

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

**(Criminal Procedure Rules r16, Criminal Justice Act 1967 s 9,  
Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 s 5A(3)(a) and 5B)**

**STATEMENT OF**     *Elizabeth Gregg*  
**AGE**                **Over 18 years**  
**OCCUPATION**     ***Senior Licensing & Compliance Officer***

**This statement, consists of 4 pages 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 in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.**

**Date 24 October 2022**

**Signed** [REDACTED]

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1. I am employed by Wolverhampton City Council as a Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer within the Council's Licensing Department, based at the Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SH. I have worked for this local authority in this position since April 2019 and previously had 5 years' experience in various officer positions within the local authority.
2. On 7 November 2019 at 17:18 hours I attended Newsagents, 49 School Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LR with my colleague Kully Bains-Sabharwal, Licensing and Compliance Officer. The visit followed a complaint received regarding the premises selling alcohol to individuals who were intoxicated. The designated premises supervisor Baljit Singh Batiya was present during the visit and advice was provided. Mr Batiya had a refusal book available however had not recorded a refused sale since 2017. Due to the lack of conditions attached to this licence the licence holder was asked to observe the Licensing Act 2003 Mandatory Conditions.

Signed [REDACTED]

Date 24 October 2022

Continuation Sheet:

Statement of Elizabeth Gregg

3. On 28 June 2022 concerns were raised with licensing from Neighbourhood Safety regarding problematic street drinkers within the city centre, and the actions taken by officers. The information received identified several areas including school street as a concern.
4. On 4 August 2022 City of Wolverhampton Council hosted the start and finish of the Commonwealth Games Cycling Time Trial. Officers from Licensing, Trading Standards and Environmental Health were tasked with ensuring compliance of traders within the Commonwealth areas, including a Commonwealth Festival site.
5. On route to the festival site, it was noticed that a group were congregated around the bus shelter directly in front of Newsagents, 47 School Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LR consuming super strength alcohol, with empty alcohol cans discarded on the floor surrounding the bus shelter.
6. Debra Craner, Licensing Section Leader discussed entering the premises with the rest of the group also conducting Commonwealth Compliance, the group agreed to enter the shop at approximately 14:05. The group comprised of myself, Debra Craner, Dianne Slack – Tobacco Control Officer and Samuel Hoskins - Senior Officer - Food and Health and Safety.
7. Upon entry Debra Craner introduced herself and others to the person behind the counter who insisted he was only at the premises to help; the Premises Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor was not present.
8. Whilst inside the premises several customers entered to purchase a single can/bottle of alcohol, the premises licence does not prevent this however the

Signed 

Date 24 October 2022

Continuation Sheet:

Statement of Elizabeth Gregg

Licensing Act 2003 confirms that a sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk is an offence. Debra Craner advised the person behind the counter that they should not serve alcohol to an individual if they are intoxicated.

9. A sale was refused by the person behind the counter, this customer was unhappy and made this known by making comments as exiting the premises.
10. The premises was becoming increasingly busy, officers requested the assistance of West Midlands Police. All officers left the premises. Whilst waiting outside the premises I witnessed a street drinker purchasing a single alcohol beverage and placing the item inside his coat pocket before leaving the premises.
11. Officers re-entered the premises, Debra Craner requested to view CCTV footage of the sale that had just taken place, the person working within the premises confirmed the Premises Licence Holder would be present shortly.
12. Whilst waiting within the premises I observed a female customer attempt to purchase a bong to which the person behind the counter refused the sale, the customer placed money on the counter and took the item with her. This shows the premises lack of control.
13. Whilst waiting for the Premises Licence Holder's arrival Dianne Slack confirmed she was going to conduct a visit and proceeded with a Code B, statutory powers of entry, search and seizure.
14. Whilst this search was conducted Debra and I visited the first floor with the Premises Licence Holder to view CCTV footage, footage confirmed the alcohol

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Date 24 October 2022

Continuation Sheet:

Statement of Elizabeth Gregg

sale to a street drinker had taken place whilst officers waited outside the premises.

15. We all left the premises at approximately 15:00 hours.

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Date 24 October 2022