

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

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Statement of Christopher PHILLIPS

Age if under 18 Over 18.... (If over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation: Police Sergeant 576.....

This statement (consisting of 4 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 C.PHILLIPS (witness) Date:31/10/2022.

Statement commenced at 21:40hrs, 31/10/2022.

I am a Police Sergeant in The South Yorkshire Police currently based at Barnsley Police Station, South Yorkshire. My current role is as a Duty Sergeant attached to Rota B, within a Response policing function.

At 00:38hrs on the morning of Saturday 29th October 2022, I was on duty in full Police uniform engaged on mobile public order patrol in Barnsley town centre on Wellington Street, Barnsley. Part of my duties on that evening included foot patrol and visiting licenced premises in the town centre to ensure compliance with licence conditions.

In order to manage night time economy, specifically licenced premises in Barnsley. A rolling police operation takes place each weekend, known locally as Operation Street Safe. Part of the operations function involves checking licenced premises licensing conditions contained within a briefing document, which is briefed out to Police officers engaged on patrol in the evenings over the weekend.

The premises checked are varied and change on a weekly basis and can change due to specific sporting or bank holiday events.

Signature: C.PHILLIPS Signature Witnessed by:

The briefing document used as part of operation Street Safe usually lists the licensing condition for each premises where a visit is required. Once the licensing check is complete, any breaches are documented within the operation document, which is monitored by Police Licensing Officers and uploaded to relevant licensing software, known as 'Inn Keeper'.

At the time and date specified above, I had cause to visit The Sugar Club, 7 Pitt Street, Barnsley, S70 1AL for one such licensing check.

Upon arrival at the premises, I saw and spoke initially to the door security staff working at the club, who identified themselves to me as;

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted] informed me that both members of door staff were employed by Shadow Security, whom I have since learned are not an accredited SIA security company.

Also present was the Designated Premise Supervisor, Anna Justine HARPER, BMBC badge number 094163.

I checked inside the premises and only a few customers were present within, approximately ten in total. External seating area to the left of the front door contained approximately four others. All customers appeared of age.

I went through the list of licensing conditions with the DPS and noted a breach relating to them not having access to the town centre CCTV radio scheme radio. The DPS outlined issues with the radio and claimed that during previous attempts to contact CCTV on the device, it had not functioned. As a result I requested the DPS produce the radio to me so that I could check the device with a view to conducting a test call on it

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in the hope of resolving the issue. The DPA provided the device to me which clearly had a flat battery, had not been charged and as such would not turn on.

The DPS claimed that they had discussed this with the Licensing Officer Kirsty GREEN and that she was aware.

This breach was recorded on the Operation Street Safe document and uploaded upon my return to the station.

At 01:50hrs same date, I had cause to return to The Sugar Club due to ongoing problems with groups of males inside the club. Upon arrival I noted a number of nominals within the club who I know to be linked to Organised Crime Groups mapped in Barnsley and South Yorkshire. Each of these groups contained approximately six to eight persons and it was clear that each group was attempting to provoke a reaction from the other, gesturing across the club and persons within each group being held back by friends preventing them from approaching the other groups.

I then became aware of an altercation taking place within the gents toilets inside the club as security staff had gone inside then returned outside to ask for Police support.

As a result, I located a number of males inside the gents toilets involved in a standoff. These were removed from the premises by police to prevent further incidents.

It was clear to me that the door staff present were too few in numbers and not robust enough to refuse entry or to eject nominals of note. This being compounded by the lack of town centre radio link. Resulting in any calls for police support having to be made via 999.

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Door staff appeared too familiar with nomials and as such reluctant to challenge and refuse entry.

Statement concluded at 10:06hrs 29/09/2022.

Signature: C.PHILLIPS Signature Witnessed by: