


WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of Mitchell Carr
Age Over 18 **Occupation:** Chief Inspector 13366 – City of London Police

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

Signature: 

Date: 23/11/22

I am Mitchell Carr, currently serving as a Chief Inspector with City of London Police. I make this statement with regards to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which is due for potential renewal in February 2023.

I have some personal experience of the PSPO being used to good effect, in my capacity as Bronze commander for the City of London sector of the London Marathon event on 3rd October 2021 and 2nd October 2022. I am due to undertake this Bronze Commander role again for the next London Marathon scheduled for 23rd April 2023. Therefore, in summary I would wholeheartedly support the extension of the PSPO from a policing perspective.

For context, prior to the introduction of the PSPO, there were significant issues of crime and disorder. As an example, at the marathon on 28th April 2019, there were issues seen with large numbers of people congregating around a live music sound system, consuming alcohol excessively in public leading to incidents of violence and a requirement for additional police reserve units to be deployed to restore public order.

The actual use of PSPO powers has been minimal. To illustrate this, at the October 2022 marathon, there was zero use of any powers under the PSPO. Likewise at the October 2021 marathon, there were a small (less than 10) alcohol seizures and no penalty notices issued. I believe this is a result of good pre-event communications, effective signage and the use of appropriate, sensible discretion on the event day itself by the police officers deployed. This has ensured that the tone of the event – a fun, family, charitable occasion – is maintained and avoids putting police officers in direct confrontation with members of the public who are highly intoxicated.

As Bronze Commander, having the tactical option of the PSPO available is extremely beneficial in my ultimate aims of preventing crime, preventing harm and maintaining the King's peace. The existence of a PSPO forms a part of my graduated response on the day although I would always expect police officers to be deployed to engage in good natured dialogue with any members of the public to inform, persuade or advise prior to resorting to any formal use of police powers. Likewise the PSPO is a part of a whole range of tactical options including a high visibility police presence, use of CCTV and close partnership working with event organisers and stewards. Without a PSPO, I would have little legal framework to prevent excessive street drinking or Anti-Social Behaviour until such a time that it became clear criminality was occurring. The existence of the PSPO enables intervention by the police at an earlier stage to prevent crime / harm from occurring in the first place.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, I would support the extension of the PSPO for a further 3 years.