated 6 March 2017

Signature .....

I am Senior Enforcement Officer employed by the London Boroughs of Brent and Harrow Trading Standards.

5 On the 19 February 2019 at approximately 1415 hrs, I was inside a small off-licence called Hamiltons located at 45-46 Queensbury Station Parade, HA8 5NN. I was assisting colleagues and two child volunteers aged 12 and 13 on a test purchase operation to monitor the sale of age restricted products, specifically alcohol, from shops within the borough. I was present in the shop to monitor the welfare of the volunteers assisting us.

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I entered the shop and began browsing the shelves directly opposite the counter serving area. There were around three other customers in the shop at the time and two Asian Males aged in their thirties were working behind the counter serving. I was queuing to pay for an item when I noticed one of the workers reach his arm across the counter to pass what  
15 appeared to me to be a box "Kent Core" cigarettes to a customer. I recognised the packet

Signature .....

Continuation of witness statement of: Denise Power

due to its distinctive Blue colouring. The worker appeared to be trying to conceal the packet by holding them palm down as he reached across the counter to hand them to the customer. As he did this, the second worker intercepted the transfer by pushing his colleagues hand down. This worker then took the cigarettes from him, placed them in a black plastic carrier bag which he then handed to the customer. This transaction raised my suspicions that the cigarettes were illicit and not legal for sale within the UK market.

As the customer left, the next customer approached the counter and asked the worker for a box of 10 cigarettes. I found this unusual given that cigarettes could only be sold in prescribed quantities of 20 following the introduction of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016. The worker declined and said they only had boxes of 20.

I paid for my purchase, left the shop and immediately regrouped with my colleagues Paul Harris and Paul Lee. They were waiting just a few doors up by "Queenbee Nursery" at 37 Queensbury Station Parade with the two child volunteers. They had to return to another premises on the parade for further enquiries so I took the children with me to wait in the Service van. This was located past the parade of shops adjacent to the centre of the green space.

As we waited for my colleagues to return I noticed a group of around 5 men aged 20-30 congregating in the centre of the green space by a wooden bench. They were standing smoking and drinking cans of lager, one brand I recognised as Holsten Pills. I noticed one man pour the remains of a can onto the grass.

Signature .....

**E31 Sept 2003**

Continuation of witness statement of: Denise Power

40 My colleagues returned shortly afterwards and whilst we were discussing matters, two men, also holding cans of lager, walked across the grass, away from the main group. They approached one of the trees diagonally opposite to our van and began to urinate on to it. My colleagues and the children with us all witnessed this. The two men then returned to the group and we left the location shortly afterwards.

Signature .....

**E31 Sept 2003**