

OFFICIAL**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: **Carrie Knight**Age if under 18: **Over 18 years** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable 11605**

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.

Signature: **CLKNIGHT**Date: **Tuesday 18th March 2025**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

On Tuesday 4th March 2025 I was on duty as a Police Authorised Licensing Officer, working from Medway Police station along with my colleagues PC Andre SMUTS 11250 and PC SQUIRES 13355.

On this date we attended a premises called Premier Macknade Stores, Canterbury Road, Faversham, Kent following concerns raised regards to underage sales of alcohol. PC SMUTS informed me prior to attendance that he had received information from a concerned parent stating their child had been become ill after consuming alcohol their friend had purchased at the store. This being a large bottle of vodka. The friend is also reported to be under the age of 18 years and had also become ill.

Our attendance at the store was to try and establish the circumstances of what had been reported and to view any CCTV that may have captured the sale.

When we attended PC SMUTS approached the only member of staff, who I now know to be Shiv PATEL. It was explained to him the reasons behind our visit, and he was asked if we could view the CCTV. Shiv ATEL stated that the CCTV was not recording and that they had been waiting for a technician to repair the system. I could see a TV screen opposite the counter which appeared to be showing the CCTV in use, but he was adamant that it was not recording. He was asked to show us that the CCTV was not recording, and he stated that he did not the access code and that it was his father the licence holder that is the only person with access. He was asked to contact his father to see if this could be provided at which point he stated that the CCTV did not work. He was advised

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that as a serious issue had been reported we would be seizing the hard drive. He then contacted his father, and the code was obtained. He then showed us a fully working CCTV system, recording as it should. He was asked to show us the time and date of the sale of alcohol to a child under 18 and he did. This showed the child entering the store on more than one occasion. When she first entered the store, she was refused the sale, when returns hours later and is then sold the bottle of vodka. During this conversation Shiv Patel eventually mentioned to us that he was aware of the female involved and that he had sold a bottle of vodka to her. He stated that she had shown him ID on her phone. He also confirmed that the female had been in several times. Initially he had declined the sale stating that she was not old enough and then when she had re attended the store later had sold it to her. He was asked to explain why this was and couldn't answer.

As we had now witnessed the incident on CCTV Shiv Patel was asked to provide footage. I explained to him that he can send this via a digital asset management (DAMS) link. At this point I was made aware by him that he had access to the CCTV system on his mobile phone. He showed me footage we requested, and I tried to explain to him how he could screen record and send to police. I did ask him why he did not mention his access to the CCTV via his phone before and he did not answer.

He was sent a link to provide CCTV, provided with the times and dates of what was required and advised that this needed to be uploaded as soon as possible. A link was sent to him. Following this we left the store.

On Friday 14th March 2025 I was again at work working as a Police licensing officer from Medway Police Station. On this date I was aware that PC SMUTS had conducted further enquiries surrounding the young female who had been sold alcohol. He managed to obtain the details of her parent and it was decided that they needed to be spoken to ascertain further details surrounding the sale.

On this date at 1537 hours, I contacted the child's mother. I introduced myself as a police officer and explained to her that I was part of a team investigating a suspected underage sale at a local off

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licence. Before I continued, she informed me that she was fully aware of the incident and that it was her daughter who had been sold the alcohol. She was upset about this and confirmed that her daughter was 14 years old and looked as such. She was shocked that she was not asked for ID as she looks young for her years. She understood that we were in consultation with the premises to address concerns about the underage sale and asked if she was happy for us to talk to her daughter to obtain further details. She asked me at this point if it was possible to speak to her daughter first. As this was a reasonable request, I informed her that I would be in contact. I did ask her to check with her daughter if she had used any Fake ID and confirmed that she would not be in trouble if she had.

On Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 1243 hours, I contacted the parent again to see if her daughter was happy to speak to police. I spoke to her, and she advised that her daughter did not wish to become involved. However, what she did mention to me, which I was unaware of prior to this was that her daughter can be persistent, and this is how she may have managed to purchase alcohol. She confirmed that she had spoken to her daughter about any potential ID, and she confirmed she had not used a fake ID. The parent also informed me that following the purchase and consumption of the alcohol, her daughter and the friend had become highly intoxicated and unwell, to the point of vomiting. Her daughter had to be returned home and was not in a fit state. She blames the premises for selling such a high strength alcohol to her daughter and is aware that police licensing will be looking into the matter.

Signature **CLKNIGHT**

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