

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

URN

Statement of SGT 484 Dickenson

Age if under 18: 0/18

(if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: police officers

This statement (consisting of _____ 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 C Dickenson

Date 06/11/2024

Tick if victim wishes to personally read their Victim Personal Statement aloud in Court: Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded *(supply witness details on rear)*

1. I am a Police Sergeant employed in the role of Licensing for Durham Constabulary and I am authorised by a delegation given by the chief officer of police to act on her behalf in all matters pertaining to the Licensing Act 2003. I have carried out this role since August 2006.

2. Following receipt of the applicant's information on 6th November 2024 in relation to the premise license application for Bar 1, Lisa COWEY has provided a statement dated 4th November 2024 and her work experience in licensed premises.

3. As stated, the meeting was recorded on an axon camera, for clarity the recording of any interactions is now standard procedure within Durham Constabulary and there is a requirement to upload any recordings as soon as practicable. I will exhibit this meeting in full as CD/1.

4. At paragraph 12 of Lisa COWEY's statement she states "So, whilst the Police say I have no experience of working or managing premises this is just not true. They were not aware of my previous experience and only asked a few questions." Durham constabulary in our objection expressed concerns around the applicant being inexperienced and at 1:35 into the footage of the meeting I asked if she had run a bar or worked in a bar before. Lisa COWEY stated she had worked in bars but didn't offer any further information. I would have expected her to make reference that she had been managing the bar area at 3 different licensed premises and in particular at Bar 1.

5. At 1:30 into the footage I explain there is a long history with the bar and ask Lisa COWEY if she is aware of what has gone on, at this point she informs me that she has worked at the bar for a little while, however she was quite vague around how long she had been working there.

6. At 2:10 I have asked Lisa COWEY how it has come about her applying for the license and she stated that she saw it as an opportunity to take it on herself.

7. At 2:27 into the footage I again ask if she has run a bar before and again no information was offered around her experience, she is now stating she has.

8. At Paragraph 14 she states "Once I knew I had the funding, I approached P S , who has the remainder of a 10 year lease on the premises. At 02:50 into the footage I ask about the lease as I was aware of a



post on social media on 20th July 2024 where J A stated she still had 4 years left on the lease. I will exhibit this footage as CD/2. Lisa Cowey stated she would be taking over the lease from the landlords, she said that she had spoken about it, but it wasn't in place.

9. At 03:50 into the footage we discussed the hours, and I again asked her how long she had worked at Bar 1, and she replied maybe about a year. I went onto ask if she had any connections to J or A T and it was at this point 4:32 into the footage that she disclosed that J was her boy's aunty and that she knew A from working there.

10. At 05:14 into the footage i said "to be honest and totally upfront", however before I could finish Lisa COWEY talked over me at 05:16 into the footage stating she (J) would not be working there, and she would have anything to do with it. I went onto explain we had had this before when it was Lux Bar, and someone came along. At this point Lisa COWEY stated she could get something put on the license to say J wouldn't be working there.

11. Paragraph 18 Lisa COWEY makes reference to being intimidated that she was being recorded and wasn't informed of this beforehand. The reasons why the conversation was being recorded was explained to her and I find it concerning that if she is intimidated by 2 police officers recording a conversation which is normal practice how she is going to deal with the challenges of running a late-night venue, especially one with long and extensive history of violence.

12. At 05:48 into the footage I asked about which SIA door firm she would be using and she stated she had approached Safe Night Security there was no mention of any other door firm which she makes reference to paragraph 18.

13. At 06:46 into the footage I stated we were concerned around how she was going to uphold the licensing objectives as I was aware J still had the lease following her post on social media. Lisa COWEY confirmed that the lease would be direct from the owners of the building direct to her. The copy of the lease received as part of the bundle is not from the owners of the building D and G as stated by Lisa COWEY but a sub lease from P S who is the one of the same people who previously sub let the building when it first became Bar 1. I will exhibit this lease as CD/3.

14. At 07:46 Lisa COWEY states that she did have a feeling that we would be concerned around J being there. We then asked if she was buying the business from her, and she state she wasn't which is referenced in Paragraph 15 of Lisa COWEY statement.

15. Also in paragraph 18 of the statement Lisa COWEY has stated I kept talking about underage drinkers and incidents, neither of which she thought was correct. Evidence has previously been provided to the sub licensing committee and the court during the appeal hearing which proved that underage people on numerous occasions were in the bar. Footage was shown of an underage person on the evening of 27th December 2023 when the stabbing at the venue occurred. Lisa COWEY has stated that she was managing the bar area at Bar 1 during the timescales when incidents were taking place and underage people were in the bar and it is very concerning that she still thinks the evidence provided to a committee and then a court isn't correct.

16. Paragraph 19 states that I told her that she couldn't agree a condition so that J and A were nothing to do with the business as a result of Human rights. What was actually said was that I would have to check with the local authority as I wasn't sure if this could be done, and someone could be excluded from the premises this is captured at 11:54 into the footage

17. Paragraph 23 refers to makes reference to the DJ and that somebody has posted on Facebook that they will be DJing at Bar 1 is really jumping the gun. The post as served with my original objection was from R A who is the husband of J A the uncle of Lisa COWEY's children.

18. Paragraph 24 she states "We are also not sure what the premises will be called but we are not tied to the name Bar 1". Throughout the application process there has been posts on social media on Bar 1's page around

the new management also who is we ? From the application and the meeting, it has been made clear that the only person involved is Lisa COWEY

18. At 12:18 into the footage PC Robertson explains in detail to Lisa COWEY how testing the NTE is in Consett and how it isn't an easy place to have a bar. PC Robertson explains how violent it is and the risk of crime and disorder. This was generalised to Consett not to Bar 1, he speaks for several minutes around the NTE and is captured from 12:18 - 16:57 into footage.

19. At 17:00 into the footage I asked Lisa COWEY is she had any questions of us and the lease was discussed again and it was confirmed that it would be the landlords to her, she stated she hadn't sorted a DJ and at this point I expressed the polices concerns around the venue following what had happened in the past.

Signature: C Dickenson

Signature witnessed by:

