

Witness Statement



Witness Statement

Statement of witness (Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.1(1); Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)

Statement made by:

Name:

Chris Ward

Age (if over 18 enter 'over 18'):

Over 18

Occupation of witness:

South Ribble Licensing Manager

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 in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the **03** of **Jan** 20 **24**

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Statement

I am Chris Ward, I am currently employed as the Manager of Licensing for South Ribble Borough Council.

I have the responsibility for overseeing the administration and enforcement functions of the Licensing Service.

Part of those responsibilities include keeping compliance within licenced trades, with a proactive visual level of enforcement within South Ribble, Protecting the general public and raising the standards of the licensing trade.

On the morning of 9th May 2023, Myself and Licensing officer - Febuary Loughlin conducted a number of routine of inspections of various premises within South Ribble.

Mainly looking at premises selling alcohol and checking for compliance with their licence conditions, in particular with regards to age related products.

We attended Best One Convenience Store, Poplar Avenue, Bamber Bridge at around 11:25 AM.

We entered the store and approached a male behind the counter, we waited for him to finished serving his customer who were already in the store and introduced ourselves and presented our Identification as authorised officers of the licensing authority.

Signature of person making the statement:

Signature witnessed by:

There seemed to be no other member of staff present at the time.

Whilst waiting for the male to finish serving the customers, I took the chance to have a quick look around the store, but I couldn't see another member of staff anywhere.

The Male behind the counter looked Asian, around late 30s to 40 years of age, tall, slim with short dark hair, he was operating the till system, to which he seemed to hold the required knowledge to operate whilst serving a customer.

I asked the male if he was on duty in the shop to which he said "yes".

I then asked for his name, the male's English was very poor, he didn't understand the question correctly.

Eventually I managed to take his name down as [REDACTED], although I wasn't 100% sure if this was the correct spelling, he gave me his date of birth of 31/08/1973 but this was also a struggle with the language barrier.

February then asked, "have you got any refusal logs for underage sales?"

To which he replied "no"

February asked if he has been given any training?

To which he replied "no"

He was then asked by February if he had any Identification.

We were presented with a residency permit, I asked "is this your ID", we were advised yes it was, and February asked to take a photo of the ID.

The name of the residency permit was [REDACTED]


The residency Permit stated, "restricted work".

[REDACTED] told us that it was his first day at the store, but he had been working for the Boss's brother in Liverpool before.

I asked what time he had started working, he replied "10am".

He was keen to advise that he only does shifts of 2 hours and only works 10am till 12pm, working only 20 hours per week.

Signature of person making the statement



Signature witnessed by



At 11:50 [REDACTED] attended the shop after receiving a call from [REDACTED] I had dealt with him at the premises on other visits, in particular a visit with the Immigration service in March 2023, where the premises was found to have an illegal worker.

Vijai provided some of the records we had requested, he was also very keen to advise that his colleague only works 20 hours per week and only works 2 hours per day. Almost seemed rehearsed and was said the same way as [REDACTED] had previously.

Following this. On 19th May 2023, I sent an email referral, through to a contact at the immigration service - [REDACTED] who was the officer in charge from the joint visit in March 2023.


I provided a copy of the Residency Permit provided to myself and February by [REDACTED] I stated that the ID was provided by a member of staff on duty at the premises.


I attach to this statement,

- Exhibit CW1 – Notebook notes taken by Chris Ward on 09/05/2023.
- Exhibit CW2 – Email referral sent to Immigration [REDACTED]

STATEMENT OF TRUTH

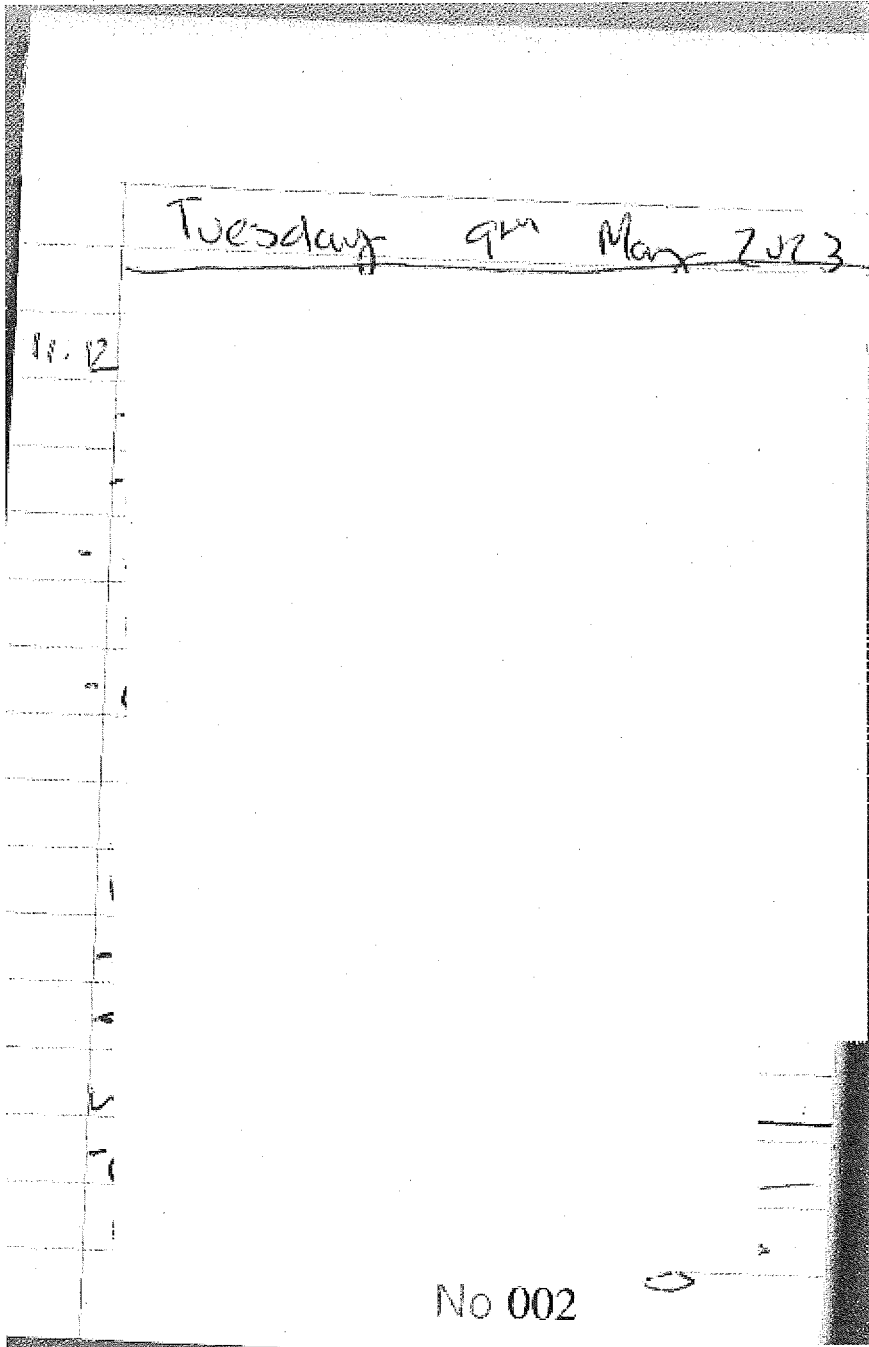
I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.

Signature of person making the statement


Signature witnessed by


CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION – NOT TO BE DISCLOSED

Home Address:	
Tel. No:	01772 625330
E-mail Address:	christopher.ward@southribble.gov.uk
Male	Date and place of birth: Restricted
Non-Availability:	
N/A	
Does the person making this statement have any special needs if required to attend court and give evidence?	
N	
Does the person making this statement need additional support as a vulnerable or intimidated witness?	
N.	
Statement taken by: Self	
Place statement taken at: South Ribble Borough Council	



11:25 ~~11:25~~ BEST one

Poplar Avenue, Dumber
bridge -

Staff member on duty



Working here from Tuesday
first day working here

Asked by Feb Loughlin
licensing officer - "do you
have the refusal loss for
under use sales?" -

yes - NO -

eb - Do you have any training
S- , do did you get trained?

staff - NO

No 003

ID taken for members
of staff - Restructured work
on permit. - Photo taken
During 10-12 Shift
20 hours per week.
Works in WOPD also
for Boss - broker

11:30 MR [REDACTED] attended shop

- Refusal logs provided -
 - Refusal logs last entered
28-1-2023. Photo taken
 - Due Diligence has provided
 - No Staff Training records.
- Explained to Mr Vijai

Refusal records need
Completing now since Jan 23

No 004

Christopher Ward

From: Christopher Ward
Sent: 19 May 2023 15:42
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Immigration Visit 11/03/2023

Hi [REDACTED] hope your well,

I'm about to serve the paper work for the review of the licence at

Best One
Poplar Ave
Bamber Bridge

Are you happy to put a short statement together to with a supporting representation for the review ? and help needed let me know.

We have completed a number of visits since our initial visit in March.

The following ID was provided for a member of staff at the premises last week, he was quick to advise he only works 2 hours per day and 20 hours per week (doesn't add up) his other English was extremely poor, are you able to check him please?

