

# EXHIBIT

## AKS/07

## WITNESS STATEMENT

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

URN

Statement of: Gary John Cooksey

Age if under 18: (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of 1 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:

Date: 23/02/21

I am the above named police officer and currently work out of Hamilton Street Police Station and I am a Community Beat Manager covering the Sidney Sussex Ward area.

On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2021 I was on duty in full uniform and at 2019 hours I attended the MARINERS REST PUBLIC HOUSE on ALBERT STREET WEST in company with PC WELCH 1379.

A call had come into the police regarding a possible COVID breach at that location and I was made aware that there may be people in the public house drinking which would be in breach of the existing COVID regulations across the UK. This forbids gatherings and for public houses to be open or allow such gatherings in these locations.

I arrived and parked my vehicle adjacent to the fuel station on the same street and my first observations were that the premise appeared to be fully closed up, including the beer garden. I could see lights on within the building, but from the windows I could see through at that point, there were no people present.

With PC WELCH, I walked around onto the OXFORD STREET side of the public house where the main entrance to the building is situated. There were further lights on to the left on the main entrance door and I could see that there were people in the premise. I approached the window, but due to the frosted windows, I could not see through enough to ascertain how many were in there at that point.

I then positioned myself as close to the fence where there was a further entry point to the beer garden, but this was from the OXFORD STREET side. I stood on tip toes to try and get a view. I could now see approximately 6 males, all white males within the premise. I could also hear at least two distinct female voices also. Some of the males appeared to be behind the bar, or what appeared to be the bar and I could also see that at least three of the males had drinking vessels in their hands, which looked like pint glasses.

PS CRITTEN 0491 was also in attendance. He stated that he was on the 'COVID CAR' which was specifically aimed at targeting these types of incidents. I recall either he or PC WELCH banging on the doors to the main entrance to the building and whilst this happened, I monitored briefly the people inside. There was no reaction to the knocking, so could only assume at that point that the music was loud within the premise.

We looked to PS CRITTEN as to the next steps to take and the advice at that point in time was to leave the location and to report the breach to licencing for action to be taken with regards to the licensee. We then resumed and did not return to the location again that evening.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

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

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Statement of: PC 1379 WELCH

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Officer 1379

This statement (consisting of 1 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: L.WELCH (witness)

Date: 26/02/2021

I am PC 1379 WELCH and I am currently employed by Humberside Police based at Hamilton Street Police Station.

On SATURDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021, I was working under the Police call sign BC35 in full uniform. I was in the company of PC 2355 COOKSEY who was under the Police call sign of BC37.

On the same day I was informed via my Police radio that there were people inside The Mariners Rest pub and they were playing loud music. This breaching current COVID restrictions under the Coronavirus Act 2020. This information came from the local East Marsh councillor, Steve BEASANT.

The Mariners Rest is located on ALBERT STREET EAST, GRIMSBY.

At around 2015HRS myself and PC COOKSEY arrived on scene at the Mariners Rest, Grimsby. The side of the pub which is on OXFORD STREET, GRIMSBY, I could see the lights on within the pub. I called our Communications hub and asked them to create me a log, this being log 457 13/02/2021. Another single crewed unit turned up, this being PS 0491 CRITTEN.

I knocked on several doors of the pub while PC COOKSEY was looking into the window and stated he could see 6 or more people inside the bar section of the pub. I got no response. My colleagues were knocking on the window where the lights were turned on, again got no response. With this, I shone my torch through the window including on its strobe mode to get attention. The light from my torch was clearly visible. Despite knocking on the doors, windows and shining my torch through, we still got no reply to knocking at the pub. We were on scene around 10 minutes.

I did not see anyone inside as it was my colleague who looked through the window.

Signature: L.WELCH

Signature witnessed by: N/A