

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 Iftexhar AHMED

Age if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Neighbourhood policing manager

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: I.AHMED (witness)

 inv 2352 Date 26/02/19
Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am a neighbourhood policing manager responsible for Perry Barr constituency which covers, Handsworth, Birchfield, Lozells, Oscott, Handsworth wood and Perry Barr wards. Handsworth ward which covers Soho road is by far my busiest area and outside Broad street is the second highest crime and anti social behaviour hot spot for Birmingham West neighbourhood policing unit.

I have been in post nearly twelve months and when I arrived I was getting daily complaints from residents, shop keepers, local businesses's and the business improvement district of anti social behaviour associated with street drinkers, aggressive begging, street prostitution during the day and violence including robbery.

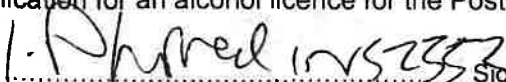
During my patrols along the Soho road I would see examples of the above issues on a daily basis. This was compounded by stakeholders who reported the same during public meetings. I felt it was a position which could no longer continue as it was impacting on total recorded crime crime and trust and confidence in policing.

My immediate plan was to nominate two police officers and three Police community support officers to change their shifts and and work the core business hours to ensure a consistency of approach and some real ownership of the issues. During the last three months of 2018 we saw a dramatic improvement in the street scene and we issued 25 signposting letters to divert away homeless beggars. Ten community protection notices were issued to tackle the persistant beggars. One criminal behaviour order was applied for one of our aggressive beggars. Ten public space protection notices were issued for street drinkers of alcohol and alchcohol was confiscated on a daily basis. The majority of issues occurred along the middle section of Soho road from Thornhill road junction to Booth lane junction.

Street drinking and prostitution continues to be a problem on most days and if we don't put officers in the key locations then these issues will quickly return.

In regards an application for an alcohol licence for the Post Office on Soho road I as the neighbourhood

Signature

 inv 2352

Signature witnessed by

03/2016

OFFICIAL – (when complete)

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MG11

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policing manager would object to this as I would attribute the majority of my issues to alcohol related offending and having alcohol available at a Post office where benefits are claimed is likely to increase the temptation to spend monies on alcohol which will exacerbate the situation.

An overview of my crime in the last twelve months as 26/2/18 -26/2/19 Grand total of offences Handsworth ward and 272 & Soho ward 266 Totalling 539 offences across both wards. I would therefore object to this application for an alcohol licence being granted.

I. Ahmed

Signature

Signature witnessed by

03/2016

OFFICIAL – (when complete)