## WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

Statement of: Sarah Botham		URN	
Age (if under 18): N/A	Occupation	Occupation: Police Officer	

I am a Police Officer with South Yorkshire Police currently stationed at Barnsley Police Station.

On Saturday 19th March 2022 I was on duty as Acting Sergeant covering Op Sentinel, an operation directed to identify and safeguard any vulnerable persons throughout the night time economy whilst carrying out proactive and disruptive patrols, engaging and advising the vulnerable persons nd preventing any predatory offences through interventions.

Between 2100 hours and 0300 hours we carried out patrols throughout the town centre both in the Police van and on foot engaging and interacting with the public. Whilst speaking to members of the public I became aware of the large groups of apparent young persons who appeared to be dressed to be out in the night time economy and clearly under the influence of alcohol. Due to this particular attention were paid to groups of younger groups who were asked to provide identification. On speaking with a group of males all between the ages of 16-18 years they intimated they were walking around town with no intentions of entering any of the pubs or clubs but were waiting for friends who were out. The males were advised to leave town centre due to their vulnerabilities and risks to those. Of the group one arranged for a family member to collect them and some of the group whilst we returned one male home.

On returning back to town at around 23:00 hours a group of four females were seen to leave the Sugar Club, Pitt Street. All four females looked underage and when challenged could not provide any identification. On speaking with them and throughout the conversation they were on the phone to their friends who they had already stated were still in the Club and of the same age as them advising them that Police were going to be entering. The females provided the details as follows.

Arrangements were made for them to return home to Doncaster after establishing they were not missing form homes. We removed them from the immediate vicinity of the town centre pubs and clubs and awaited transport home. Whilst speaking with them I could tell they were clearly under the influence of alcohol, the girls were loud, giddy in nature, smelt of alcohol and slurring their words but could still understand and converse. They stated they had come to Barnsley from Doncaster specifically to the "Sugar Club", as a large group with their friends who were still in there. They continued to say that they entered the Club without being asked for any ID but on buying alcohol they were asked for ID and when they could not provide any they were told to pay £50 each and they could stay and was served their drinks. All 4 females claimed this two of them separately with the third being present and confirming this was true and the fourth agreeing but would not give any additional information.

Due to this and the fact there were further underage persons in the club I spoke to PS 1074 Johal who was on the Public Order van in the town centre. I was aware they were carrying out a Licencing check at the premises and a number of officers entered the bar with the relevant persons being spoken to and a number of apparent underage persons had managed to leave without details been obtained.

After a short while the females sought transport home and left the area after suitable advise was given.

Later that evening at approximately 00:30 hours whilst on patrols we saw a vehicle stop across from Sugar Club outside the Post Officer on Pitt Street and 3 females exited the car. Two of the females looked very young to which we intercepted them as they were about to cross the road into the Club. On doing so we asked for identification of which they could no provide advising they were only 16 years of age and 17. The girls provided the details of

They were spoken with and stated they were going to Sugar Club. They continued to say that they had been before and were allowed entry as they pay some money to be allowed to enter and be served without ID. They said that it ranged from £10 on one occasion to £50. Both girls were taken out of the immediate vicinity and awaited transport home.

Throughout the night we continued to patrol the areas and identify any other potential vulnerable persons but had no further involvement with the Sugar Club.

This statement 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 of Witness:

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Date: 11-05-2022