

**WITNESS STATEMENT****Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

URN

--	--	--	--

Statement of: Constable Adam Deweltz

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Police officer

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:



Date: 24 May 2020

My name is Adam Deweltz and I am a Police Constable for the Metropolitan Police Service. I have been a Police Officer for 19 years and I am an experienced licensing officer currently working in the Westminster Police Licensing Unit. I have been in this role since November 2014. Since then I have dealt with a wide range of licensing matters including applications for new premises licences, licence committee hearings, licence review hearings and a large number of licensing visits to a variety of licensed premises within the City Of Westminster. My unit is responsible for approximately 3,500 licensed premises in Westminster. When visiting these licensed premises the aim is to work in partnership with them by making improvements and offering advice to ensure the licensing objectives are achieved.

This statement refers to a licensed premises known as Jacks, 152 Wandsworth Bridge Road, SW6 2UH. It was alleged that the premises was breaching The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 by allowing customers to drink alcohol inside, outside and adjacent to the premises.

Local Safer Neighbourhood Officers had already attended the venue on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 having received reports from local residents that customers were drinking in the back garden. When they attended with Council Inspectors, the back garden was full of people consuming alcohol. There were also customers drinking alcohol at the front of the premises. Officers removed the customers and pointed out the offence to the licensee, Mr Vincenzo Defeo. Evidence was obtained via officer's Body Worn Video, which was forward to the Hammersmith and Fulham Police Licensing Unit.

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020, officers attended the venue once again as the result of a call that customers were once again drinking inside the premises in the beer garden and outside the front. Officers once more pointed out the offence to the licensee and removed the customers.

On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Myself and PC Boon were asked to attend the venue to conduct a full licensing visit to ensure the premises was not breaching the regulations again and promoting the licensing objectives in relation to Public Safety.

At approximately 14:15 hours, we met with PC Neal Hutchins from the local SNT and several other uniformed officers. We entered the venue under Section 179 of the Licensing Act 2003 to check for licensable activity in the premises. Myself and PC Boon spoke with the manager, Rachel McQuade. The Licensee, Mr Vincenzo Defeo was not at the premises at this time.

Signature:



Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: Constable Adam Deweltz

While I spoke to the Ms McQuade, officers checked the back garden for any customers. At this time, none were present. However, there were Four (4) customers outside the front drinking alcohol, which they had purchased from the venue.

I explained that the venue was in breach of the Health Protection Regulations by allowing customers to drink alcohol outside the front of their venue. I then provided them with a copy of the regulations so they were fully aware of what they should and should not be doing.

We asked Ms McQuade to remove the table and chairs from outside the premises, as it encourages people to stay and drink after they have bought alcohol. She removed them immediately but one of the tables, with a bench, was screwed to the floor and could not be moved.

I explained that this premises is continuously flouting the rules and as a licensed premises, they have a duty to work with the authorities and promote the licensing objectives. It is my opinion that the premises licence holder is not a responsible operator and is deliberately ignoring Police and Council advice.

This blatant disregard for the rules is having a negative impact on local residents who have to put up with the noise and anti-social behaviour of intoxicated customers.

Witness Signature: 

Signature Witnessed by: