

**BETWEEN**

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE**

Complainant

- and -

**Hot Spot (Whispers), Regent Street  
DPS – Craig Allott  
PLH – Springchoice Leisure Ltd**

Respondent

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**WITNESS STATEMENT OF**

**Kirsty Green**

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1. I am a Licensing Enforcement Officer, employed by South Yorkshire Police currently based at Barnsley. Following on from my statement that was submitted for the review of the premise licence for Whispers, formally known as Hotspot, Regent Street, Barnsley, I have continued to investigate incidents that have occurred at the venue on behalf of South Yorkshire Police. The following matters have come to the attention of South Yorkshire Police since my last statement.
2. On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016, licensing visit with Debbie Rimmington following non-attendance by the venue at the Pubwatch meeting that afternoon. I tried to contact Mr Allott to no avail. At the time of our visit, Mr Booth was present and advised that Mr Allott was not there and he was also unable to contact him via telephone.
3. On the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016, licensing visit in attendance were Mr Griffiths and Mr Allott. I reviewed what they had completed in relation to the training documents that we had requested and noted that they only had four policies in place. Mr Allott showed me tests that the bar manager had completed that related to each

of the policies, stressing that no other members of staff had completed the training as they wanted to test it before it was rolled out. I queried where the other policies were for example prevention of crime and disorder. Mr Allott advised that the contents of that policy were so detailed that he wanted to break it down with the help of Mr Griffiths. I asked if they had a training log in place, to which Mr Allott stated that this was a work in progress, however assured me that it would be in place the following week. I advised Mr Allott that I would strongly recommend that they get the basic training in place for staff and then expand at a later day if they wished. I stated that when I had visited the previous week he had made assurances that all the training would be in place. However, I stated that not all the policies were implemented and the training had only been completed by one member of staff. I reminded Mr Allott that he would need to email through details of the forthcoming events for the weekend, to which he assured me that he would do.

4. On the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2016, licensing visit with Debbie Rimmington. All training was complete with up to date policies and procedures and training logs with staff completed.
5. On the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016, licensing visit with Debbie Rimmington. Debbie advised that she had received complaints regarding 'rave nights' being held upstairs. Mr Allott disputed this and stated that the upstairs area was not fit to open with electrics not to standard and the area being full of rubbish. Mr Allott advised that there might again be a change in the hierarchy at the venue as Mr Griffiths was perusing his own venue to open. Advised Mr Allott that Police had received a complaint that a 'landlord' had assaulted a male at the weekend. Mr Allott advised that he would review CCTV and look into the matter. Mr Allott was questioned as to the involvement of a Mr Stephen Lightfoot at the venue, to which Mr Allott advised that he had recently invested some money, however anticipated that this

would be paid back shortly, stating that he did not have any influence in the managing of the venue.

6. On the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016, email sent to Mr Allott advising that although I appreciated his email that notified me of events scheduled for the venue that weekend, I did not receive this until Saturday. Therefore, stressing that should I have needed to be aware of an event-taking place, then it would have been too late. I stated that all emails should be sent through to both Michelle Hudson and myself and should be done so by no later than Wednesday.
7. On the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016, further email sent to Mr Allott advising that I would be on leave until 20.06.2016, therefore upon the request of the Licensing Manager Benita Mumby asking that emails notifying of forthcoming events to be sent through to Michelle Hudson and BarnsleyLicensing. All parties were copied into the email sent.
8. On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016, telephone call made to Mr Allott by Benita Mumby. This was following information received and having sight of a poster from an officer that advertised £20 entry into the venue, then free bar all night on the 17.06.2016. No email received notifying of such event. Answer machine message left asking an email to be sent with details of any forthcoming events.
9. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, telephone call made to Mr Allott to query the event on the 17.06.2016 with 'free drinks all night'. Mr Allott alleged that this was not the case and that drinks were not free. He advised that a voucher was issued and a discount was given upon purchase of a drink. I advised that Police had not been notified of this event and we had received no email as had been requested before I went on leave. Mr Allott stated that someone had hacked into his email account, so had not used his emails for the last two weeks. However, I advised that an email could have been sent from another account. I queried a boxing event that was being advertised, to which Mr Allott advised that the promoters were

scheduled to visit that week to assess the venue. However, Mr Allott advised that they were currently selling tickets and it was being advertised.

I advised Mr Allott that he did not attend Pubwatch that had taken place that day, to which he stated that he was unaware of meeting being held. I reminded Mr Allott that he had attended the last meeting, where it had been arranged. I advised that during the Pubwatch meeting it had been brought to my attention that people who were currently on a Pubwatch ban had been frequenting the venue. Mr Allott advised that he was aware of two females that had been drinking in the venue that were on a ban, however as soon as he was aware had asked them to leave. After discussion Mr Allott also confirmed that another individual on the banning list had frequent their venue.

10. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016, further telephone call made to Mr Allott to confirm meeting the following week. I advised that I had been approached by an officer who was investigating an incident that had occurred at the venue on the 30.05.2016. I explained that despite several attempts they been unable to obtain CCTV of the incident, which had been hindered by their bar manager being off sick. I advised that she was scheduled to visit on Friday to collect and asked that he ensure that this was available for her, to which Mr Allott assured me that he would do.
11. On the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, email received from PC Leanne Garforth advising that she had visited as scheduled on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016, only to be told that the CCTV had not been downloaded. PC Garforth advised that they had told her about my scheduled meeting with the DPS on the 27.06.2016, therefore had asked that they give the CCTV to me on that date.
12. On the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016, licensing visit Debbie Rimmington. Mr Allott advised that we would be unable to gain access to the venue as he did not have a key, therefore the meeting would have to take place outside and we would be unable to review any documents should we wish. Mr Allott advised that there had been

no decision made on the boxing event, despite tickets being printed by Mr Lightfoot and being available to purchase. Mr Allott advised that Mr Griffiths was no longer the Director of the venue and had quit, which left Ms Maria Ramos as the sole Director. Mr Allott explained that due to Ms Ramos wishing to leave the business Mr Lightfoot had subsequently invested more money and wanted to become a Director. Mr Allott voiced his concerns regarding the hierarchy at the venue, stressing that it was not stable with constant changes in management and Directors. I advised that PC Garforth had contacted me to advise that despite being assured the CCTV would be available on the 24.06.2016; the footage had still not been downloaded. Mr Allott stated that he did not understand why this had not been done and would ensure that it was completed that day. I advised that due to meetings I was unavailable to collect it later that day, however Debbie Rimmington advised that she would collect later that afternoon.

13. On the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016, I spoke with Debbie Rimmington who advised that despite trying to contact Mr Allott on the 24.06.2016 and leaving him subsequent voice and text messages, he had failed to contact her to collect the CCTV for PC Garforth.

I believe that the contents of this statement are true and I understand it may be placed before the court.

I also understand that the contents of this statement may be shared with agencies working in partnership with the South Yorkshire Police.

Signed.....

Dated



## PREMISES CHRONOLOGY

Name of premises: **WHISPERS(HOT SPOT)**

Address: **12A REGENT STREET BARNSELEY**

<b>Date of intel input</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Reference</b>
05.04.2016	Email sent to DPS Mr Allott with guidance documents.	Email sent - DPS
06.04.2016	Licensing visit. Please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Licensing visit - LEO
09.04.2016	Passive drugs operation. One search carried out but nothing of note and very quiet. It was brought to the attention of LEO that a manager at the venue attempted to impede officers using the dog, demanding they sign into the premises.	Passive drugs operation
11.04.2016	Licensing visit. Please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Licensing visit - LEO
15.04.2016	Telephone call received from Mr Allott to advise that the premises would not be opening that evening.	Telephone call - DPS
18.04.2016	Telephone call made to Mr Allott to enquire if he wanted me to visit to review his training documents. Mr Allott advised staff were now trained in all but H&S so asked that a visit be carried out the following week. Advised Mr Allott that to abide by the action plan he would need to send details of all forthcoming events.	Telephone call - DPS
25.04.2016	Licensing visit. Please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Licensing visit - LEO
26.04.2016	Email received from Mr Allott with details for forthcoming weekend.	Email receive - DPS
10.05.2016	Email received from Debbie Rimmington requesting a meeting with Mr Allott following information that she had received about alleged events that had taken place at the venue that we were unaware of.	Email received - BMBC
14.05.2016	Male alleging that he had been abused at Whispers and assaulted by landlord at the venue. Individual did not want to pursue complaint.	Incident
16.05.2016	Licensing visit. Please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Licensing visit - LEO
17.04.2016	Telephone call received from Mr Allott who advised that he had reviewed CCTV and had found a male who had been aggressive to customers had been asked to leave by the manager. Upon refusing, the male had been escorted off the premise by the manager and member of staff, which was done by holding his arms. Mr Allott stated CCTV demonstrated that no excessive force was used.	Telephone call - DPS
17.05.2016	Email sent to officer in charge of the investigation reported on the 14.05.2016, updating him and providing him with Mr Allott's details should	Email sent - OIC

	he wish to discuss further and view CCTV.	
18.05.2016	Email received from Mr Allott with details for forthcoming weekend.	Email received - DPS
20.05.2016	Licensing visit carried out as part of Op Tandem. No issues identified.	Visit – Op Tandem
21.05.2016	Licensing visit carried out as part of Op Tandem. No issues identified.	Visit – Op Tandem
27.05.2016	Licensing visit carried out as part of Op Tandem. No issues identified.	Visit – Op Tandem
28.05.2016	Licensing visit carried out as part of Op Tandem. No issues identified.	Visit – Op Tandem
28.05.2016	Email received from Mr Allott on Saturday with details for events that weekend.	Email received - DPS
30.05.2016	Female alleging assault, on-going investigation.	Incident
31.05.2016	Email sent to Mr Allott, please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Email sent - DPS
31.05.2016	Email sent to Mr Allott, please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Email sent - DPS
15.06.2016	Telephone call made to Mr Allott, please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Telephone call - DPS
22.06.2016	Telephone call made to Mr Allott, please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Telephone call - DPS
24.06.2016	Email received from PC Leanne Garforth, please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Email received - SYP
27.06.2016	Licensing visit. Please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Licensing visit - LEO
29.06.2016	Contact with Debbie Rimmington at BMBC. Please refer to Kirsty Green's statement for more details.	Contact - BMBC