

**West Sussex County Council
STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

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Age of Witness: **24** Over 18: **YES**

Occupation of Witness: **Dog Handler**

This statement, consisting of 1 page 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.

Date: 29th January 2024

I am employed by Wagtail UK LTD and hired out by West Sussex County Council within the Trading Standards service to carry out tobacco and vape searches within the area of West Sussex. On the date of 11-10-23 I had entered the premises of Ashmans Express/ta Choices of Horsham, with Trading standards officers. I entered with my detection dog, Billy (Springer spaniel, trained to detect tobacco, cash and vapes). I proceeded to start my search in the far end of the shop which was a small break room containing a kitchen space, and a bathroom.

Billy showed a large amount of interest towards the bathroom so I gave him an extended lead allowing him to follow whatever scent had caught his attention. Within minutes Billy indicated on his hind legs on boxes of alcohol stacked along the right-hand side of the room. Indicating on his hind legs shows that the scent is at height so after moving some boxes he made his way along until he got to the specific area and indicated on a black bin bag containing cigarettes. I now produce the photo I took of Billy **JB/01**

After leaving the toilet area, I worked Billy around the shop floor and headed towards the counter. Billy immediately pulled me to a small cupboard situated underneath the till area with a broken door. Upon opening the cupboard, I discovered vapes. I rewarded Billy and then exited the shop.

(Signed) **JESSICA BODEN** 