

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(CJ Act 1967, s9; MC Act 1980, Section 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.2)

STATEMENT OF	Nad Valaydon
<u>Age of Witness</u> (If over 18 enter "Over 18")	Over 18
<u>Occupation of Witness</u>	Licensing Officer – City of London Corporation

This statement, consisting of three (2) pages 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.

Dated the 18th day of June 2021

Signed..... Nad Valaydon

I have worked as a Licensing Officer for the City of London Corporation since July 2017. On Monday 14th June 2021 at roughly 15:15 hrs myself and Dan White (City of London Licensing Police Officer) visited The Throgmorton on Throgmorton Street in the City due to ongoing problems, mainly to check the furniture was not placed back on Throgmorton Street without a valid licence. As we approached, we could see 4 tables were back out, a picture was taken on my work phone and exhibit as NV1. We entered the premises which was empty however clearly open due to the doors being open, lights on and taps at the bar were on. We spoke to Jack Monroe who was the only staff member present who informed us he was the supervisor. Jack explained he was told by Ronnie (the manager) that furniture could be placed outside and alcohol could be served. Jack then said the ground floor is open from 12:00 hrs till the evening with alcohol on the menu however the lower levels are shut. I informed the premises has no Table and Chairs or Pavement licence therefore he removed the furniture and agreed not to place them back again without a licence. We then checked the lower levels which were closed to the public however there were a group filming in one of the areas. Jack explained that he has no idea who they are, Ronnie informed him that morning the filming would take place. Dan then asked to view the CCTV which Jack admitted he is unable to as he hasn't been shown how to use the CCTV. This would be in breach of Annex 2, Condition 1

of the Premises Licence and therefore an offence under s136 Licensing Act 2003. However, I had been informed that the licence was still suspended at this point anyway.

Later that afternoon I received a phone call from Saeed, who claimed to be the director of the company, when questioned which company, Saeed answered Blank Gallery. Saeed was clearly emotional, angry and very dismissive of the discrepancies which the premises has shown. He explained he shouldn't require a Table and Chairs or Pavement licence due to the minimal furniture the premises is placing outside, also he believes he doesn't have to abide by conditions set out on a premises licence. Saeed then said management know how to use the CCTV and given current technology with one phone call he can give staff access to the CCTV. He also claimed to have proof that payments are up to date concerning annual fees and he will email over once he is back from holiday, on the 17th June 2021. No such proof was provided and on 18th June 2021 Blank Gallery Ltd set up a payment plan with Chamberlains to pay the 2020 & 2021 annual fees by instalment.

Signed.....N. Valaydon.....
Nad Valaydon

Date: 18th Day of June 2021