

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

*(Criminal Procedure Rules 2015, Rule 16.2,
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)*

STATEMENT OF:

Age of Witness: Over 18

Occupation of Witness: Senior Trading Standards Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 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.

Dated: 01/06/2022

Signed

I am a Senior Trading Standards Officer employed by West Sussex County Council.

On 31st May 2022, I participated in an underage sales operation accompanied by my two colleagues (Senior Trading Standards Officer) and (Trainee Trading Standards Officer). A 16-year-old female volunteer was also working under the instruction and supervision of Trading Standards. The purpose of the operation was to ensure West Sussex businesses were compliant in that they were not selling age restricted products to children under the age of 18.

Prior to visiting any of the premises, we collected the volunteer and briefed her, and took photographs of her appearance that day. The volunteer was assigned the unique code '5NB' to protect her identity.

At approximately 1045 hours, as part of the operation, and myself entered Pricewatch Ltd t/a Power – Storrington Service Station, Old Mill Drive, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 4NH. We browsed around the shop acting as a normal customer would until a few moments later, when the volunteer entered the shop. At this point, I positioned myself near to the till area and I witnessed the volunteer take four cans of lager to the till. There was a lady working behind the till

STATEMENT OF:

PAGE 2

area and I witnessed her sell the four cans of Carlsberg lager to the volunteer without asking the volunteer any questions whatsoever. The volunteer exited the premises and I then paid for my products and left too. I returned to the support vehicle with my colleagues and [redacted] passed me the four cans of Carlsberg that she had placed into an evidence bag. I completed the information on the evidence bag and gave it the following reference which I now produce as evidence:

LD/PG/1 – 4 x Carlsberg cans lager – seal. LC00036989

At approximately 1100 hours [redacted] and I returned to Pricewatch Ltd t/a Power – Storrington Service Station, Old Mill Drive, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 4NH and I introduced us both to the female working behind the till counter and explained the reason for the visit. I advised the female that she had just sold alcohol to a 16 year old and asked her if we could go somewhere more private to discuss this. The female, who I now know to be [redacted] (10/03/1998), [redacted] and myself went into the back area of the shop. I cautioned [redacted] at approximately 1105 hours and asked her some questions which I recorded in my pocket notebook. I asked [redacted] if she remembered selling the alcohol to the volunteer and she said that she did but she thought that the volunteer looked 18 or 19 years old. [redacted] advised me that she had been working for the company for approximately four months and had been trained in the form of a quiz and this was documented but she didn't know where the record of this was kept.

I checked the systems the shop had in place to prevent the sale of an age restricted product taking place and noted these in my pocket notebook.

Samuel Wall and I left the premises at approximately 1120 hours.

I now produce as evidence a photocopy of my pocket notebook for the incident as exhibit **LD/PG/2**.