

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of **Paul Compton PC294MD** URN:

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Age if under 18 **Over 18**..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Staff**

This statement (consisting of:**3**..... pages 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 anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: Paul Compton PC294MD Date: 24th June 2009

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (*supply witness details on rear*)

I am Paul Compton PC284MD/176623 and currently posted to the Police Licensing Office at Walworth Police Station, 12/28 Manor Place, Walworth, London, SE17 3RL. I am authorised to represent the Metropolitan Police in all issues connected to Licensed Premises located within the London Borough of Southwark.

On 22nd May 2009 I submitted an application to review the Premises Licence in respect of BD Wines 1 Braganza Street SE17 3RD held by Mr Bahader Singh Mahil. The application relates to three of the four main licensing objectives: Prevention of Crime & Disorder; Public Safety; Protection of Children from Harm.

On 15th May 2009 at 17.02hrs Police executed a search warrant that had been obtained under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 after the Southwark Police Operation Support Unit had obtained intelligence that the premises was often used for the supply and use of illegal drugs. The premises are located in an area designated as a "Drug Hotspot Area" with over 80 drug related offences recorded in the last three months, which includes on 12th March 2009 Police attending the premises after a call to Police was made that persons were smoking illegal drugs outside the premises. Upon attendance three males were stopped and searched and two were found to be in possession of controlled drugs, one of the males detained was working at the premises and stated that he was on a break.

At the time the Operational Support Unit executed the search warrant on 15th May 2009, a number of males were found inside the premises, including Mr Satvinder Mahil and Bobinder Mahil, who are the sons of the Premises Licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor Mr Bahader Singh Mahil. Four other males were found on the premises who in the past have been found by Police either inside the premises or nearby to the premises and

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when searched found to be in possession of illegal drugs. A thorough search of the premises was conducted with the assistance of a drugs search dog and a quantity of illegal drugs was discovered at various locations around the store. In a rear stockroom a number of self sealed bags containing herbal cannabis were found. The officers searching noted that this rear stockroom smelt strongly of cannabis. Behind the till area further self seal bags were found also containing herbal cannabis along with five (5) lumps of cannabis and £60 in cash. (Not in the till) A white Mercedes sprinter van registered to the Premises Licence Holder & Designated Premises Supervisor, Mr Bahader Singh Mahil, was parked outside the premises and also subjected to a full search. No items were found although the searching officers noted that there was a strong smell of cannabis inside the vehicle and officers commented that it was likely that vehicle was used to transport illegal drugs to the premises.

Along with the illegal drugs discovered inside the premises, two offensive weapons were found behind the counter: One (1) Baseball Bat & One (1) Gravity Friction Lock Baton(The same type as issued to Police Officers and by definition are offensive weapons)

The two sons of the Premises Licence Holder & Designated Premises Supervisor were arrested for possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply and for the possession of two offensive weapons and conveyed to Walworth Police Station where they were interviewed and bailed to return to the Police Station at a later date, pending a full forensic analysis of the items seized. It is worthy of note that both sons gave their home address as the same as their father Mr Bahader Singh Mahil, the premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor.

Later during the evening of 15th May 2009, Mr Bahader Singh Mahil, attended the front counter at Walworth Police Station where he was subsequently arrested for possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply and for possession of two offensive weapons. The reasons for this are that he is the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor and therefore should be in full control of activities that take place inside the premises. Enquiries have revealed that during a previous visit made by Police to the premises on 28th March 2009 Mr Bahader Singh Mahil was found to be in possession of a similar Gravity Friction Lock Baton for which he received an adult caution after admitting he had the item for his own protection. Mr Bahader Singh Mahil was interviewed and bailed to return to the Police Station at a later date.

As part of a continuous programme to ensure that young persons are not supplied with alcohol at licensed premises, a number of Test Purchase Operations are conducted with colleagues from London Borough of Southwark Trading Standards. On 28th February 2009 at 12.20pm a Test Purchase Operation was conducted at BD Wines 1 Braganza Street SE17, where a fifteen (15) year old female purchased a bottle of WKD Blue Vodka from the store. The Premises Licence Holder & Designated Premises Supervisor, Mr Bahader Singh Mahil sold

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the alcohol to the young person. I entered the store immediately after the sale with my colleague PC Stephen McNally and spoke with Mr Bahader Singh Mahil and an appointment was made for him to attend Walworth Police Station the following week, where he accepted a Fixed Penalty Notice for supply of alcohol to a person under the age of 18.

It is of great concern to Police that the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor, Mr Bahader Singh Mahil, would appear to be involved in the supply of illegal drugs. I am aware that at the time of writing this statement no decision has been taken as to what, if any, criminal charges should be levelled at Mr Bahader Singh Mahil and his sons. However as the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor, Mr Bahader Singh Mahil is legally bound to be in "Day to Day control" of the premises and therefore should be fully aware of what activities are taking place inside the premises.

Signature: Signature witnessed by:

Witness contact details

Home address:
..... Postcode:

Home telephone number Work telephone number

Mobile/pager number Email address:

Preferred means of contact:

Male / ~~Female~~ (delete as applicable) Date and place of birth:

Former name: Ethnicity Code (16+1): Religion/belief:

Dates of witness non-availability
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Witness care

- a) Is the witness willing and likely to attend court? **No.** If 'No', include reason(s) on **MG6.**
- b) What can be done to ensure attendance?
- c) Does the witness require a Special Measures Assessment as a vulnerable or intimidated witness?
No. If 'Yes' submit **MG2** with file.
- d) Does the witness have any specific care needs? **No.** If 'Yes' what are they? (Disability, healthcare, childcare, transport, , language difficulties, visually impaired, restricted mobility or other concerns?)

Witness Consent (for witness completion)

- a) The criminal justice process and Victim Personal Statement scheme (victims only) has been explained to me Yes No
- b) I have been given the Victim Personal Statement leaflet Yes No
- c) I have been given the leaflet 'Giving a witness statement to police — what happens next?' Yes No
- d) I consent to police having access to my medical record(s) in relation to this matter: (obtained in accordance with local practice) Yes No N/A
- e) I consent to my medical record in relation to this matter being disclosed to the defence: Yes No N/A
- f) I consent to the statement being disclosed for the purposes of civil proceedings e.g. child care proceedings, CICA Yes No
- g) The information recorded above will be disclosed to the Witness Service so they can offer help and support, unless you ask them not to. Tick this box to decline their services:

Signature of witness: Print name:

Signature of parent/guardian/appropriate adult: Print name:

Address and telephone number if different from above:

Statement taken by (print name): Station:

Time and place statement taken: