

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: Mr Darren Tessa

URN

Age (if under 18): N/A

Occupation: Chartered Health & Safety Practitioner

I am the father of [REDACTED] who is 13 years old. [REDACTED] often goes out with friends in the local area. I am not aware of any issues previously involving my daughter.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 21st July 2021 [REDACTED] went out for the afternoon with her friends. I'm aware that they visit local parks and due to sunny weather assumed that was what they would do. [REDACTED] is a white female, approximately 5ft 3ins tall, slim build. She was wearing a brown cropped top, black adidas shorts with the adidas logo on the side and white Nike trainers. She took a blue/grey coloured jumper with her. I believe her hair was down. She has long mid-brown straight hair. I believe she looks her age, she could not, in my opinion be mistaken as over the age of 18.

At 1845hrs the same date my wife, [REDACTED] was with me at home when we received a phone call from [REDACTED] who I know to be a PE teacher at Horizon Community College which is where [REDACTED] attends. He informed us that [REDACTED] was in a drunken state on the playing fields off Wood View Lane which is a place I know well in the Gawber area. As such my wife made her way to the fields and I followed a short time later meeting them at the end of our street having received a call from my wife who was struggling to manage our daughter. When I saw [REDACTED] I immediately noted that she was very drunk. She was slurring her words and could not stand up without assistance. My wife and I looked after her, she was violently sick throughout the night and still feels unwell today.

[REDACTED] has admitted to me that she bought the alcohol she consumed, a bottle of Raspberry Cactus Jack's Schnapps valued at £6.99, from the Premier shop on the junction of Rowland Road and Walton Street North where the main entrance to Harry Road park is located. She confirms that she went into the shop on Wednesday 21st July 2021 between 1.30pm and 2.30pm. [REDACTED] describes the person who sold the alcohol to her as a middle-aged Asian male with a grey mustache called either Raj or Rav. She states that she was not pressured to go into the shop and that she went in alone and only bought the Cactus Jack's Schnapps. She says she was asked how old she was by the member of staff who was on his own behind the counter, to which she replied '18 OBVIOUSLY'. No further challenge was made. [REDACTED] states the male just took the bottle from the shelf and put it into a white plastic bag before passing it to her.

I am shocked that my daughter was served alcohol when she clearly underage. She has been spoken to by both me and her mum. I am hopeful that she has learned her lesson. I am upset by this incident because my wife visited the very same shop a few months ago as our other daughter, who is 16years old, bought alcohol there. My wife remonstrated with staff regarding their irresponsible behaviour however this does not appear to have made a difference.

No-one has the right or authority or the permission to provide my 13 year old daughter with alcohol. I will support any action the Police deem appropriate. I do not wish for, or consent for my daughter to be interviewed or provide a statement in relation to this matter or indeed have any further involvement.

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Owen'.

Date: 22-07-2021