

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 **4** 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: **03/01/2023**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

Cleveland Police have received an application made under the Licensing act 2003. The application which relates to an existing Licensed premise, namely Morrison's daily (Formerly Londis), which is situated at Unit C, Rede House, 66-77 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LY. Within the application, the applicant is requesting that the sale of alcohol be extended, so that alcohol can be sold between the hours of 08 00am and 00 00hrs, seven days, that's an extra 2 hours a day. The current License in force at the premise states that alcohol can only be sold between the hours of 08 00am and 22 00hrs, seven days a week. The applicant is also requesting the provision of late night refreshment between the hours of 23 00hrs and 00 00hrs seven days a week.

Cleveland Police make representations to this application for the following reasons,

The premise itself is situated in Central ward, a deprived area and is in close proximity to residential properties, which include student accommodation and several on licensed premises.

Middlesbrough is a town that is sadly well known for suffering high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour and the ward area of Central, where this premise is located, is no different. Research has been conducted on Cleveland Police computer systems and between the 1st of November 2021 and the 31st of October 2022, within 500 metres of this premise, there was 694 offences reported to Cleveland Police that were linked to alcohol. In the same time period and the same area, Cleveland Police received 167 reports of anti-social behaviour that were linked to alcohol.

It's worthy of note to state that up until 2022, this premise was situated in a Cumulative impact policy area for both on and off licenced premises. Cumulative impact policies are normally in force in areas where the evidence shows that there is a relationship between the density of licensed premises, crime and disorder, anti-social

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behaviour and alcohol related hospital admissions and the evidence shows that these areas have the highest levels of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and alcohol related hospital admissions. These Cumulative impact policies have since lapsed, however, Cleveland Police believe that the levels of crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and alcohol related hospital admissions are still high, if not higher. This is evidenced by the fact that Middlesbrough Council are taking steps to re-introduce the Cumulative impact policy.

Cleveland Police cannot attribute and directly link the previously mentioned reports to this premise, however, the figures clearly show and demonstrate that this area has serious issues involving alcohol. Some of the reports in this area are connected with the night time economy as there are a number of licensed premises within this area, several with late Licenses. Some of these reports occur long after this premises will be closed and occur in On Licensed premises, however there is still an additional risk posed by this premise and the fact that they wish to sell alcohol until 00 00hrs in this area, a risk that cannot be ignored.

Many late night revellers do not set foot into the town until late, choosing to stay at home drinking cheaper alcohol purchased from Off Licences. Given this stores proximity to the student accommodation there is a strong likelihood this will happen at the proposed premise given that students make up a large part of the customers of the very late night venues, Cleveland Police are concerned that the availability of alcohol until midnight at this premise will increase and exacerbate the issues already occurring in this area.

One of, if the not the biggest late night Licensed premise in Middlesbrough is about 100 metres away from this premise, this late night venue which has had more than its share of incidents recently is a very busy establishment and on most occasions when the venue is open, large groups of people can be seen gathering outside, they are either queuing to go inside, are outside having a cigarette and some people are just hanging about in the area. Cleveland Police are concerned that if this application is granted it will increase the availability of alcohol to persons who have already consumed alcohol and will increase incidents of violence and disorder at the premise, as we believe that some of these people will gravitate to the premise to purchase alcohol Cleveland Police also believe that by granting this application in this area, this premise will become a hot spot area for violence, disorder, begging and anti-social behaviour, not just because of the availability of alcohol but also because of the availability of late night refreshment, in my experience, incidents of violence and disorder often occur at late night refreshment venues that are in close proximity to on licensed premises because some of the patrons will have already consumed alcohol.

Over the past 12 months, Cleveland Police have received numerous pieces of information regarding underage persons frequenting Middlesbrough town centre in the hope of gaining entry to a licensed premise, many, if not all of these underage persons are usually in possession of fake ID to assist them. On the whole, the licensed premises do a reasonable job of keeping underage persons out of the late night venues and prevent them from purchasing alcohol, however, many do slip the net and gain access, one recent incident which occurred in an on

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licensed premise resulted in a male being stabbed, the three persons involved in perpetrating this incident were two 16 year old males and a 15 year old male.

It's not always the case but in the main, on licensed premises do a more effective job of preventing underage persons purchasing alcohol than off licensed premises, given the student population and the late night venues in close proximity to this premise, this area is attractive to underage persons who are intent in purchasing alcohol, either in an on licensed or from an off licensed premise. In my opinion, the hours between 22 00hrs and 00-00hrs are the optimum times for people attending Middlesbrough town centre to gain access to late night venues, which in turn attracts underage persons who are intent on consuming alcohol, generally the underage persons will pre load by purchasing alcohol in an off licence premise before they venture to the on licensed premises.

Given this premises location, I have no doubt that if this application is granted, this premise will become a haven for underage persons, amongst others, who are intent on purchasing alcohol, and this in turn will increase the incidents of alcohol related crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

Within the area of Middlesbrough, in conjunction with Middlesbrough Council, Cleveland Police operate Operation Stay safe, which is joint working between various agencies looking for vulnerable, underage persons in Middlesbrough to provide safety and support. Operation Stay safe quite often operates in Middlesbrough town centre, the very area this premise is situated in.

During the Covid 19 pandemic there were a number of restrictions placed on licensed premises, more so for those offering on sales. This has led to peoples drinking habits changing and an increase in alcohol consumption within the home, street drinking and people preloading with alcohol before they go out. The pandemic 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.

As a serving Police Officer with over 20 years' experience, the fact that members of the public are consuming more alcohol at home, outdoors and preloading concerns me greatly. Consumption of alcohol in on licensed Premises is often well controlled due to them 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 come into harm's way. This becomes more difficult when alcohol is being

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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 domestic surrounding, as it not only impacts on the individuals involved but it impacts on others they may live with including children. 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 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.

I would also like to add that in March of 2018, Cleveland Police received an application made under the Licensing Act 2003, this application was the initial application submitted for the premise to gain its first premises license, within that application, the applicant requested the sale of alcohol from 06 00hrs until 00 00hrs, seven days a week. Due to concerns about the alcohol related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area, representations were submitted by Cleveland Police. After a Licensing hearing, the committee granted the Premise license which allowed the premise the provision of the sale of alcohol from 08 00hrs until 22 00hrs, seven days a week.

In short, Cleveland Police firmly believe that if this application is granted, the issues already occurring in this area will be exacerbated and the amounts of incidents will increase.

J Arbuckle

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