

**TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL****Statement of witness**

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2);  
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)

**STATEMENT OF: Rebecca Birch**

**Age of witness: Over 18**

**Occupation of witness: Regulatory Compliance Officer**

I am the above named person. I am employed by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as a Regulatory Compliance officer within Public Protection, Environmental Services. I have been employed in this role since January 2020. Within this role I deal with Licensing and Environmental Protection which includes noise pollution.

Greater Manchester Police in its capacity as a responsible authority applied for an expedited review of the premises licence due to serious crime. This application was submitted on 6 July 2021 and this statement is provided in support of that application.

On 9 October 2020, the premises was visited by Officers and issues were identified, specifically the failure to ensure effective social distancing controls are in place and failure by doorstaff and management at the premises to manage customers. During this visit, these issues were raised with Mr Fox, the premises manager at the time of the visit. The Premises Licence Holder was also informed of the concerns and the failure of the management of the premises to comply.

Further visits were conducted on 15 October 2020 where Officers reported a live stream of a funeral with around 20 customers attending the gathering with food being delivered from an outside caterer. In accordance with the Regulations, people were unable to gather and meet indoors unless they are from the same (or linked) household. There were exemptions for wakes, but this could be for no more than 15 people. Further, the Regulations also required that any food or drink must be ordered from and served to a customer who remains seated.

On 16 October 2020, a direction notice was served on the premises due to the serious and imminent threat to public health and was necessary for preventing, protecting against the spread of infection by coronavirus. The premises was required to close with no persons admitted to the

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Dated: 19 July 2021

Signed: R S Birch

**Continuation of witness statement of:**

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(Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.1(1); Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s5B)

premises unless employed there or contracted to work there. The directions were to remain in force until 2 November 2020.

At the time the direction notice was served the tenant informed the licensing manager that their tenancy agreement with Robinsons, Premises Licence Holder, was due to expire and that they were not interested in running the pub beyond the expiration date. The Licensing Authority were concerned that the tenants and DPS had lost interest in promoting the Licensing Objectives, Robinsons were informed of this.

On 29 May 2021 Police attended the Snipe Inn in response to a 999 call to fighting in the beer garden where a male was assaulted which turned into a brawl. The victim received a serious injury to the head. On another occasions Police Officers came across a large scale fight involving over 30 people on 12 June 2021 where all parties refused to engage with Officers. A witness later makes a call to Police to state they saw a male involved be purposely hit by a vehicle.

On Tuesday 6 July 2021, Greater Manchester Police executed search warrants at a number of premises linked to the tenant of The Snipe Inn, 387 Manchester Road, Audenshaw. One of the addresses searched was The Snipe Inn by Officers from Greater Manchester Police.

During the search of the premises, Officers found a cannabis farm in the upstairs accommodation of the premises with ten mature plants being grown. The electricity meter has been bypassed and a substantial sum of money has been seized by Police.

The Designated Premises Supervisor, Geoffrey Lee, who resides on site at The Snipe, 387 Manchester Road, Audenshaw was on site at the premises at the time the warrant was executed. Mr Lee was arrested for being concerned in the production of controlled drugs.

The Licensing Authority has concerns that the management of the premises are failing to promote the licensing objectives of Prevention of Crime and Disorder. Due to serious crime regarding the cultivation of Cannabis being present on the premises. There has been an escalation of non compliance at the premises, during the latest compliance visit it was found that the CCTV was not operating properly.

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The Licensing Authority support the expedited review and do not feel that a revocation of the licence is required. However, amendments to the operating model would be beneficial to discourage the undesirable clientele that have recently frequented the premises. In order to support this, it is felt that it is appropriate that conditions are amended to include;

**Door Staff**

Prior to each occasion that the premises carries on licensable activities, a risk assessment will be carried out to determine whether door supervisors are required and an appropriate number of door supervisors will be utilised in accordance with said risk assessment. As a minimum, if the premises intends to sell alcohol beyond 00:00 then a minimum of two SIA registered door supervisors will be utilised from 21:00 until twenty minutes after the premises closes.

**Door Staff Log**

A Door Supervisor Log shall be correctly maintained at the premises. This will include the following details:

- (i) The door staff names, dates of birth and home addresses;
- (ii) Full details, name, address and contact number of employment agency used

And for each individual period of trading:

- (iii) The name of the individual member of door staff
- (iv) His/Her Security Industry Authority licence number
- (v) The time and date He/She starts and finishes duty
- (vi) The time of any breaks taken whilst on duty
- (vii) Each entry shall be signed by the door supervisor, DPS or nominated person

**Drug Policy**

The management of the premises must introduce a strict "zero tolerance" policy in respect of the use and/or supply of illegal drugs on the premises. The policy to include checks of the toilet areas every half-hour whilst the premises are open and suitable signage to be placed in prominent areas within the premises. A written record of these checks must be kept on the premises at all times and made available to a representative of any responsible authority on request.

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