

OFFICIAL**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

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Statement of: **Daniel Hunt**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Officer**

This statement (consisting of 2 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 in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: **PC HUNT 11044**Date: **05/07/2020**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

At approximately 21:30 on Saturday 20th June 2020 I was in plain clothes on duty in the area of Gravesend town centre. At this time, I attended the Londis shop located at 29 Milton Road Gravesend. As one of the licensing officers for North Division, I am aware that a premises licence review hearing regarding this premises is scheduled to take at Gravesham Council on 15th July 2020 and am further aware that the premises has a licence condition stating the following:

"At all times the Designated Premises Supervisor or a personal licence holder must be present to authorise the sale / supply of alcohol".

I entered the premises and immediately noted that there were two members of staff on duty. There was a female member of staff on duty serving behind the counter and a male member of staff working on the shop floor. I have met the male member of staff previously and know that he is not a personal licence holder. To my knowledge I had not met the female member of staff before. I purchased a can of soft drink and some confectionary which I then consumed whilst stood on the pavement outside the premises. In the short time it took me to consume my items, I witnessed a sale of what I suspected to be a bottle of vodka. It was now that I re-entered the store in order to check to see if the female staff member that had sold the vodka was a personal licence holder. I can confirm that the DPS was not on site. There was a queue of customers at the till, so I stood and waited for persons to be served before interrupting. As I waited, I witnessed the sale of 2 x cans of Scrumpy Jack Cider and a further sale of a single can of Karpackie Lager. I then spoke with the

Signature: **PC HUNT 11044**Signature witnessed by: **N/A**

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female staff member and established that she too was not a personal licence holder. As there was no personal licence holder on site the premises had breached premises licence conditions by selling alcohol. I requested to speak with the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and was advised he would attend the store shortly.

The DPS is Mr Thayatharan KANDIAH. Upon his arrival I explained my concerns regarding the premises licence breach. The DPS appeared nervous and confused and seemed to have little knowledge of this premises licence condition. I found this strange and hard to believe, particularly given that this issue has been raised with him previously and is clearly documented as one of our concerns in the Kent Police application for review paperwork served on the premises prior to this visit. I strongly advised the DPS that I expect him to have full knowledge of his premises licence conditions and for him to comply with those conditions moving forward. He advised me that he would remain on site for the rest of the shift. Prior to leaving the premises I conducted a check on the premises CCTV system. As I did so I witnessed a male I suspected to be a street drinker being provided by staff with some disposable cups. In my experience disposable cups are often given out in this manner to enable persons to consume drink on the street, as opposed to taking it home and using their own glass. This frustrated me further and so I challenged the DPS regarding this. He stated that the persons in question are likely to have taken the cups and alcohol home to consume it but could get drunk and end up fighting at home and he would rather them fight with disposable cups than glass. I do not believe that to be the reasons as to why the cups were given, I suspect they were given to facilitate the drinking of alcohol in the immediate area, an area that happened to fall within a Public Space Protection Order. I would consider this a failure of the premises to promote the licensing objects. PC HUNT 11044.

Signature **PC HUNT 11044**Signature witnessed by **N/A**

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Signature witnessed by **N/A**