

RESTRICTED WHEN COMPLETE

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GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9

Statement of	Lee Cocks	
Age if under 18	over	If over 18, insert 'over 18'
Occupation	Police Constable	
This statement (consisting of 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	L.Cocks	(Witness)
Date	13-05-2022	
Tick if victim wishes to personally read their Victim Personal Statement aloud in Court		<input type="checkbox"/>
Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on last page)		<input type="checkbox"/>

WITNESS STATEMENT

I am Police Constable 15813 LEE COCKS of Greater Manchester Police, currently stationed at Ashton-Under-Lyne police station, Tameside Greater Manchester Borough.

On Thursday 17th February 2022 I was in full Operational Police Day Uniform working a scheduled 07:00hrs till 17:00hrs. This day was expected to be a full day of action involving Tameside Divisional Police Officers / Staff working in conjunction with different partner Agencies spread across the Tameside Borough named locally as OPERATION AVRO.

My specific Deployment was to meet and Assist Officers from Tameside Trading Standards Offices regarding Preventing a Breach of the Peace whilst they executed Intelligence led packs on several shops throughout Tameside Borough around the sale of Illegal Illicit Tobacco and general Licensing Condition checks to ensure they are adhering to current Regulations of Trading to date.

At Approximately 10:00hrs of the morning I arrived at the first shop visit of the day being called BEST-ONE on Canterbury Street, Ashton.

Officers from Trading Standards were already on scene being Tracey and Timothy again being further assisted by two other colleagues from Greater Manchester Fire and Risk Team. Following a brief discussion outside it was agreed that my only involvement would be to ensure the safety of colleagues and to prevent any Breach of the Peace / Offences from Occurring.

At 10:07hrs the Business was Entered via the open shop fronted door and an Asian male presented himself to be the shop worker from behind the counter. This male was then informed of the purpose of the visit and if he could please inform the owner of the shop to our presence. Timothy and Tracey then explained to the Shopworker the reason / Information that they had and the fact that the shop had failed an Illegal sale previously and that was the sole purpose of the visit.

The focus of the search stemmed around a large Black Coffee machine situated near to the front shop door against the back wall called RIJO Machine. Trading Standards believed that contained within the lower part of this machine was where the Illegal tobacco was stored. The male present was asked on more than one occasion did he have any keys to this machine so access could be gained and if not, could he contact somebody who may have the key!

Around 25 Minutes of being present, at 10:30hrs an unknown Asian Ethnicity lady arrived and informed that she was the Proprietor of the property and handed a large bunch of keys to us believing that one of the keys could allow access to the Coffee Machine. The keys however failed to open the uni.

The Asian male who was originally asked numerous times where the key was, has then appeared from behind the counter and handed the key to the machine to us and the unit was opened and contained within this unit was a large white SPORTS DIRECT bag and contained within this bag was a Quantity of Confirmed Illegal illicit Cigarettes that were seized by Trading Standards.

NO further Illicit / Counterfeited items were recovered and at 10:58hrs I and Colleagues then exited the Business and continued further Visits throughout the day.

The interaction / visit was recorded upon my Police Issued Body Worn Video and is approximately 51 minutes and 13 seconds long and I exhibit this as LC/01.

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Signature	L.Cocks
Signature witnessed by	