

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 27.2;
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)*

STATEMENT OF: Kirsty Louise Jennings

Age of witness (if over 18, enter "over 18"): Over 18

Occupation: Licensing Officer

This statement (consisting of 3 pages) 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.

Signed: 

Date: 22nd July 2022

I am employed by Gateshead Council in the post of Licensing Officer in the Licensing Section of Economy, Innovation and Growth.

On Monday 13th June 2022 at 11:30hrs I visited Sheriffs Highway Stores, 168 Sheriffs Highway, Sheriff Hill, Gateshead, NE9 5SD to conduct a Licensing inspection.

I entered the shop and there was one member of staff present. I identified myself and he provided his name as Jaafar JAAFAR. Mr Jaafar stated Farhad Jamnejad was the owner of the shop. I asked him who the current Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was, and he stated it was Amer Idris Paul. When I asked where Mr Paul was, Mr Jaafar stated he had left his role at the shop to become a driving instructor. Mr Jaafar stated he did not have a personal licence however he is working towards obtaining one.

Mr Jaafar was able to show me a refusals register which had recent entries in from 11th June 2022 for a refusal of a sale of alcohol. He stated that all staff should be completing it for any refusals.

The premises licence and summary were not available or on display. Mr Jaafar stated that Mr Jamnejad had taken the summary down and the premises licence with him when they attended the civic centre to see Matthew Harman from Trading Standards.

Mr Jaafar stated there are currently 3 members of staff at the premises, Mr Jamnejad, Mr Jaafar and a person called Chris. Mr Jaafar could not produce any training records for any

Signed: 

staff members, and he could only say 'Chris used to work in a pub, so he knows all about Challenge 25'. They do have a challenge 25 policy in place, and they have posters displayed in the shop and in the fridges reflecting this.

The CCTV is displayed on a large screen opposite the till so staff members will be able to view it at all times. The screen showed the CCTV with the correct time and date, and had extensive coverage of the inside and also cameras outside. Mr Jaafar was unable to rewind the CCTV to show that there is 28 days available, however Mr Jamnejad was spoken to by phone and he stated it did go back 28 days.

After I spoke to Mr Jamnejad, he then submitted a vary DPS application the same day to specify himself as the Designated Premises Supervisor.

Mr Jamnejad then emailed me on 21st June 2022 with photographs showing the premises licence on display, staff training document signed by Mr Jaafar and Chris Jeffery. And also a photograph of the front of the training material used. I exhibit this as **KLJ/1**.

As per a prearranged appointment, I visited the premises on 14th July 2022 to carry out a follow up Licensing inspection to see if the issues identified on 13th June 2022 had been rectified.

On display as the first page of the Premises Licence only and not the Premises Licence Summary as required. I spoke to Mr Jamnejad who stated he did not know where the copy of the Summary was. Mr Jaafar stated he may have it at home and would check. This remains a breach of their Premises Licence.

Mr Jamnejad was able to provide the staff training log which he had previously sent me a photograph of. This was contained in the back of a book with training materials relating to the Licensing Act 2003. The training log consisted of one page.

The CCTV showed the correct time and date, however Mr Jamnejad was unable to show me 28 days retention of footage. He stated that an engineer had visited recently (he was unable to provide a date) and he believed they had reset the system. Upon further checks, I

established that the CCTV had started recording at 08:00 on 14th July 2022, therefore only had 3 hours of retention. This remains a breach of their premises licence.

Mr Jamnejad stated the CCTV system belonged to the landlord of the premises and he relies on her to fix it. I explained as the Licence Holder the CCTV is his responsibility due to the conditions on his licence.

I emailed Mr Jamnejad to ask for an update on the issues identified, he replied stating the hard drive had been replaced. Mr Jamnejad also provided photographs which show footage retained on the hard drive. This is exhibited as **KLJ/2**.

I asked Mr Jamnejad to check the CCTV daily to ensure the system is still working correctly, and I have stated I will revisit once the hard drive has 28 days retention to be able to show compliance with the CCTV condition on the licence. He has confirmed he will check daily. I **exhibit this as KLJ/3**.

A follow up visit by Licensing is required.

Signed: 