

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

URN 

--	--	--	--

Statement of: Benjamin ELLEN

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Staff Licensing Officer

This statement (consisting of 1 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 in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: Benjamin ELLEN..... (witness) Date: 04/10/2021

I am a licensing officer for the City of London Police.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at approximately 23:40 hours I attended 27b Throgmorton Street EC2N 2AN. The premises currently has a suspended licence.

I was in the company of PC BALTA CP522 and PC DEWICK 652CP. Upon approaching the premises, lights were on, the door to the premises leading directly to the bar was open, people were inside drinking what looked like alcoholic beverages. Liquids of numerous brown hues in glasses and there was an overpowering smell of cannabis.

There were approximately 8 males in the main area and 2 behind the bar. I spoke to the males behind the bar and asked if they were selling any alcohol, to which one of whom stated they were not selling any alcohol, and that it was for a private event and filming was taking place.

PCs DEWICK and BALTA noticed an amount of cannabis on an empty table to the left of the entrance. The constables asked those present who the cannabis belonged to, no one came forward and those who were present were argumentative with the police officers questioning why they had entered. PC BALTA stated the door was open and no power of entry was required or used. Despite further obstructive, dismissive, and belligerent behaviour from most of the males inside. Additional officers came to assist due to the number of males in the venue and their behaviour and attitude.

When the males were asked who had responsibility for the premises, initially no one would claim to be the key holder or person in charge of the venue. Eventually a male stating they had key access to the premises gave police his details as; [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] TW2 [REDACTED]. I spoke to him and asked if the people sat drinking had purchased any alcohol. He replied that no one had bought any alcohol and all alcohol being consumed was brought into the venue by him for the cast members as there was filming taking place at the premise and it was being given away. He continued that there was filming going on downstairs for a Netflix production and the alcohol was present for them. The filming was likely to take place another week.

Signature:..... Signature witnessed by: .....

A couple of the remaining males present were spoken to by the police officers. Some of whom were known to police systems for possession with intent to supply controlled substances.

The cannabis was seized by police to be destroyed at Bishopsgate police station due to no one being able to account for its presence on the table.

Signature:..... Signature witnessed by: .....



