

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: **Scott Janes**

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

Occupation: **Police Sergeant**

This statement (consisting of ...5..... 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 anything in it, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

Date: **7th November 2022**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am the above named person and I am a Police Sergeant currently working with Dorset Police's Neighbourhood Policing Team for Central Bournemouth. I have responsibility for a wide range of policing priorities in and around the Town Centre, including tackling crime and disorder linked to alcohol and drugs.

Bournemouth Town Centre, whilst vibrant and popular for both residents and visitors, does unfortunately experience high levels of crime and disorder in some areas. Some of this activity occurs more on certain days and times at some locations and other locations experience issues throughout the day, 7 days a week.

The Lower Gardens in Bournemouth Town Centre is a beautiful and welcoming environment for those wishing to walk between the Town Centre and the beach. There are several footpaths, most of which are lit and a wide variety of plants and hedges which provide interest for those enjoying this open space. Unfortunately, this area has become a popular location for groups of youths to commit criminality and for young people to be preyed upon by those intent on recruiting them into County Lines gangs, exploiting them for sexual purposes and other criminality.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: **Scott Janes**

Working closely with our partners in BCP Council we have invested officer time to target these concerns with the aim of removing this criminality and vulnerability risk from the Town Centre. Throughout the Summer of 2022 I have determined that much of this activity involves alcohol being used by young people and given to young people to entice them into anti-social and criminal behaviour. The vulnerability of the young people being targeted by the criminal gangs significantly increases with intoxication.

As part of our joint working with the Dorset Police Drug & Alcohol Harm Reduction Team I have been alerted to an application for a new Off-Licence Convenience Store proposed for 12 Westover Road, Bournemouth.

In my experience of this area, I do not consider that this premises would support our objectives and those of our partners in BCP Council to reduce the risk of harm posed to the young people that are being drawn to Bournemouth's Lower Gardens, which is immediately opposite this proposed store. Further availability of alcohol, in addition to the existing provision, will risk exacerbating an already serious problem and will undermine our objectives as we continue to tackle this problem.

In order to assist the Licensing Sub-Committee further in understanding the severity of the problem in Bournemouth Gardens, I will provide the below statistics for the officers that focused their evening patrols on the Lower Gardens as part of Operation *Fireglow*, Dorset Police's response to this problem with the aim of protecting those most at risk of harm and relentlessly pursuing those intend on causing harm or committing crime –

Signature:

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Continuation of Statement of: **Scott Janes****Arrests 22**

This also included the arrest of 2 suspects for GBH/Robbery offences and relate only to arrests conducted in the Lower Gardens during the Summer period of 2022.

Stop Search 16

These are the occasions where there were sufficient grounds to search the individual for drugs, weapons or items intended for criminal damage/committing crime.

Section 35 16

These are dispersal notices issued to those that have demonstrated an intent to cause anti-social behaviour and is an alternative to arrest. These are most commonly used for young people to avoid having to take them to Police custody.

Section 165 1

Used to seize vehicles when they are identified and located being used without insurance or whose driver does not hold a valid driving licence.

PPN 6

Public Protection Notices are used to record and share information with other agencies when a vulnerable person has been identified.

PPO 1

Police Protection Orders are used rarely to remove a child from harm, with force if required, where there is an immediate and real threat identified that justifies removing them from the location and into the care of Social Services or another place of safety.

Missing Persons 3

This is the number of missing persons, usually young people, who have been reported as 'missing' and located in Bournemouth's Lower gardens. Vulnerable people, in particular children, will often not inform their family or guardians where they are going, further risking their safety and welfare.

Community Resolution 4

This is a method of delivering justice swiftly for low-level offences whilst avoiding the time and expense of a Court process. This is often used for offences such as criminal damage and drug possession offences.

Signature:

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Continuation of Statement of: **Scott Janes**

There were also numerous seizures / disposals of *NOS (Nitrous Oxide)*, a gas distributed in small metallic canisters which provide the consumer with a hallucinogenic sensation. Excessive use of this substance can have lasting damage on the user with young people thought to be most at risk of long-term damage.

All the above have been identified by a small number of officers conducting high-visibility, intelligence-led patrols of the areas most known for anti-social behaviour and crime throughout Bournemouth's Lower Gardens.

It is unknown how much activity has been deterred through these patrols.

My team are also heavily involved with supporting the YMCA on Westover Road. I am concerned that the immediate availability of alcohol will cause problems of alcohol-related disorder for them and undermine their efforts to support their vulnerable clients, particularly those with alcohol dependencies. I am led to believe that they have submitted their own independent representation in respect of this application.

In respect of the application for this Off-Licence premises in Westover Road, I would strongly urge the Licensing Sub-Committee to refuse the application on the grounds that to issue the licence would significantly undermine my efforts and those of my team in tackling this criminality that is present in our Town Centre and will likely increase crime and disorder levels in Bournemouth Gardens whilst also increasing the potential harm posed to children and young people in this area.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: **Scott Janes**

Whilst I fully appreciate and understand that each application should be wholly judged upon its own merits, I would ask you to please draw from the conclusions of a recent Licensing Sub-Committee that considered some extremely passionate and valid points from other concerned parties which ultimately led to the determination that increased off-sales alcohol availability in this space is not appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.

I have also been asked to consider the impact of some additional conditions which have been offered by the applicant in an email to the Drug & Alcohol Harm Reduction Team and my view remains unchanged.

I respectfully ask that the Licensing Sub-Committee support Dorset Police and BCP Council's efforts to tackle alcohol-related crime and disorder in this area by **REJECTING** this application.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Witness Contact Details

Home Address:

Postcode:

Home Telephone Number:

Work Telephone Number

Mobile / Pager Number:

E-mail Address:

Preferred means of contact (*specify details*):Best time of contact (*specify details*):

Male / Female

Date and Place of Birth:

Former Name:

Ethnicity Code (16+1):

Religion / Belief (*specify*)**DATES OF WITNESS NON-AVAILABILITY:****Witness Care**

- a) Is the witness willing and likely to attend court? Yes / No. If 'No', include reason(s) on form **MG6**.
- b) What can be done to ensure attendance?
- c) Is the witness vulnerable or intimidated? Yes / No.
- d) If 'Yes', does the witness require 'special measures'? Yes / No.
If 'Yes', submit **MG2** with file.
- e) Does the witness have any particular needs? Yes / No. If 'Yes', what are they? (Healthcare, childcare, transport, disability, language difficulties, visually impaired, restricted mobility or other concerns?)

Witness Consent (for witness completion)

- a) The Victim Personal Statements scheme (victims only) has been explained to me: Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
- b) I have been given the Victim Personal Statement leaflet (victims only): Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
- c) I have been given the leaflet "Giving a witness statement to the police – what happens next?": Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
- d) I consent to the police having access to my medical record(s) in relation to this matter (*obtained in accordance with local practice*): Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
- e) I consent to the medical record(s) in relation to this matter being disclosed to the defence: Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
- f) I consent to the statement being disclosed for the purposes of civil proceedings if applicable, e.g. child care proceedings, CICA: Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐
- g) The information recorded above will be disclosed to the Witness Service so that they can offer help and support, unless you ask them not to. Tick this box to decline their services: ☐
- h) I have been given a compensation form (MG19): Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☐

Signature of witness:

PRINT NAME:

Signature of parent/ guardian / appropriate adult:

PRINT NAME:

Address and telephone number if different from above:

Statement taken by (*print name*):

Station:

Time and place statement Taken: