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Witness Statement

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, Sect 9; Magistrates' Court Act 1980, ss.5A (3) (a) and 5B; M.C. Rules, 1981, r.70)

Statement of: Michael Kill

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Chief Executive Officer for Night-time Industries Association & Chair of UK Door Security Association

This statement consisting of: **4** 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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

1. My name is Michael Kill, and I am the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Night Time Industries Association and Chair of UK Door Security Association.
2. I have several decades of experience working within independent, corporate, and public sector environments at executive level. I specialise in Marketing, Operations, Licensing, Logistics and System Implementation. I have been involved within many high-level initiatives both within local and national government, alongside key stakeholders. Many of my roles within this industry have involved the facilitation of best practise for independent and multi-site operators of venues, bars and pubs, with more recent experiences working very closely with festivals and live venues in shaping operational efficiencies and best practices on a regional level in conjunction with the Police and Local Authorities.
3. I was asked to do this statement by Duncan Craig, the licence holder's barrister, given my experience in working in the night-time economy and with the security industry.
4. As a nation COVID-19 had a lasting impact on us all, and an especially negative economic effect within the night-time economy. With nightclubs, bars and restaurants having to close or be severely restricted for around sixteen months it led to many businesses never opening again.
5. Once the Covid related restrictions in association with licensed premises were lifted last July, I noticed many changes. The most immediate and obvious was the reduction in available door security operatives. This revealed itself across the industry, but was especially apparent in the night-time economy. Many people

within the door security industry had found alternative employment, most notably within the delivery sector of the economy and many of the large numbers Eastern Europeans who had worked in the sector returned home when the pandemic struck and never returned. Getting door staff around this time was hugely challenging and getting quality door staff even more so.

6. The other thing I noticed following those restrictions being lifted was the behaviour of those attendings licensed premises was discernibly more difficult to manage for several months, especially among young people, many of whom were as young as sixteen when the pandemic first struck in the United Kingdom and who had been confined to their homes during what must have been an especially challenging time for people of that age. These were young people who were unable to consume alcohol when covid first struck, who came of age during the pandemic, which meant their social skills within social environments were not nearly as well developed as they otherwise would have been. This was something I noticed and was widely commented upon to me across the country following those restrictions being lifted.
7. During COVID-19 and national restrictions placed on society, knife crime was still prevalent which brings a broader societal question. This is important to note as Cleveland has one of the highest crime rates within England and Wales with the level of knife crime within Cleveland at a particular high. I exhibit associated statistics at MK1.
8. Evidence suggests that within cities across England and Wales, the prevalence of knife crime within licensed premises is still infrequent compared to external areas, particularly due to measures taken by operators, including searching policies on entry (physical/wand), CCTV, and licensed security presence for example. The majority of recorded knife crimes in England and Wales are through robberies or assaults not in connection with licensed premises. I exhibit some further statistics at MK2 to support this.
9. Statistics show that 21% of those with knife-related convictions were under 18. Nationally 20% of people committing knife crime are under 18. I exhibit supporting evidence at MK3. I know from my discussions with The Empire that it has taken positive steps to reduce the exposure to the associated risk by the mitigations they have put in place. I believe these steps are sufficient and proportionate and do not require the use of a knife arch, which I am of the opinion would be disproportionate and costly, as well as potentially being counter-productive.
10. Good standard licensed premises operators such as Empire and others across the country, where there is deemed a risk, will search patrons on entry by consent. This

is usually done with the use of hand-held metal detector wands to search patrons, following a physical search. This is the preferred method across the industry due to the versatility and reliability of the equipment and the ability to swap detectors in and out when at fault or with a low battery. Knife arches which fail, leave the premises exposed if this is the single method of searching who will then be required to revert to standard search practice.

11. Security Industry Authority (SIA) Licensed operatives carry out the searching of patrons at The Empire. They are trained to carry out body searches on individuals and receive onsite training to use the hand-held metal detectors to search on entry, breaking the body down to core areas and systematically evaluating areas of potential concealment.
12. The purpose of the search prior to admission is to stop weapons and drugs from entering the premises. Placing a knife arch at the entrance to a venue, where a multitude of items may generate a false negative response. i.e. pricing, belt buckle, keys, which would in environments such as border or airport control lead to a physical search and hand-held wand search, which would generate a considerable lag in admission time and duplicate process. In my experience the refined search method of a physical search and wand is more effective as a staple method of searching at the point of admission in the nightclub environment.
13. As anyone will know, knife arches are deployed at airports, being routinely used as the first phase of the security search process, with activations being referred for a refined physical search and hand-held metal detector wand search which is deemed a 'refined search'. For various operational reasons I do not believe that method of search is appropriate or even effective at a licensed premises. With airport security using a physical search and hand-held metal detector wand search as their step up from activation of an arch, it is my view that the standard practice of a physical search and wand search as the first stage, or primary security steps at a premises such as The Empire, is more effective, and a sufficient deterrent against weapons and drugs being brought into the premises.
14. It is important to consider the local area and the effect a knife arch would have. Patrons entering the building would be subject to extended wait times and queues if subject to a process of entering through a knife arch, and then to be searched both physically and by a wand. Queuing outside a premise with an extended waiting time due to process would see the potential for more noise and public nuisance being generated from the queue, as well as the potential for anti-social behaviour if not managed appropriately. I believe all these factors need to be considered in the round.

15. Given the low number of knife crime offences within licensed premises, I believe a knife arch at this type of premises is disproportionate and unnecessary. Working with the premises on developing a training mechanism which would enhance search methods on entry, and working closely to evaluate and review the measures periodically with a multi-agency approach, is a proportionate and achievable pathway.
16. I have suggested that the security staff at the premises undertake some further, bespoke training from experienced operatives around searching patrons as they enter the premises and this recommendation has been accepted by the Empire.
17. I have been asked by the Empire to attend next week's hearing which I am happy to do in order that I can answer any questions that Members may have about the above.

The contents of this witness statement are true

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Michael Kill

Date 7th September 2022

Knife Crime in England and Wales

A4a: KNIFE OR SHARP INSTRUMENT OFFENCES RECORDED BY THE POLICE FOR SELECTED OFFENCES^{1,2,3}
year ending March, England and Wales

	2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		Change per 100,000, 2010/11 - 2020/21	
	Offences per 100,000 population		Offences per 100,000 population		Offences per 100,000 population ⁷		Actual change	% change
	Number		Number		Number			
Cleveland	601	106	708	125	692	122	+68	128.2%
Durham	196	31	165	26	138	22	-4	-15.7%
Northumbria	942	64	794	55	857	59	+31	111.6%
North East	1,739	65	1,667	63	1,687	63	+30	92.7%
Cheshire	374	35	401	38	265	25	-1	-3.9%
Cumbria	162	32	203	41	186	37	+12	45.3%
Greater Manchester ⁴	3,169	112	3,192	113	3,027	107	+30	40.0%
Lancashire	1,151	76	1,137	76	1,020	68	+21	46.6%
Merseyside	1,399	98	1,424	100	1,228	86	+42	95.7%
<i>North West, including GMP</i>	<i>6,255</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>6,353</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>5,726</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>+25</i>	<i>47.9%</i>
North West, Less GMP	3,086	68	3,165	71	2,699	60	+21	55.5%
Humberside	897	96	873	94	714	77	+22	39.4%
North Yorkshire	300	36	331	40	343	41	+19	81.7%
South Yorkshire	1,754	124	1,619	115	1,319	94	+30	47.6%
West Yorkshire	2,807	120	2,529	109	2,200	94	+31	48.8%
Yorkshire and the Humber	5,758	105	5,352	98	4,576	83	+27	48.8%
Derbyshire	653	62	854	81	728	69	+34	95.6%
Leicestershire	942	86	853	78	797	72	+30	71.6%
Lincolnshire	328	43	424	56	371	49	+19	62.8%
Northamptonshire	602	80	717	96	724	96	+43	81.8%
Nottinghamshire	1,016	88	891	77	755	65	+7	12.4%
East Midlands	3,541	73	3,739	78	3,375	70	+26	58.8%
Staffordshire	673	59	598	53	599	53	+19	57.8%
Warwickshire	272	47	347	61	280	48	+18	60.5%
West Mercia	534	41	733	57	629	49	+14	39.6%
West Midlands	4,951	169	5,020	172	4,562	156	-4	-2.3%
West Midlands Region	6,430	108	6,698	114	6,070	102	+7	7.4%
Bedfordshire	590	87	648	97	584	87	+22	34.5%
Cambridgeshire	470	55	711	83	681	80	+35	77.8%
Essex	750	41	1,121	61	1,536	83	+52	168.3%
Hertfordshire	550	46	732	62	614	52	+27	112.5%
Norfolk	396	44	444	49	432	48	+29	162.2%
Suffolk	348	46	323	43	308	40	+16	65.0%
East of England	3,104	50	3,979	64	4,155	67	+35	106.6%
City of London	60	-	31	-	19	-	-	-
Metropolitan Police	13,819	154	14,685	165	10,131	113	-39	-25.8%
London	13,879	155	14,716	165	10,150	113	-39	-25.8%
Hampshire	813	41	758	38	676	34	+10	43.1%
Kent	955	51	729	39	573	31	+11	54.1%
Surrey ⁵	464	39	454	38	501	42	+36	631.6%
Sussex	923	54	1,154	68	912	53	+33	159.0%
Thames Valley	1,503	62	1,589	66	1,408	58	+7	13.6%
South East	4,658	51	4,684	51	4,070	49	+22	79.8%
Avon and Somerset	1,227	71	1,330	78	1,154	67	+17	34.2%
Devon and Cornwall	662	37	776	44	685	39	+3	8.7%
Dorset	250	32	273	35	306	40	+16	70.4%
Gloucestershire	297	47	320	51	306	48	+17	53.7%
Wiltshire	286	40	288	40	289	40	+19	86.2%
South West	2,722	48	2,987	53	2,740	49	+13	36.6%
Dyfed-Powys	149	29	174	34	145	28	+13	81.8%
Gwent	141	24	220	37	237	40	+19	91.8%
North Wales	268	38	277	40	268	38	+18	87.0%
South Wales	679	51	806	61	811	61	+32	115.8%
WALES	1,237	39	1,477	47	1,461	61	+38	167.0%
British Transport Police	197	-	224	-	276	-	+53	23.8%
<i>ENGLAND AND WALES, including GMP⁶</i>	<i>49,520</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>51,876</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>44,286</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>+14</i>	<i>22.3%</i>
ENGLAND AND WALES, less GMP⁶	46,351	82	48,684	86	41,259	73	+12	19.8%

Notes:

(1) Other offences exist that are not shown in this table that may include the use of a knife or sharp instrument. (2) Data in the table include 20 forces (Avon and Somerset, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dyfed-Powys, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Merseyside, Metropolitan, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, South Wales, South Yorkshire, Sussex, West Midlands and West Yorkshire Police) who supplied data based on a new methodology (the National Data Quality Improvement Service) for identifying whether an offence included a knife or sharp instrument or not. These forces also supplied data on revised coverage and guidance for the collection. Previous data for these forces (excluding GMP) have been amended. Further forces will be moving to the new methodology in future releases. Further details can be found in a Methodological Report. (3) Forces who have made notable revisions to their data are: Avon and Somerset, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk - data for recent years are not comparable prior to the year ending March 2018; Northumbria and Surrey - data for recent years are not comparable prior to the year ending March 2017; Thames Valley - data for recent years are not comparable prior to the year ending March 2016; Sussex - data for recent years are not comparable prior to the year ending March 2015. (4) Greater Manchester police reviewed their recording of knife or sharp instrument offences in December 2017. This revealed that they were under-counting these offences. Following this review, there has been a sharp increase in the number of knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by GMP in January to December 2018 compared with previous quarters. Previous data have not been revised and the data are therefore not comparable. (5) Data from Surrey Police, unlike other police forces, include unbroken bottle and glass offences. As such, this data is not directly comparable to data for other forces; however, it is not thought that offences of this kind constitute a large enough number to impact on the national figure. (6) Includes British Transport Police. (7) Calculated using mid-2019 population estimates from ONS

Source: ONS, Crime in England and Wales Police Force Area data tables, Table P6, 22 July 2021

MKI

What's happening to knife crime?

This week's headlines have been dominated by discussion of knife crime. There's no single measure that can perfectly capture trends in knife crime, or violent crime more generally, but there are a lot of figures out there that can shed light. Unless otherwise stated, all data in this piece refers to England and Wales.

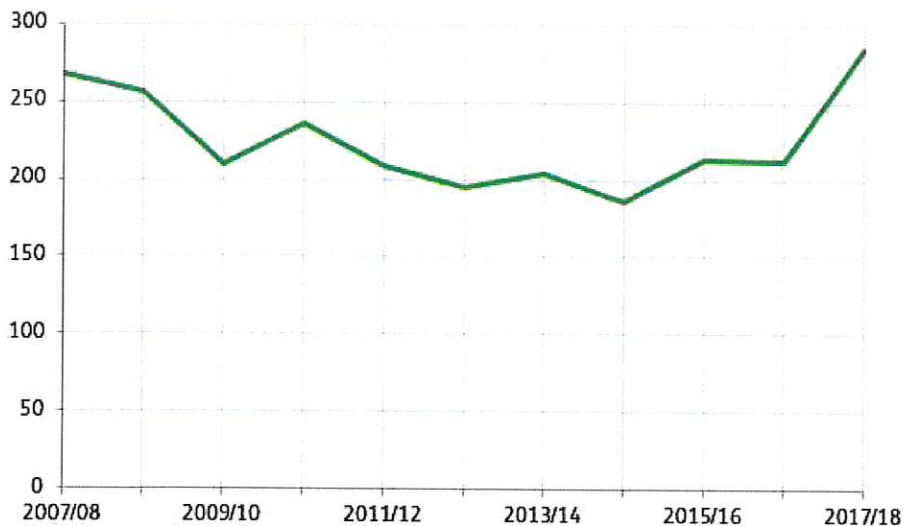
The evidence suggests knife crime has been rising in recent years

Knife crime in England and Wales is almost certainly rising at the moment, but limitations with the available data make it hard to draw specific conclusions. We don't know enough to say how quickly overall knife crime is rising or if it's currently worse than it's ever been.

The clearest picture we have is for knife-related homicides, which are at their highest level since recording began in 1946. 285 people were killed by knives and sharp instruments in 2017/18. The previous record high was 268 in 2007/08.

Knife-related homicides

Offences currently recorded as homicide in England and Wales, where method of killing was a knife or sharp instrument, by year



*Homicide includes murder, manslaughter and infanticide

Source: ONS, Appendix tables: homicide in England and Wales, year ending March 2018, table 4



The trend is less clear for overall knife crime.

MK 2

Police-recorded knife crime has been rising consistently since 2014, with about 40,000 incidents in the 12 months to September 2018. That will probably reflect some genuine increase, but there's a snag.

The trouble with the data—which comes from police records—is that the police have been improving how they record crime in recent years, so they might be noticing more knife crime than they used to. We also only have data back to 2011, so we can't get a good sense of longer historical trends.

Another source we can look at is hospital admissions for incidents related to sharp objects (this is for England only). These types of admissions have been rising and are at near-record levels (since records began in 1998), with around 5,000 cases in 2017.

The majority of recorded knife crimes in England and Wales are robberies and assaults

There were 18,000 assaults and 17,000 robberies involving a knife or sharp object in the year to September 2018, as well as 3,000 threats to kill.

Very few of the 40,000 or so police-recorded knife crimes involve murder. That said, knives are the most common method of homicide in England and Wales, accounting for 40% of cases in 2017/18. This level has remained fairly constant over the last ten years.

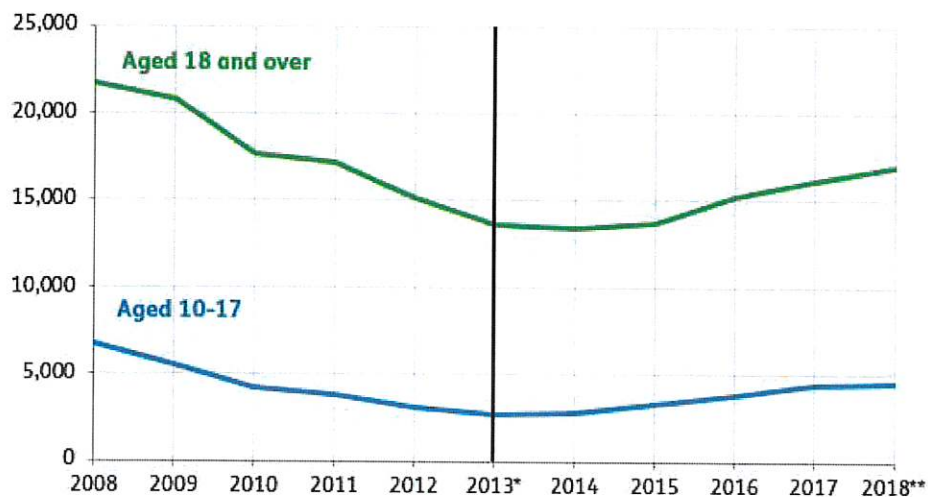
21% of those with knife-related convictions were under 18

Of those convicted or cautioned for offences involving knives and offensive weapons in England and Wales in the year to September 2018, an estimated 21% were aged 10 to 17. They make up 10% of the overall population in England and Wales aged 10 and over.

But bear in mind that this only covers cases where someone was caught and convicted.

Recorded knife offences by age

Knife and offensive weapon offences resulting in a conviction, by age group, England and Wales, for the year to September 2008-2018



*New type of offence included in data from December 2012

**Data for 2018 is an estimate

Source: Ministry of Justice, Knife and offensive weapon sentencing quarterly: July to September 2018, Table 2



AKK 3