

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

URN [] [] [] []

Statement of: Darren John COOKSON

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

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

Signature: [Signature] Date: 10/12/2020

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded [] (supply witness details on last page)

I am Police Constable 13448 COOKSON of the GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, currently stationed at HYDE Police Station. I am currently the Neighbourhood Beat Officer for the DENTON SOUTH ward.

At around 22:05 hours on Wednesday 25th November 2020 I was on duty in full uniform in company with PC 9878 HILL, when we attended the COCK HOTEL, TWO TREES LANE, DENTON. As I exited the vehicle, I activated my BODY WORN VIDEO. We attended this address in relation to a report of 5 males having been seen going into the pub. I went to the front of the pub and noticed that the blinds were closed, however, I could see lights on in the pub. My colleague was looking through a gap in the blinds and could see people inside. I repeatedly knocked on the front door, which was eventually answered by Michael ANDREW, date of birth [REDACTED] who was clearly under the influence of alcohol. I explained that we were here under the Licensing Act due to an illegal gathering.

Inside the pub, ANDREW identified himself as the landlord, I also saw [REDACTED], who stated that he also lived at the pub. I explained that the police had received a report of people having recently entered the pub and in light of the COVID situation, we had to come and investigate. My colleague went through a door. On the bar were 2 fresh partially drunk pints of beer and ANDREW was drinking lager from a glass.

I asked ANDREW if he had any idea why we were in his pub, to which he replied that he had absolutely no idea. I asked him directly if people had been coming into his pub, to which he replied that friends had come in to see him. I explained that this was not allowed under the COVID regulations. ANDREW denied selling alcohol, he claimed to have given these drinks "from the taps".

I heard PC 9878 HILL state over his radio that he had a group of males upstairs in the pub and he was requesting officers to join him. I asked ANDREW who was upstairs and he replied that it was the people who had come over to see him. I was joined by other officers and I made my way up the stairs to where my colleague was. In the room I saw 4 adult males, several of whom had taken their alcoholic drinks into the room with them. Once the identity of all the males had been confirmed, all were told that they were being reported for breaching the COVID regulations and they were being issued a Fixed Penalty Ticket.

I later e-mailed the TAMESIDE Divisional Licensing Officer, PC 14627 Martin THORLEY, about this incident.

Signature: [Signature]

Signature witnessed by: [Signature]

URN [] [] [] []

Witness contact details

Home address: Hyde Police Station, Clarendon Road, HYDE, SK14 2LJ
Home telephone no.: Work telephone no.:
Mobile/Pager no.: E-mail address: 13448@gmp.police.uk
Preferred means of contact: E-mail Best time of contact (specify details): Any
Former name: Height: Ethnicity code:
Religion/Belief (specify): 1

DATES OF WITNESS NON-AVAILABILITY:

Witness care

- a) Is the witness willing and likely to attend court? If 'No', include reason(s) on form MG6.
b) What can be done to ensure attendance?
c) Does the witness require Special Measures Assessment as a vulnerable or intimidated witness?
d) Does the witness have any particular needs? 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 Victim Personal Statement scheme (victims only) has been explained to me:
b) I have been given the Victim Personal Statement leaflet:
c) I have been given the leaflet 'Giving a witness statement to the police - what happens next?':
d) I consent to police having access to my medical record(s) in relation to this matter:
e) I consent to my medical record in relation to this matter being disclosed to the defence:
f) I consent to the statement being disclosed for the purposes of civil proceedings if applicable:
g) The information recorded above will be disclosed to the Witness Service so that they can offer help and support unless you ask them not to. Tick this box to decline their services:

Signature of witness PRINT NAME: D.J. Cookson
Signature of parent/guardian/appropriate adult: PRINT NAME:
Address and telephone number if different from above:

Statement taken by (print name): Self Station: Hyde
Time and place statement taken: 11:05 Hyde Police Station