

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

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Statement of J Thornton PC 3164

Age if under 18 Over 18.... (If over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation: Police Constable 3164

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) 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 which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature J Thornton PC 3164..... (witness) Date: 25/04/22

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Constable with South Yorkshire Police. I am currently based at Barnsley.

Around 2230 hours, on Saturday 23rd April 2022, I was on duty as the driver of a public order van tasked with patrolling the night-time economy in Barnsley town centre, referred to as operation street safe. As part of our patrols, we were tasked with conducting licencing checks on several licenced premises. This is in order to check for several things within the licence including ,but not exhaustive to underage drinking, CCTV is on the premises and works, numbers of people and behaviour of the crowd inside as well as if there is a DPS onsite. I have been a serving Police officer for over 5 years and have conducted many of these checks before and in my experience I have very few objections from staff in the licenced premises I have checked in the past. Due to the likely hood of coming into contact with drunk members of the public I have always gone into these premises with a number of other officers for safety reasons. One of the licenced premises that the licencing officer had requested to be checked that evening was the Sugar Club, Pitt Street, Barnsley.

At 2313 hours, the same date, I parked the Police vehicle on Pitt Street and got out along with several colleagues who were ahead of me and heading towards the main entrance of the Sugar Club. I was stood behind 2 other officers as we got to the door. Officers allowed 2 males who I could clearly see were over 18

Signature: J Thornton PC 3164 Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: J Thornton PC 3164

to leave. These males were followed by another male who stayed in the doorway and appeared to be refusing entry to officers, although I couldn't hear what he was saying due to the loud music coming from inside. He appeared to be arguing with PC 1134 Aspinall. I have been involved in checks on this premises before and I have never seen staff object. This raised concerns as to why this male was being obstructive. At the time I didn't know who he was, but his how he was behaving suggested he worked there rather than being a member of the public who was out drinking. Believing that he was obstructing us in our lawful duty I went past PC 1332 Cole and PC 1134 Aspinall who were in front of me and stated to the male to move out of our way so we could conduct the licensing check. As I said this I then went towards the male and pushed past him using minimal force. He didn't offer any physical resistance against this. He was shouting and appeared annoyed as I entered, he said something about DPS check. I now know this male to be VLAD SEVCIUC. I conducted a check throughout the bottom floor of the premises. There may have been 6 people maximum downstairs all of which appeared to me to be over the age of 18 years old. I remained inside whilst other officers checked the upstairs and then left. I spent around 5 minutes within the premises.

During in the incident, I wore body worn video which was activated and recording throughout. I can identify this as exhibit:

JT/1 – PC 3164 Thornton body cam licencing check of sugar club

This has been downloaded onto police systems.

Signature: J Thornton PC 3164 Signature Witnessed by: