

RESTRICTED (when complete)

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B: Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

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Statement of: [REDACTED]

Age if under 18: [REDACTED] (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police community support officer

This statement (consisting of 1 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 anything in it, which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 10/03/2023

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

On Monday 30th January 2023, I was on duty in plain clothes, engaged on a test purchase operation for the sale of alcohol to minors under the age of 18 years, which is an offence under The Licensing Act 2003.

About 18:15 hours, I entered THE BOOZE CORNER, 92 LEWES ROAD, BRIGHTON, BN2 3HZ after a police cadet, I watched the cadet select and pick up a corona beer bottle, which is an alcoholic beverage and take it to the counter. At this time, I moved in behind them in the queue to listen to any conversation and to gather any evidence as well as maintaining the safety of the minor.

The Staff member, then took the drink and rung this into the till. The male serving at the till made no attempt to question the cadet's age. I then saw the cadet purchase this alcohol with a contactless card, who is under the age of 18 who then left the store with the alcohol. After witnessing the sale, I then identified myself as a Police community support officer who was on duty and that they have just failed a test purchase operation by selling to a minor under the age of 18 years. The male who served the minor asked me "WHO WAS UNDERAGE?" I explained again that the person he had just served the alcoholic drink too was the underage person and that uniform officers would be attending the shop to speak with him and his 2 co-workers, both of whom were stood either behind the counter and next to the counter.

The male who served the cadet quickly left from behind the counter and took a phone call. I asked for him to end the call and wait with me until uniform officers arrived.

PS Mark Redbourn, PC Kate Hancox, Licensing officer Hannah Staplehurst and Trading standards & Licensing officer Donna Lynsdale of Brighton and Hove city council arrived at the store and in their presence, I explained the circumstances that I had just witnessed.

I then left the premises, leaving the above persons to deal with the matter.

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