

Appendix C

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 Mark Geoffrey WALKER

URN


Four empty rectangular boxes for URN entry.

Age if under 18 over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18"). Occupation Police Officer

This statement (consisting of 3 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.

Dated the 15th day of February 2010

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded
(supply witness details on rear)

Signature  1683

I am Police Constable 1683 of the Lancashire Constabulary presently stationed at Colne Police Station.

My current role is Licensing Officer for Pennine Division. My role involves visiting and enforcing licensable activity at both on and off licensed premises within Pennine Division. One of my responsibilities is to test purchase both on and off licensed premises in relation to the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of eighteen years.

From records held at this office, I am able to state that on the dates of Sunday 26th October 2008 and Friday 21st August 2009, two test purchase operations took place at off licence premises in relation to the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years. On these dates Moore's Mini Market situated at 365 Rochdale Road, Britannia, Bacup was visited and attempts were made by the under age test purchaser to purchase alcohol. The store failed both test purchase operations on these dates by allowing and permitting the sale of alcohol to the test purchaser. The sellers on these dates were a _____ and a _____

At 1508 hours on Friday 22nd January 2010, I was undertaking my role as Licensing Officer when I was involved in the test purchase of under age sales of alcohol at off licensed premises within the Rossendale area.

Signature  1683

Signature witnessed by

At this time, I together with the test purchaser (aged 16 years) attended Moore's Mini Market situated at 365 Rochdale Road, Britannia, Bacup in order to undertake an under age test purchase in relation to the sale of alcohol. The premises again failed the test purchase with the employee, an Amanda MOORE selling six cans of Carlsberg Lager to the test purchaser.


A short time later, I entered the premises where MOORE was spoken to in relation to the sale of alcohol to a young person. As a result of the conversation that then took place, it transpired that MOORE had challenged the test purchaser in relation to his age however, following examination of [redacted] passport; MOORE permitted and allowed the sale of alcohol to take place. [redacted] passport clearly showed that he was only 16 years of age with his

date of birth being [redacted]. A closer examination of the premises revealed that a summary of the Premises Licence was not being displayed, the premises did not hold or have an alcohol sales refusals register in place, there was no Challenge 21 Promotional material on display and that there were no records held at the premises in relation to staff training.

At 1445 hours on Tuesday 26th January 2010, MOORE attended Colne Police Station where she was subsequently dealt with in respect of the transaction. MOORE made a full admission in relation to the offence of permitting and allowing the sale of alcohol to a person aged under 18 years and was therefore issued with an £80.00 fine.

Records show that Moore's Mini Market situated at 365 Rochdale Road, Britannia, Bacup have now failed three under age test purchases in relation to the sale of alcohol to children under the age of eighteen within this last fifteen month period.

Signature

 1683

Signature witnessed by

From the month of December 2007 there have only been three test purchase operations conducted at Moore's Mini Market, on all three of these occasions, the staff at the store have failed and allowed or permitted the sale of alcohol to children.

Alcohol harm amongst children is now such a problem that it is subject of a Government Youth Action Plan which sets out what will be done to address what will be done to address drinking by young people in three ways:

- Tackling unsupervised drinking by young people under 18 in public places through working with the Police and Courts.
- By providing guidance for parents regarding how the consumption of alcohol particularly at a young age can affect children and young people.
- Strengthening industry standards that govern the marketing and promotion of alcohol in a more responsible way.

In my opinion, Moore's Mini Market has exacerbated the problems by allowing alcohol to be readily available to purchase by children. A distinct lack of staff training together with slack practices and procedures at the store has facilitated the failures of staff failing test purchases. The retail practices and management of these premises are clearly undermining the Protection Of Children From Harm Licensing Objective.

Handwritten signature of Mark Geoffrey Walker, followed by the number 1683.

Signature

Handwritten signature of Mark Geoffrey Walker, followed by the number 1683.

Signature witnessed by