

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(Criminal Procedure Rules 2020, Rule 16.2,  
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

STATEMENT OF: .

Age of witness: OVER 18

Occupation of Witness: TRAINEE TRADING STANDARDS OFFICER

This statement (consisting of 3 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 the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December 2022

Signed

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I am currently employed as a Trainee Trading Standards Officer within West Sussex County Council Trading Standards Service.

On 14<sup>th</sup> of December 2022, I participated in an Underage sales test purchase day, with two colleagues, [REDACTED] (Senior Trading Standards Officer) and [REDACTED] (Trading Standards Officer). A volunteer who is a 17-year-old female participated in the Underage sales test purchase day, under the instruction and supervision of WSCC Trading Standards. The purpose of this operation is to make sure that that West Sussex businesses are compliant with the procedures set out for age restricted products to children under the age of 18.

Prior to visiting the businesses, we collected the volunteer, where we briefed her and took photographs of her appearance that day. The volunteer is assigned a unique code "NZA1" to protect her identity.

At approximately 1506 hours, I saw [REDACTED] enter Ashman Express Ltd t/a Choices of Horsham, 1 Burtons Court, Park Way, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1PY. I witnessed the volunteer after a few moments, enter Choices of Horsham. I

waited further down from the shop. I saw the volunteer exit Choices of Horsham with a bottle of WKD. I saw [redacted] exit the premise. [redacted] explained to me that he witnessed the sale of the WKD bottle being sold to the volunteer. I took the WKD bottle from the volunteer and put into an evidence bag.

At approximately at 1516 hours, myself and [redacted] entered Ashman Express Ltd t/a Choices of Horsham, 1 Burtons Court, Park Way, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1PY. I introduced myself and [redacted] to the shop employee [redacted] (31/10/1988) and I spoke about the failed test purchase by our volunteer. I explained about the offences that have taken place, while showing the WKD in the evidence bag that was sold to the volunteer.

Approximately at 1523 hours I cautioned [redacted] and proceeded to ask him a set of questions that are recorded in my pocket notebook. [redacted] told me that he works full time at Choices of Horsham, 5 days a week. I asked [redacted] if he knows what an age restricted product is, [redacted] gives the example of alcohol. When asked how old the volunteer looked, [redacted] responded 25 years old. I heard [redacted] question [redacted] as to why he said about bringing ID later to the volunteer. [redacted] responded that he doubted the volunteer's age. I heard [redacted] ask about any till prompts and [redacted] explained about doing a refund, but he did not do. I located Under 25 posters in the premise.

[redacted] showed a license he believed to be fake to [redacted]. I saw Mr [redacted] take a picture of the license. I heard [redacted] explain to [redacted] that he will send the picture he has taken to the right authorities to check. Mr [redacted] explained about the Under 25 policy to me and I checked till prompts, which were present. When asked about any training that [redacted] has had, [redacted] replied around 6 years ago, and he has had no recent training. I asked to see a refusal log, but [redacted] said the old refusal log is full and a new one has been ordered and that the boss has the old refusal log. I heard [redacted] speak about the offences and that we would be in contact accordingly.

Approximately at 15:38, myself and [redacted] exited the premise.

At the end of operation. We returned to our offices in Horsham, where we placed the evidence from Underage sales test purchase day in the evidence room.

I now produce as evidence a photocopy of my pocket notebook at the time of the incident as **NA/COH/1**

**Witness details**

Address: WSCC PARKSIDE, CHART WAY, HORSHAM RH12 1XH

Email address: r

Mobile number:

Other number(s):

Dates to be avoided. Delete dates of non-availability of witness:

Month of :							Month of :							Month of :						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				
Month of :							Month of :							Month of :						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

Contact details if different from above

Address:

Email address:

Mobile number:

Other number(s):

**CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND INVESTIGATIONS ACT 1996**

**Record below anything that may affect the credibility of the person making this statement, e.g.; previous convictions, relationship to defendant. If there is nothing state 'none' below.**

**None**

Dated the 22nd day of December 2022

Signed