

RESTRICTED (when complete)**CLEVELAND POLICE****WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, s9 MC Act 1980, ss5A(3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r70)

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Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**Age if under 18 **Over 18** (If over 18 insert "Over 18") Occupation **POLICE CONSTABLE**

This statement (consisting of **7** 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 anything in it, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature _____

Date: **19/01/2022**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am Pc 1845 Jason Arbuckle of Cleveland Police; I am currently attached to the Force Licensing unit and work at Middlesbrough Police station.

I am making this statement with regards to an application for a premises licence to be granted under the licensing act 2003. The proposed premise is 85 Borough Road, Middlesbrough, TS13AA, with the applicant requesting the sale of alcohol from 07 00hrs until 22 00hrs, seven days a week.

Cleveland Police are making this statement, as they have a number of concerns surrounding this application.

Within the operating schedule, which has been submitted by the applicant, a number of steps have been detailed to address the four licensing objectives, a proof of age scheme and CCTV, to name two but there is very little detail around these proposals; they are quite vague and not enforceable. The applicant also stated that "further conditions as ordered by the council" would be

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added. I would expect a much more detailed and comprehensive operating schedule for an application of this nature in a challenging area.

On Tuesday the 7th of December 2021, a meeting was held at Middlesbrough Police station, present at the meeting was Cleveland Police, an Officer from Middlesbrough council's Public health/Trading standards department and the applicant himself. During the meeting, which was to discuss the application, it became apparent that the applicant who did demonstrate a willingness to work with responsible authorities, wasn't fully aware of the licensing objectives and wasn't fully aware of the cumulative impact policy in place, other than the legal requirements, the applicant wasn't offering anything different. I would expect an applicant to have an in depth knowledge of an area they propose to site a licensed premise in.

As stated, this proposed premise is going to be situated at 85 Borough Road, Middlesbrough and is situated in the ward area known as Central. Borough Road which has a mixture of commercial and residential premises on it, is one of the main arterial routes in and out of Middlesbrough town centre.

Middlesbrough currently has two cumulative impact policies in place, one of which directly relates to off licence premises and covers the Middlesbrough ward areas of Central, Newport, Park, Longlands and Beechwood and North Ormesby. This proposed premise sits in the ward area of Central and is surrounded by the other ward areas listed.

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Middlesbrough Council's current licensing policy states that a cumulative impact policy in relation to off licence premises should be applied to the ward area's of Central, Newport, Park, Longlands and Beechwood and North Ormesby, as the evidence shows that there is a relationship between the density of off licence premises, crime and disorder, anti social behaviour and alcohol attributable hospital admissions and that these ward area's have the highest levels of crime and anti social behaviour, the highest number of alcohol attributable hospital admissions and the highest number of off licence premises.

It is also worthy of note to state that according to the 2015 Index of multiple deprivation, out of 7,219 wards, Central was the 40th most deprived ward in the country and after slight improvement in subsequent years saw its position change to the 75th most deprived ward according to the Index of multiple deprivation 2019. There are numerous domains of deprivation which combine to create the Index of multiple deprivation, Income, Employment, Education, Health, Living Environment, Barriers to housing and services and Crime. The Index of multiple deprivation was created on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and local government.

As evidenced by the need for a Cumulative impact policy, Central ward is a ward area that already suffers from high levels of crime and disorder and anti social behaviour.

Analysis has been conducted on Cleveland Police's computer systems with regards to all reports of crime and all reports of alcohol related crime within the Central ward area and all reports of crime

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and all reports of alcohol related crime that has occurred within a 500 metre radius of the proposed premise, the following results were obtained

Central – All Crime

Years	Month	Central ward	Crime within 500m radius
2020	Nov	196	114
	Dec	194	144
2021	Jan	168	102
	Feb	171	107
	Mar	215	127
	Apr	197	143
	May	211	218
	Jun	243	192
	Jul	295	221
	Aug	293	297
	Sep	283	246
	Oct	279	275
	Nov	229	201

Central – all alcohol related crime

Years	Month	Central ward	Crime within 500m radius
2020	Nov	19	6
	Dec	24	8
2021	Jan	16	4
	Feb	20	8
	Mar	20	7
	Apr	26	17
	May	46	26
	Jun	38	23
	Jul	57	34
	Aug	85	42
	Sep	75	54
	Oct	97	51
	Nov	76	44

The figures above clearly show that the area does have issues with crime. I would also like to state that in my opinion the figures showing the number of alcohol related crimes within the area should be higher. One of the main reasons they are not is that when members of the public are contacting the Police to report a crime, they are not necessarily informing us that alcohol has played a part in the crime, as such, the crime isn't recorded as being alcohol related. As can be seen, a high percentage of all the crime has occurred within 500 metres of the proposed premise.

As can be seen from the figures below, the Central ward area and it's residents, also suffer from high levels of anti social behaviour and alcohol related anti social behaviour within the Ward area and within 500 metres of the proposed premise. As with the figures for alcohol related crime, a

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true reflection of the numbers of alcohol related anti social behaviour incidents isn't shown due to under reporting, as previously stated, when members of the public are contacting the Police to report a crime or an incident, they don't necessarily inform the call taker that alcohol has played a part in the incident or crime, this could be for numerous reasons, including the fact that they might not know that alcohol has been a factor.

Central – All ASB

Years	Month	Central ward	ASB within 500m radius
2020	Nov	835	76
	Dec	591	61
2021	Jan	578	46
	Feb	518	37
	Mar	713	50
	Apr	655	54
	May	603	75
	Jun	689	80
	Jul	622	75
	Aug	664	84
	Sep	682	67
	Oct	664	94
	Nov	511	80

Central – all alcohol related ASB

Years	Month	Central ward	Within 500m radius
2020	Nov	24	4
	Dec	21	3
2021	Jan	22	2
	Feb	17	3
	Mar	34	2
	Apr	56	12
	May	49	12
	Jun	78	15
	Jul	81	25
	Aug	67	18
	Sep	68	18
	Oct	41	14
	Nov	49	21

Analysis has also been conducted with regards to all violent crime and all alcohol related violent crime within the Ward area of Central and within 500 metres of the proposed premise, the following results were obtained. Again, these figures clearly show the issues of crime and disorder in the area.

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Years	Month	Central ward	Crime within 500m radius
2020	Nov	110	36
	Dec	137	56
2021	Jan	88	32
	Feb	113	39
	Mar	132	46
	Apr	156	66
	May	168	81
	Jun	185	89
	Jul	221	96
	Aug	261	138
	Sep	227	110
	Oct	238	127
	Nov	186	90

Central – All Alcohol related Violent Crime

Years	Month	Central ward	Crime within 500m radius
2020	Nov	11	2
	Dec	13	5
2021	Jan	7	0
	Feb	12	3
	Mar	12	4
	Apr	17	14
	May	35	20
	Jun	19	11
	Jul	35	23
	Aug	51	25
	Sep	43	33
	Oct	60	34
	Nov	56	33

All of the above figures clearly show that the area this premises will be situated in already suffers from high levels of crime and anti social behaviour and levels of alcohol related crime and anti social behaviour. As such, allowing another premise to sell alcohol in this area, which will make alcohol more readily available to persons who are already vulnerable and suffering from alcohol dependency and for those who are regularly consuming alcohol at home, is concerning and in my opinion will undermine the licensing objectives.

Throughout the Covid 19 pandemic there have been a number of restrictions placed on licensed premises, more so for those offering on sales. Due to these restrictions there has been an increase in alcohol consumption within the home. The pandemic has created a huge amount of fear, not only around the impact from suffering with the Coronavirus and the loss of loved ones but also the social impacts surrounding job security, finances, disruption to health and clinical services, frontline services, working from home and home schooling, poor mental health, the list goes on, this has all led to an increase in people consuming more alcohol at home.

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As a serving Police Officer with over 20 years experience, the fact that members of the public are consuming more alcohol at home and on the street concerns me greatly. Consumption of alcohol in on licensed premise is often well controlled due to the premise being able to monitor the amount of alcohol customers consume and the behaviour's displayed by those consuming it. Quite often there are other measures adopted to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives which include the use of registered door staff who monitor and control potential conflict and protect those that may come into harm's way. This becomes more difficult when alcohol is being consumed in domestic and outdoor settings. In my experience, the more alcohol consumed, the greater the risk that violence will occur. The impact is much greater when violence occurs in the home, as it not only impacts on the individuals involved but it impacts on others that they live with including children. The relationship between alcohol and violence is complex and consuming alcohol does not inevitably lead to violent behaviour, and most episodes of drunkenness pass without any violence, however, by lowering inhibitions and impairing judgement, alcohol can increase both aggression and the willingness to take risks and in my experience drunkenness can and very frequently does trigger violent behaviour.

As an experienced Police Officer, I've spent many years working the streets in Hull and then Middlesbrough as a Uniformed Officer. During my career, I have attended and dealt with countless domestic incidents/crime, based purely on my experience, I would estimate that at least 90% of all domestic incidents are alcohol related and as we all know, alcohol is a major contributing factor in a high proportion of violent crime, not just domestic incidents. Alcohol and the availability of it also fuels other categories of crime, such as public order, public nuisance, anti social behaviour, theft and criminal damage, the list goes on. The potential risks involved in selling alcohol are enormous.

As this is only an application at this moment in time, the effects this licensed premise could have on the community cannot be truly measured, however, Cleveland Police firmly believe that another premise selling alcohol in this area will not aid the promotion of the licensing objectives but will likely

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undermine them and will only exacerbate the alcohol related issues already suffered in Middlesbrough and the local area and will add extra pressure and burden on the Emergency and support services.

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