

STATEMENT OF WITNESS*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

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Statement of: Constable Christopher Stockman

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Police officer

This statement 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:



Date: 17 Aug 2022

I am PC Christopher Stockman and I have been a Police Officer with the Metropolitan Police Service for over 19 years. I am currently attached to Havering Police Licensing Team, on the East Area Basic Command Unit and have been in post for the past 5 and a half months.

This is my statement regarding my involvement with The Rising Sun Public House and the VLT bar in Hornchurch town centre.

The Rising Sun 64-68 High Street Hornchurch RM12 4UW is located on the High Street in Hornchurch town centre and is one of the largest venues of its kind. The Rising Sun is a pub which operates on the ground floor with the VLT nightclub operating on the 1st floor which is open until 0330 hours on Friday and Saturday.

The licensee is Choice Management Ltd Unit 2 99-101 Kingsland Road London E2 8AG and the premises licence number is 1728. The designated premises supervisor is Emma Thomas.

The premises licence permits the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment at the following times:-

The Rising Sun

Sale of alcohol & regulated entertainment:-

Monday to Wednesday - 10:00 to 23:00

Thursday to Sunday - 10:00 to 01:00

Christmas Eve & Boxing Day if Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday - 10:00 to 01:00

New Year's Eve - From the normal commencement hour to the normal terminal hour on 1st January

Late night refreshment:-

Thursday to Sunday - 23:00 to 01:00

Christmas Eve & Boxing Day if Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday - 23:00 to 01:00

New Year's Eve - 23:00 to 05:00

VLT

Sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment & late night refreshment:-

Monday to Wednesday - 10:00 to 23:00

Thursday - 10:00 to 01:00 (01:30 late night refreshment)

Friday & Saturday - 10:00 to 03:00 (Including late night refreshment)

Sunday - 12:00 to 01:00 (01:30 late night refreshment)

Christmas Eve, Boxing Day and bank holiday Sundays - 10:00 to 03:00

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All Licensable activity permitted until 04:00 on the night when the clocks go forward from GMT to BST New Year's Eve - from the normal opening hour to the normal closing hour on 1st January

Over the last 12 months the venues have been connected with a number of serious incidents which will be highlighted and detailed in this statement & redacted copies of the CADS and crime reports have been made available in PDF format.

PC Williams has completed a statement detailing his involvement in two incidents prior to me starting my role but I shall summarise those incidents.

On Saturday 28th August 2021 an allegation of GBH was made whereby a victim was pushed to the ground by door staff after being refused entry into the venue for allegedly being intoxicated and threatening.

Whilst the victim was helpless on the ground he was kicked in the head by a member of security staff (**CAD 5210/30AUG21, CAD 6884/30AUG21, CAD 1555/31AUG21, CAD 4844/31AUG21, CRIS 5413126/21 & CRIS 5413121/21 refers**).

The door supervisor was later interviewed and charged with the offence of ABH.


On Saturday 1st January 2022 at 0030 hours Police attended a call to a large fight involving 20 people at the venue. A male suffered various facial injuries including a bruise under the eye and stated he was the victim of a random unprovoked attack in the venue (**CAD 328/01JAN22 & CRIS 5400003/22 refers**).

As a result of that incident on Saturday 1st January conversations took place between PC Williams from Havering Police licensing and the venue's licensing consultant where it was agreed the venue would utilise an identification scanning system and to have it operating from 1900 hours to the close of business on Thursdays through to Sundays and including all bank Holidays.

A request was made to the venue to submit a minor variation by PC Williams (**See exhibit ARW/1**) and the following conditions were added to the venue's premises license around the 9th January 2022.

Those conditions being:-

- 1) *The premises shall adopt a club ID scan or a suitable equivalent, which shall be utilised as part of the conditions of entry after 19:00 on any day where SIA door supervisors are engaged, Thursday through to Sunday and including all bank holidays. This will cover The Rising Sun PH and The VLT.*
- 2) *All patrons attending the venue must produce identification, which must be scanned into the ID scanning recognition machine; this should be photographic Driving Licence, proof of age card with the PASS logo or a current Passport.*
- 3) *All patrons being scanned into the venue must have a clear head and shoulders photo taken on the device.*
- 4) *All staff shall be suitably trained in the use of the ID Scanner. The training shall be written into a programme ongoing and under constant review and must be made available to a relevant responsible authority when called upon.*
- 5) *In the event of a technical failure of the ID scanning equipment, the DPS shall immediately inform the authorities and will admit customers via a manual check of ID. Technical failures must be rectified within 7 days.*
- 6) *Entry will be refused for any anti-social behaviour towards staff or other customers either within the Premises or the vicinity. This includes queue jumping and offensive language.*
- 7) *The venue must operate a 100% search policy. Guests must also undergo a property search including bags. This is a condition of entry. Any person who refuses a search will not be admitted to the venue and the details logged.*
- 8) *Admission will be refused to any person deemed to be intoxicated or under the influence of illegal or legal high substances.*

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On Sunday 20th March 2022 the Rising Sun were showing the Premier League football match between West Ham United & Tottenham Hotspur when a fight took place in the venue which resulted in a victim being stabbed in the arm who later presented himself at Queens's Hospital in Romford (**CRIS 5404821/22 refers**).

The alleged stabbing was recorded on the venue's CCTV which was sent to Police (<https://share.uk.evidence.com/share/2Ngd35Cs> refers)

The victim arrived at the venue which was not busy at around 1730 hours and was with friends having a drink.

The alleged suspects arrived in the venue about an hour later and it was clear they knew the victim and his friends as they were all talking and sitting with one another. All appeared to be fine but they then began to argue and a physical altercation took place as the suspect and victim appeared to be walking outside. It was over in approximately 30 seconds. The victim did not state how he had been cut and no weapons were seen by staff or witnesses. Staff then provided first aid to the victim as he was bleeding and he left with friends prior to Police arrival.

Police attended a call to The Rising Sun due to a disturbance and a knife potentially seen (**CAD 6025/20MAR22 refers**). The manager advised Police that a fight took place in the corner of the venue and that CCTV would be available and may show the incident.

PC Giles who attended CAD 6025/20MAR22 has provided a statement which is attached.

Prior to Police arriving on scene staff from the venue washed blood away that was on the floor rather than taking steps to prevent loss of evidence and to preserve for possible forensic evidence until Police arrived. This was recorded on the venue's CCTV which was sent to Police (<https://share.uk.evidence.com/share/P8INwJAI> refers).

The venue also didn't call Police or the London Ambulance Service at the time of the incident.


The victim presented himself at Queens Hospital (**CAD6259/20MAR22 refers**) around 2015 hours but didn't cooperate with Police who arrived as per protocol after the Hospital called Police. The victim refused to engage with officers and would not explain what took place or how he received his injuries. An x-ray was completed which showed no broken bones or serious damage but it was later found the wound was a 2cm cut on one side the arm and a 1cm cut on the other side.

After the incident the venue contacted myself and PC Williams and made us aware of the incident, downloaded CCTV, willing to provide statements and staff provided first aid for the alleged victim. They showed the incident log and made CCTV available for collection first thing in the morning.

However, as per the venues current license (Annex 2 condition 32) *a minimum of two (2) SIA licensed door supervisors shall be on duty at the premises when West Ham football matches are being shown at the premises from at least an hour before kick-off time until at least an hour after the match finishes*. The venue had no door staff present.

As a result of having no SIA door staff present no identification scan was in place as per annex 2 condition 46 which states *the premises shall adopt a club identification scan or a suitable equivalent which shall be utilised as part of the conditions of entry after 19:00 on any day where SIA door supervisors are engaged, Thursday through to Sunday and including all bank holidays and covers both The Rising Sun PH and VLT*. This condition was added to the premises license as a result of the incident on the 1st January as stated above.

As a result of the incident a meeting was requested by myself and PC Williams with the licensee and venue management. This meeting was arranged and took place on the 13th April 2022 at 1315 hours.

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In attendance were the licensee Jo Sullivan, staff member Sam Gittins, licensing consultant Graham Hopkins and ex DPS at the time Emma Thomas.

Sam appeared prepared for the meeting and had items listed on a piece of paper which he was reading from. He admitted there was a lack of door staff and scanner in place that night when there should have been and venue management including the licensee agreed they "dropped the ball". They also agreed that the blood shouldn't have been washed away prior to Police arrival. **See exhibit ARW/2 for the summary of the meeting.**

Following the meeting the venue sent an email (**Exhibit ARW/3**) detailing the following intended action plan:-

- 1) For every West Ham Game played inside the venue we will make sure the scanner is put outside & Doormen are present an hour before the game starts & an hour after the game finishes.
- 2) We will implement a list of names & facial recognition of those that are barred from Havering.
- 3) Making sure we have the correct professional door team onsite at all times- dress code & manner is key to the business.
- 4) Any incident that occurs at the venue which has evidence for the police to see will NOT be tampered with at any time until the attending officers have processed the scene.
- 5) If police attend the venue for a reported incident we will ask for a CAD number for our own reference.
- 6) We will keep in constant contact with the local & surrounding shops to see if they have any other information on suspects/witnesses.
- 7) 999 MUST be called from the venue (not an individual) for any incidents at all times.
- 8) The DPS will be present Wednesday-Sunday every week without fail as these are the busier periods but will always be contactable by phone anytime day or night.
- 9) We will enforce the "NO VAPING" signs to be placed inside & outside the building.
- 10) We will look into rebranding the business name ASAP.

Further to the action plan it was agreed that myself and PC Williams would work with the venue looking at their conditions with a view to making them more manageable going forward due to the amount of conditions they had in place.

Whilst the conditions were being looked into another serious incident occurred on Saturday 28th May 2022 whereby at around 0100 hours a fight broke out in the smoking terrace on the 1st floor of the VLT nightclub between two groups (**CAD 401/28MAY22 refers**).


The altercation spread to the area at the top of the stairs leading down to the entrance. During the incident a male who was involved in the incident fell down approximately 15 steps of the venue. First aid was given by security staff and the male was taken to hospital where it was found that he had suffered a fractured skull and eye socket and later found to have bleeding on the brain (**CRIS 5409227/22 refers**).

The incident is still being investigated by detectives.

The venue worked with Police and provided statements, details of all the door staff and CCTV footage.

Details of those present in the venue were requested to enquire who was in the club at the time of the incident to assist the investigation and to possibly obtain details and identify any potential witnesses and/or suspects. An ID scanning report was requested from the venue and was sent to PC Williams who forwarded it on to me on the 1st June. The email contained two PDF attachments of Friday night's scan & Saturday night's scan. I will exhibit these reports as **CJS/1 & CJS/2**. Fridays scan showed just one person scanned in compared to Saturday which showed 97 persons scanned in.

At first the venue stated the reason for the Friday night report only containing 1 scan was due to the system not syncing the names and a possible issue with a loose wire that wasn't plugged in. The manager advised PC Williams that he wasn't made aware of this.

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PC Williams advised the venue to urgently contact the company the machine was hired from to enquire whether customer information was first on the system and second whether it could be retrieved.

On Thursday 2nd June myself and PC Williams visited the venue and spoke with manager Sam Gittins and employee Harrison. Harrison was asked directly about the lack of persons scanned on Friday night and he replied by saying "He just didn't scan anyone". When asked why "he stated that he just wasn't with it". The venue were advised this was a breach of the license and would be dealt with as such.

Annex 2 condition 46 which was added to the license around the 9th January 2022 states *the premises shall adopt a club identification scan or a suitable equivalent which shall be utilised as part of the conditions of entry after 19:00 on any day where SIA door supervisors are engaged, Thursday through to Sunday and including all bank holidays and covers both The Rising Sun PH and VLT.*

SIA door supervisors were present at the time but Scannet wasn't used.

The venue have cooperated and worked with police previously to try and prevent further incidents including change of DPS, change of license holder, producing action plans and at the start of 2022 submitting the above minor variation and transfer of DPS upon the request of Police.

Whist it's acknowledged the venue have worked with the Police, the venue have still had two serious incidents in a matter of months.

Despite various measures put in place such as DPS transfers, Scannet system, an exhaustive list of extra conditions and extra door staff, serious incidents still occur and we are concerned that sooner or later we will have an incident that results in another serious injury or even worse a fatality.

Reluctantly police see no alternative but to review the licence and ask the Sub Committee to consider a revocation of the licence.

Witness Signature: C. S.H.D

Signature Witnessed by: