

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of Calvin Chow PC 368FH URN:

--	--	--	--

Age if under 18 Over 18..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer.....

This statement (consisting of:**2**.... pages 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: Date:

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

I am a police constable working on the Safer Neighbourhoods ASKEW ward team based at SHEPHERDS BUSH POLICE STATION W12. I have been working on the ward since May 2008. From 2008 till March 2010, one of our ward priorities was anti-social behaviour from street drinkers. The ward panel felt street drinkers were a major cause for harassment, alarm and distress to people in the street. Complaints of homeless people loitering outside off-licences', begging for change so they can buy more alcohol.

Askew Road has quiet residential streets running off it. Many residents informed us they often discover drunken vagrants' and men from the local Polish community sleeping in their front garden or urinating in the mornings. Often residents would find litter of beer and cider cans left in their front garden.

Residents are distressed and intimidating to find street drinks sitting on their garden wall consuming alcohol bought from local off-licences on Askew Road.

Park areas on the Askew ward were constantly being used as social drinking points for homeless and the Polish community. Once again, litter of empty cans was left lying about. Local residents are scared to bring their children to the parks because drinkers were often congregating on park benches and play area. Police are often called as result of fights and confrontations breaking out between the drinkers, arguing amongst themselves over their next can of beer or money owed for alcohol. Three park areas near Askew Road suffer from street drinkers; Cathnor Park, Wendall Park and the closest open space Starch Green which is situated on Askew Road junction with Goldhawk Road. Askew team patrol Starch Green in the mornings and often come across drunken vagrants sleeping on the benches and grass areas. Some are moved on, others are so intoxicated, they have to be taken to the hospital, causing a drain to the emergency services. Street drinkers posed such a nuisance to public that Hammersmith & Fulham council decided to impose an alcohol exclusion zone throughout the entire borough from November 2006, deterring people from drinking in the public areas. This is increasingly difficult and time consuming to enforce as we are finding off-licences selling alcohol during late hours till early mornings. Many public order offences that occur between the hours of midnight till mornings are often alcohol related.

Signature: Signature witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of

We have three primary schools located on the Askew ward; Greenside Primary School, Wendall Park Primary and The Good Shepherds, and several nurseries and crèches situated off Askew Road. Parents with children’s and young teenagers often pass through Askew Road and vicinity in order to reach these establishments. We feel that if any off-license is granted permission to sell alcohol from early morning onwards, this would draw in more unsavoury characters to the local area, putting young school children and parents at risk of being exposed to actions of others including harassment and aggressive begging, and being caused alarm and distress from witnessing fights and urinating in public amongst these street drinkers. These are all incidents that we have dealings with.

The Askew ward is also populated with several hostels/sheltered homes housing vulnerable people from the community. They range from drug misuse, mental health illness, domestic violence, alcohol abuse, and juveniles. One particular establishment ran by the Broadway Project is in close vicinity of Askew Road caters for people currently undergoing alcohol detox. I believe if any off-licensed premises in the local area were to be issued a 24 hour alcohol license it would hinder the work being carried out at these centres, discouraging their residents to keep clean from drink, ultimately veering from their rehabilitation programme.

Shepherds Bush has a significant amount of Polish people residing in or visiting the area. This is due to strong links the Polish community has within the Askew ward. One particular establishment on Cobbold Road at St Saviours Church known as the Upper Rooms, provides daily meals, recreation and work opportunities for homeless or people living in sheltered housing. We are finding large amount of Polish people are using these facilities, most of these are drawn from Shepherds Bush and Ealing area. During the days when meals are served, we do find a significant increase of local homeless and Polish people loitering on the ward. Most can be found on Askew Road and on Starch Green as mentioned before, consuming alcohol in public. We feel that an 24 hour alcohol license from NISA Local would contribute significantly to this amount.

Askew Ward panel and Business Watch co-ordinators are in agreement that a 24 hour alcohol license granted to NISA Local would only contribute to the problems of street drinkers we are getting on the Askew ward.

Signature: Signature witnessed by:

RESTRICTED – FOR POLICE AND PROSECUTION ONLY
(when completed)

Home address:

Postcode:

Home telephone number Work telephone number

Mobile/pager number Email address:

Preferred means of contact:

Male / Female (delete as applicable) Date and place of birth:

Former name: Height: Ethnicity Code:

Dates of witness non-availability

Witness care

- a) Is the witness willing and likely to attend court? Yes / No. If 'No', include reason(s) on MG6. What can be done to ensure attendance?
- b) Does the witness require 'special measures' as a vulnerable or intimidated witness? Yes / No. If 'Yes' submit MG2 with file.
- c) Does the witness have any specific care needs? Yes / No. If 'Yes' what are they? (Healthcare, childcare, transport, disability, language difficulties, visually impaired, restricted mobility or other concerns?)

Witness Consent (for witness completion)

- a) The criminal justice process and Victim Personal Statement scheme (victims only) has been explained to me Yes No
- b) I have been given the leaflet 'Giving a witness statement to police — what happens next?' Yes No
- c) I consent to police having access to my medical records in relation to this matter: Yes No N/A
- d) I consent to my medical record in relation to this matter being disclosed to the defence: Yes No N/A
- e) I consent to the statement being disclosed for the purposes of civil proceedings e.g. child care proceedings (if applicable) Yes No N/A
- f) The information recorded above will be disclosed to the Witness Service so they can offer help and support, unless you ask them not to. Tick this box to decline their services:

Signature of witness:

Statement taken by (print name):

Station:

Time and place statement taken:

Signature of witness: