

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

Crime No.

URN

Statement of Spencer HUNT

Age if under 18 O/18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Police Constable

This statement (consisting of 2 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: **Spencer HUNT** (witness) 

Date **13/03/24**

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

I am Police Constable 4743 Spencer HUNT of the West Midlands Police. I am currently an officer on the Organised Crime and Gang Team.

I have been an officer on the Organised Crime and Gang Team for the last 8 years. Although for the majority of my career I have worked in the areas of Birmingham that are populated by the main Birmingham based gangs such as the Burger Bar Gang and Johnson Crew Gang which has given me a good knowledge base in this field.

The role of the Organised Crime and gang Team is to conduct work focused on Gangs and Organised Crime Groups based in Birmingham. This will include the managing and monitoring of individuals who are linked to the Gangs/Organised Crime Groups. The work will also include enforcement action of all types and obtaining gang injunctions. We work closely with officers from the National Probation Service and Youth Offending Teams to manage those released from prison who are on licence. We also work with other partner agencies as well as mentoring services. We engage directly with those we manage, their families, their associates and the wider community. As well as this we have an overview of police intelligence relating to this form of criminality. Consequently, our role gives us a unique perspective on Gang activity and Organised Crime Groups within the Birmingham area and gives us an understanding of these gangs and groups beyond those we directly manage.

On the 11th March 2024 I was contacted by PS LYNN who is a Licencing Supervisor for West Midlands Police.

PS LYNN was requesting a statement from an officer from the Organised Crime and Gang Team regarding activity at Elite Cocktail Bar, 81 Steward Street, Ladywood, B18 7AF which is known to attract gang members.

Signature 

Signature witnessed by .....

03/2016

Crime No.

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Statement of Spencer HUNT

On the 23rd February 2024 information was received that a disorder had occurred at the location during which weapons were produced. Enquires revealed that some sort of disorder had occurred inside the venue but weapons could not be seen on the CCTV and no persons have come forward and reported and injuries as a result of the disorder.

Im aware that on the night of the disorder there were a number of very well known elevated gang members who all have access to firearms.

The bar has always been heavily used by gang members from the centrally based gangs such as Burger Bar, AR, and Ladywood Gangs amongst others. Clearly with the attraction of Gang members this brings the inherent risk of trouble between gang members. Gang members are well known to carry weapons due to the risk of confrontation with rival members.

The venue is recently under new management and has clearly starting hosting events which will attract gang members. A common term for the events is 'Round Robins' . The events are held at music venues such as Elite and involves a large group of persons who take it in turn leading the event and they will make profit from said event. Again the events attract a large percentage of Gang members in a concentrated area.

Elite Cocktail Bar has formally been known as the Cross Keys pub / banqueting suite and it is situated in the middle of an industrial area between Ladywood and Winson Green just off Spring Hill. The bonus to the location is that there is no residential building close to it and the surrounding businesses tent to close in the evening leaving the only open venue being the Bar and therefor resulting in the only risk of police being call regarding issues down to customers using said venue.

As a result over the years there has been a number of incidents including the death of an individual who was involved in a disorder and fatally stabbed. The perpetrator was charged with murder but found guilty of manslaughter at court.

During my time on the Organised Crime and Gang Team I have reviewed the information that we receive and can recall that there has been a number of Gang related issues involving violence.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

03/2016