

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 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: _____

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 Go Local Convenience Store, 136 Marton Road, Middlesbrough.

The application which has been submitted by the applicant’s agent, is seeking the provision of the sale/supply of alcohol between the hours of 07 00hrs and 23 00hrs, seven days a week.

Due to concerns with the application, a meeting was held at Middlesbrough Police station on Thursday the 25th of February 2021, involving the applicant, Lisa Enderwick, her partner/business partner Araf Ishaq and Mr Lester, a licensing consultant acting on behalf of the applicant, member’s of staff from Middlesbrough Council’s Public health and licensing team and I.

During the meeting, the applicant, (who is the proposed premise’s licence holder and designated premise’s supervisor) and her partner, did demonstrate a willingness to work with the responsible authority’s, however and by their own admission, the applicant and her partner have limited knowledge of the licensing act and have limited knowledge/experience of working in a licensed

Signature _____ Signature Witnessed by _____

RESTRICTED (when complete)**CLEVELAND POLICE**Page No **2**Continuation of Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**

premise.

Due to the lack of knowledge and experience of the licensing act, the applicant advised that a colleague from a nearby Go Local store that holds a Personal licence would be willing to act as a mentor offering advice and guidance when needed. It is of concern to Cleveland Police that owners of a licensed premises would be relying on a PLH/DPS of another licensed premises to support them.

A few days after Cleveland Police submitted representations to this application, the licensing Consultant acting on behalf of the applicant, contacted Middlesbrough Council seeking to remove Lisa Enderwick as the DPS and for her to be replaced with Mr Azeem Sarwar who was described as having in excess of 10 year's experience of running licensed premises. I suspect the reasons for doing so was because Lisa Enderwick had not yet completed a Personal Licence Holders course.

Since receiving the information, I have conducted some checks with the local authority and have been informed by Stockton Borough Council's Licensing team, that Mr Sarwar is currently the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premise Supervisor's of a premise in Thornaby. Whilst I fully accept that there is nothing in the Licensing Act that prevents a personal licence holder from being in day to day control of several licensed premises, it is concerning that this proposal has been made,

especially when knowing that the premises in question is situated in a CIP area where it is more imperative for the Designated Premises Supervisor to be in full control of the premises in order to monitor and deal with any situation that poses a threat to the licensing objectives being undermined.

The potential risks involved in selling alcohol are enormous, and as such, robust policies, procedures and measures with regards to dealing with underage sales, incidents of crime and

Signature _____ Signature Witnessed by _____

RESTRICTED (when complete)**CLEVELAND POLICE**Page No **3**Continuation of Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**

disorder and persons who have already consumed alcohol etc., need to be fully considered and implemented. I feel that this application undermines the licensing objectives.

Lisa Enderwick and her partner own and operate a printing business that has been in Middlesbrough for 20 years. They have advised that they are aware of the area and the issues faced by the local resident's however had limited knowledge of Middlesbrough's Cumulative Impact policy, as this had been brought to their attention by their licensing consultant, Mr Lester.

Middlesbrough has two cumulative impact policies, 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 will sit in the ward area of Central and is surrounded by the other ward areas listed.

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 was surprising to hear that the applicant and her partner had limited knowledge of the cumulative impact policy in place for Middlesbrough. The expectation is that prior to applying for a premises licence an applicant would carry out their own research to find out more about the area in which they were thinking of operating an alcohol premises and to have knowledge of Middlesbrough Council's Statement of Licensing policy which outlines the ward areas covered

Signature _____ Signature Witnessed by _____

RESTRICTED (when complete)**CLEVELAND POLICE**Page No **4**Continuation of Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**

within the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy. This would assist in providing help and support regarding the measures that can be taken to promote the licensing objectives.

Throughout the Covid 19 pandemic there has been a number of restrictions placed on licensed premises, more so for those offering on sales. This has led to 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.

As a serving Police Officer with over 20 years experience, the fact that members of the public are consuming more alcohol at home 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 consumed in domestic 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 they live with including children.

Middlesbrough is a town that is well known for suffering high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder, anti social behaviour and violence. Research has been conducted with regards to the 5 ward area's subject of the cumulative impact policy for off licensed premises. The table below is representative of the number of alcohol related domestic crime's/incidents and violence incidents that occurred between 1st of January 2020 until 7th of March 2021.

Signature _____ Signature Witnessed by _____

RESTRICTED (when complete)**CLEVELAND POLICE**Page No **5**Continuation of Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**

Ward area	No. of Alcohol related Domestic Crime	Alcohol related Domestic Incidents	Alcohol related violence against the person	Total Crimes/Incidents
Central	148	90	119	357
Newport	198	123	161	482
Park	73	55	57	185
Longlands & Beechwood	113	70	83	266
North Ormesby	79	43	59	181

Domestic abuse is often a hidden crime that is not always reported to the Police; therefore, data held by the Police only provides a partial picture of the actual level of domestic abuse experienced. Many cases will not enter the criminal justice process due to the under reporting to Police. As can clearly be seen, the figures for domestic incidents/crime in these 5 ward area's of Middlesbrough is already alarmingly high. More often than not, a major contributing factor in those domestic's is alcohol.

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 and criminal damage.

Research has been conducted on the immediate area this proposed premise will be situated in,

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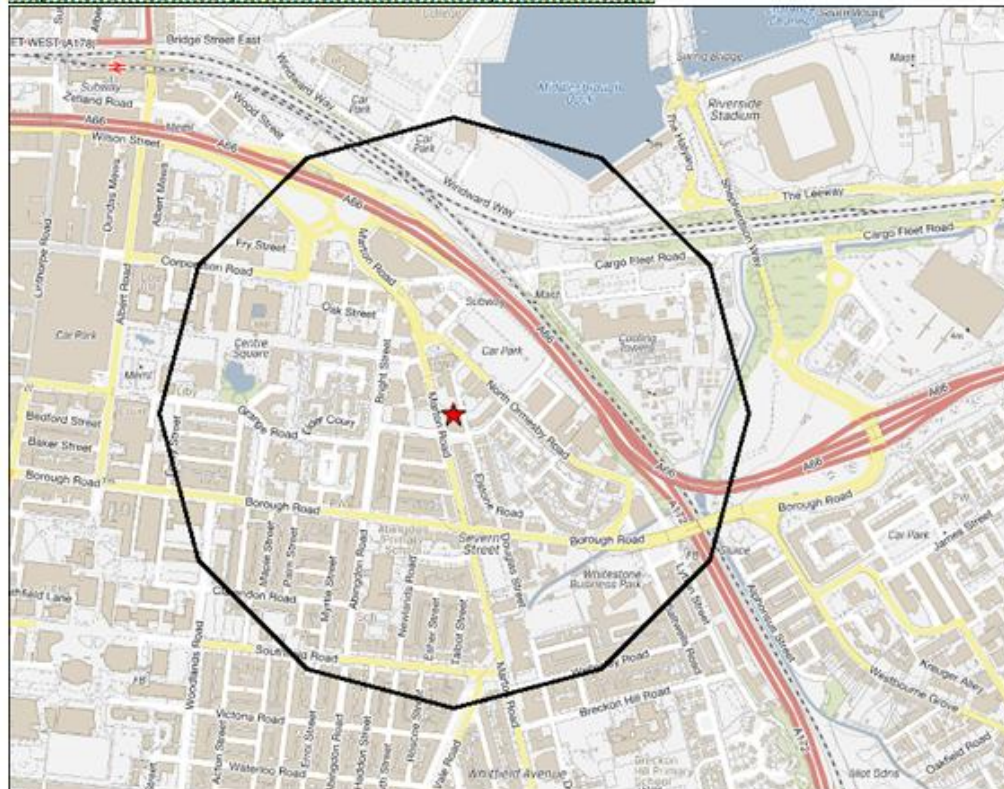
RESTRICTED (when complete)

CLEVELAND POLICE

Continuation of Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**

The map below illustrates the 500m radius that encompasses the 136 Marton Road and the surrounding area which analysis will focus upon.

Map 1: 500m Boundary around 136 Marton Road, Middlesbrough.



Within the 500m radius from the proposed premise, research was conducted with regards to all alcohol related offences since the 1st of January 2019 until the 19th of February 2021 with the following results:

Offence Type	2019	220	Total
Violence Against The Person	78	54	132
Criminal Damage	7	13	20
Theft and Handling Stolen Goods	11	8	19
Drug Offences	4	5	9
Robbery	7	0	7
Sexual Offences	3	3	6
Other Offences	2	1	3
Burglary	1	2	3
Total	113	86	199

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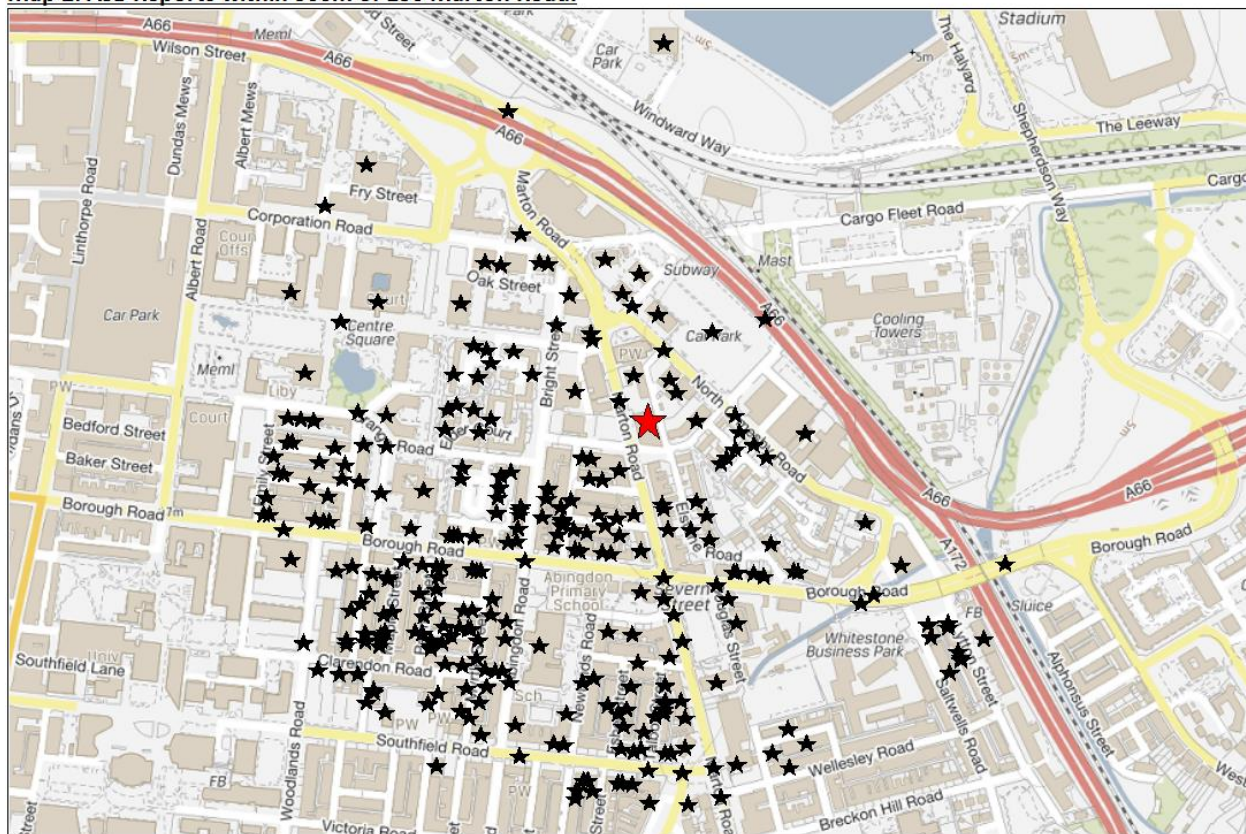
RESTRICTED (when complete)

CLEVELAND POLICE

Continuation of Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**

ASB Type	No.
Anti-Social behaviour - Nuisance	609
Anti-Social Behaviour Personal	134
Anti-Social Behaviour - Environmental	33
Total	776

Map 2: ASB Reports within 500m of 136 Marton Road.



The above map is a representation of ASB that has occurred within a 500m radius of the proposed premise since Jan 2020, a total of 330 incidents.

The figures clearly show that the area that these premises are situated in already suffers from high 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 vulnerable

Signature _____ Signature Witnessed by _____

RESTRICTED (when complete)

CLEVELAND POLICE

Continuation of Statement of **JASON ARBUCKLE**

and suffering from alcohol dependency and for those who are consuming alcohol at home, is concerning and in my opinion will further undermine the licensing objectives.

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