

Witness Statement
(Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2;
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)

APPENDIX 6

STATEMENT OF: ...Keeley Louise Ladlow.....

Age if under 18: Over 18 Occupation.....Principal Licensing Officer

This statement, consisting of.....6... Page(s) 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.



Date the...24th..... day of.....June.....2021

I am the above named person and currently employed as Principal Licensing Officer operating from Riverside House the offices of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council. I have been employed as an Enforcement Officer since 2015 and latterly the Principal Officer, my duties include liaising with Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, overseeing investigations concerning Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers, vehicles, Private Hire Operators and licensed premises.

I make this statement by way of a representation on behalf of Rotherham Council in respect of a licensed premises - namely Red Lion, Bridgegate, Rotherham and am submitting the representation as a Responsible Authority.

The grounds of the representation are based on the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor failing to uphold the four licensing objectives namely, the prevention of crime and disorder, the protection of children from harm, public safety and public nuisance.

The premise currently has the permissions of a premises licence for the retail sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises, live and recorded music, the performance of dance and late night refreshment between the hours of 08.00 and 01.30 Monday to Sunday.

The premises licence holder is Mr Paul Andrew Gill who became the licence holder on 12th March 2018, the Designated Premises Supervisor is Natalie Victoria Butler a position she has held since 22nd May 2019.

On Sunday 20th June 2021 I received an email from Acting Police Sergeant Smith entitled Red Lion urgent review, Rotherham Town Centre. A/PS Smith stated he had grave concerns regarding the management of the premises and violence and disorder occurring at the premises as a result of the poor management.

A/PS Smith detailed within the email an incident at the premises on Friday 18th June in which 25-30 persons were fighting, during this incident pool cues and glasses were used as weapons. Police Officers attended and blood was visible on the floor of the premises – a broken pool cue was seized by the Police.

SIGNED.......... WITNESSED.....

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Further contained within the email were details of a second incident which took place at the premises on Saturday 19th June prompting a large Police presence. A/PS Smith stated upon Police Officers arriving two young males were found in possession of a pint of lager and a glass of whisky – one male was 13 years old, the second male refused to provide his details and a false date of birth provided made him 17. Both young males stated they were relatives of the premises licence holder (Son and Nephew) one providing a surname of Gill and the other providing a surname of Sutherland. Both stated they had purchased the alcohol from the Red Lion.

A/PS Smith stated on the Saturday evening neither the licence holder or DPS was at the premises and staff members present advised the 'landlord' had had an allergic reaction to tuna so had left the premises. Three persons identified themselves as staff and were described by A/PS Smith as problematic, obstructive, threatening, under the influence of alcohol and attempting to intimidate officers. Two provided details, however of the two one provided false details – the third male refused to provide details to the Police.

A/PS Smith stated the two staff members who did provide details gave names as Dave Chen and Ben Smith.

A/PS Smith stated the premises were non-compliant with Coronavirus regulations in respect of music, no face coverings, track and trace details not being taken, non-seated drinking and service at the bar and whilst Police Officers were standing at the bar a member of staff continued to serve alcohol from it to standing customers. During the incident children aged between 4 and 11 years were on the premises – this was late evening. Police attended on the Saturday evening as a result of a large group of males fighting – the fight began at the Red Lion before spilling out onto the street and onto Effingham Square. 4 males were arrested – 1 was in the possession of a knife, one was arrested for assault PC following him knocking the officer to the ground and assaulting him, two other males were arrested for their involvement with the incident and tasers were drawn and discharged.

A/PS Smith details a further incident within the email which occurred on 20th June and reported to the Police as a large fight, three separate calls were made reporting the incident to the Police however the premises did not report it. Allegations were made that door staff and the DPS or other staff member were involved in the fight and had assaulted customers – two calls into the Police were made by the ambulance service one reporting a stabbing and a second reporting a large fight with injuries. One male was arrested for Actual Bodily Harm.

I visited the premises on Monday 21st June 2021 in the company of Helen Cooper, Police Licensing Officer, Sgt Neil Windle, Jeremy Squires, RMBC Covid Officer and Rachel Williams RMBC Covid Enforcement Officer arriving at the premises at approximately 12.50hrs. Present at the premises was the DPS Natalie Butler and her partner who gave his name as Gary Gill (brother of the premises licence holder) – I asked whether the premises licence holder was on site and was advised that he wasn't at the premises and wasn't contactable. Throughout the visit Ms Butler had a young child with her which she was holding.

Initially when speaking with Ms Butler she stated that she is present at the premises day to day however was not at the premises on the evening of Saturday 19th June due to becoming unwell after eating tuna. Further into the visit Ms Butler stated she is at the premises during the day but is not at the premises during the evening as she has a young baby who she needs to care for and leaves the running of the premises in the evening to her partner Gary Gill. When asked how often the premises licence holder Paul Gill is at the premises it was stated he never attends the premises and is no longer involved in the running of the premises.

SIGNED..... [Redacted Signature] WITNESSED.....

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Ms Butler stated she was unaware that staff members had become obstructive towards Police Officers adding that she had not been told of this. Ms Butler stated she was aware that two children had been found in possession of alcohol but stated they had not purchased it from the Red Lion. When asked whether she could be certain of this she replied "NO" and after initially stating she did not know who the 13-year-old was accepted that the 13-year-old was related to her partner Gary Gill.

Helen Cooper asked Ms Butler if she was aware that on the 8th June 2021 an underage high-risk missing person was found on the premises in the possession of a jug of cocktail. Ms Butler stated she had not been aware of this and had not been present on 8th June.

When asked to explain the incidents on Saturday 19th June Ms Butler stated she had left two people in charge of the premises – Michael Chen who she had told was in charge but stated he may not have understood this. When asked how long Michael had worked at the premises for Ms Butler stated he had worked there since 17th May 2021.

The second male left in charge of the premises was Ben Smith – Ms Butler initially stated he was a relative but then changed this to a close friend of the family who is like a relative adding that he worked behind the bar and was serving customers.

I asked Ms Butler what training Mr Smith had had in relation to the responsible sale of alcohol and she stated he has received no training. When asked if she was aware he had been obstructive towards Police Officers she stated "NO".

Ms Butler provided the name of a third male who was also working at the premises on Saturday evening – Callum Gill who she stated is Gary Son and Pauls Nephew.

Ms Butler stated she was aware that during the evening there had been a fight stating it was "at the top of the hill" and some of her customers had left the premises to intervene. Ms Smith stated, "IT IS HARD TO CONTROL CUSTOMERS, WE HAVE SAID WE NEED TO INCREASE DOORSTAFF".

When asked which door staff company she uses she stated, "I DON'T KNOW GARY DOES THAT HE HAS A PHONE NUMBER SOMEWHERE". Ms Butler was then asked what the names of the door staff are and again she stated she didn't know, Ms Butler was asked to produce the door staff signing in sheet so we could view the names and SIA licence numbers. Ms Butler stated she did not have a signing in sheet for door staff and had no record of who was working and whether they held a licence with the Security Industry Authority.

When asked if the door staff had been involved in an incident at the premises Ms Butler stated "YES BUT HE ONLY MOVED THE OUT OF THE WAY THAT'S ALL" whilst simulating a push action with her hands.

Ms Butler was asked if she attends pub watch meetings which is an Annex 2 condition on the premises licence, she stated "NO BUT KELLY FROM THE PLOUGH HAS BEEN TO SEE ME AND TOLD ME I SHOULD BE GOING".

Helen Cooper made Ms Butler aware of an incident discussed at pub watch which is alleged to have taken place at the premises on 7th June 2021 during which glasses were being thrown and one male received a slash wound to his lower leg. Ms Butler stated, "I'M NOT AWARE".

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Ms Butler stated when door staff are on no one should be going outside with glasses and that had been decided by her, however she had not yet informed the door staff or any other staff member about this. When asked when she had made this decision Ms Butler stated, "SOMETIME SINCE SATURDAY".

Ms Butler stated she had been showing all the Euro football matches inside the premises describing the seating area as full on Friday when England played Scotland.

Ms Butler was asked if she had an incident log book at the premises and whether the incidents had been recorded within it, she stated, "NO, I DON'T HAVE ONE, IS THAT THE ONE WHERE WE WRITE DOWN IF SOMEONE IS UNDERAGE AND WE ASK ID"

I asked Ms Butler whether she was a personal licence holder as the responses she was providing gave me cause for concern around her lack of knowledge, Ms Butler stated, "I AM, I DID THE COURSE 2 YEARS AGO".

Upon asking if she knew what the difference between an incident and refusals register was, Ms Butler stated, "I DON'T KNOW". Upon being asked if the premises had a refusal register, she stated there was not one.

Ms Butler was asked if she had viewed the premises licence and was aware of the annex 2 conditions and stated that she had never seen the premises licence.

I asked to view the premises CCTV for Friday 19th June and Saturday 20th June, Ms Butler stated "I'VE HAD ISSUES WITH MICE AND A MOUSE CHEWED THROUGH THE CABLES, I HAVE AN ELECTRICIAN COMING, I DIDN'T NOTICE UNTIL SUNDAY."

Ms Butler when questioned stated the CCTV was in full working order on the Saturday and footage would still be available on the hard drive for the Friday and Saturday evening. Ms Butler did not know how to operate the CCTV system or how long it recorded for and asked Gary Gill to show officers the footage.

Upon Gary Gill accessing the hard drive no footage was available prior to Sunday 20th June and it appeared the hard drive had been erased – I questioned Gary relating to this and he stated the electrician had already been and as part of the work he had undertaken the hard drive had been reformatted erasing all of the footage.

I asked Ms Butler why she had had told me the electrician hadn't yet been and looking towards Gary she said, "I DON'T KNOW".

Sgt Windle seized the CCTV hard drive at 13.55hrs, I advised both Ms Butler and Gary Gill that should the premises remain open a replacement hard drive must be fitted or they would be operating in breach of the premises licence conditions.

Rachel Williams asked Ms Butler to produce the track and trace book and when produced questioned Ms Butler on the reasons why it was not filled in correctly – dates, full names, contact details were sporadic and often missing. I asked Ms Butler if she had a Covid risk assessment and it was stated that she has not.

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Ms Butler accepted that an incident had taken place at the premises during the evening on 18th June stating "THERE WAS AN INCIDENT OUTSIDE, WE LOCKED THE DOORS TO KEEP THEM OUT, LOCKING SOME CUSTOMERS INSIDE. OTHERS STARTED FIGHTING WITH OUR CUSTOMERS, GLASSES WERE USED AND WERE SMASHED."

Ms Butler stated she did not recall snooker cues being used and stated she did not know that the Police had attended the incident, but she had called an ambulance along with another person.

Ms Butler stated she was working during the incident along with two other staff members and one doorman, when asked if the doorman intervened she stated he hadn't and had locked himself inside with her as he would have been overpowered and outnumbered.

Ms Butler further stated that a couple with a child were inside of the premises that evening during the incident.

When asked to name staff members currently working at the premises Ms Butler named 6 people, I asked if they were all trained in the responsible selling of alcohol, she stated, "I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT TWO ARE BUT I DON' KNOW". Ms Butler added that all staff members commenced employment at the premises in April 2021 and she had no record of the training that they had received.

The premises licence has 28 Annex 2 conditions, I went through each one in turn with Ms Butler and found the premises to be non-compliant with 17 of the 28 conditions. Ms Butler made specific reference to staff training which is conditions 1 and 5 on the premises licence stating, "THEY AREN'T UP TO DATE BUT WILL BE". During this discussion I wrote directly onto a copy of the premises licence circling the conditions the premises were not compliant with and making notes beside. I exhibit these notes as KLL/1, the visit ended at this point.

On Wednesday 23rd June 2021 following an interim steps hearing as part of an expedited review I attended the premises with Rachael Winstanley, Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer, Lisa Underwood-Parkin, Licensing Enforcement Officer, PC Robson and a second Police Officer whose name I do not know. The purpose of the visit was to advise the premises licence holder and DPS of the decision of the sub-committee which was to immediately suspend the premises licence and serve the decision notice.

Arriving at the premises at approximately 12.40hrs Ms Butler was sitting on a bench outside of the premises with Gary Gill and her young child. Upon our arrival Ms Butler walked inside of the premises and we entered behind her – I advised Ms Butler of the immediate suspension of the premises licence. The premises were open to the public with a small number of customers seated outside and three people sitting together inside the second half of the premises next to the tv screen. Beside these three customers was a buffet laid out on a table and they quickly stated they were having a birthday party for their 21-year-old son/grandson with a buffet.

I advised Ms Butler that the premises could no longer carry out licensable activity and upon customers finishing the drinks they had the premises must not serve any further alcohol. The premises licence holder was not present and again I was advised that he was not contactable.

Immediately a female sitting next to the tv became abuse towards me which became progressively worse she began shouting at me saying "HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT, I HOPE YOU'E BLOODY PROD OF YOURSELF, ARE YOU HAPPY NOW."

SIGNED.....  WITNESSED.....

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(Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2;
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I attempted to explain to her the reasons for the visit without disclosing confidential information relating to the review however the female was becoming increasingly aggressive and was shouting "YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE, YOU ARE HITLERS BITCH, BITCH, HITLERS BITCH". I was aware at this point both Police Officers had joined me and were standing behind me, the female then shouted "OH LOOK YOU'VE BROUGHT THE BIG GUNS HAVE YOU" "DON'T YOU COME ANY CLOSER I KNOW WHO YOU ARE".

Gary Gill walked over towards me and standing close to me whilst holding the young child began to question the reasons, I would describe him as being obstructive and argumentative, he was speaking in a raised voice and on several occasions I asked him to remove the very young child from the volatile situation which he refused to do.

Whilst I was standing with the angry female behind me, and Gary to my right, another female member of staff approached me to my left from behind the bar and again began to speak to me in a raised voice and was very argumentative and obstructive. I asked for her details and she refused to provide these shouting at me further, when speaking to me she was very close to me and the way she spoke I believed she was intending on intimidating me.

Due to the volatile nature of the female I walked away from her to continue explaining the immediate suspension to Ms Butler who had walked to the other side of the premises. Other customers were coming into the premises as the doors remained open which further angered the female who continued to shout.

Upon the suspension notice being given to Ms Butler I asked if I could view the CCTV at the premises due to the aggressive female standing at the bar asking to be served like she had been before our arrival and suspecting the premises had been undertaking bar service. Ms Butler advised that I could not view any CCTV as she had not replaced the hard drive following the Police seizing it on Monday.

Whilst I was speaking with her the aggressive female approached and stood behind Ms Butler saying "LOOK AT YOU JUST LOOK AT YOU, WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, HOW DO YOU SLEEP AT NIGHT, HITLERS BITCH".

Having issued the suspension notice to Ms Butler and due to the aggressive behaviour of staff members and customers we exited the premises at this point and walked onto Bridgegate towards the parked police vehicle. Upon arriving at the vehicle the aggressive female walked past and stopped in the street, staring directly at me she again shouted "YOU'RE HITLERS BITCH YOU ARE, HITLERS BITCH, I HOPE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS TO YOU, HITLERS BITCH." At this point A/PS Smith had arrived and warned the female for swearing in a public place, I then returned to the Council offices.

On Thursday 24th June 2021 I received an email from Jeremy Squires advising me that the body worn video of Police Officers who had attended the premises on 19th June had been viewed and showed service to customers from the bar and to customers who were not seated and did not remain seated whilst consuming the drink. Jeremy advised me that a Fixed Penalty Notice was issued to the Premises Licence Holder for breaching regulation 11 (1)(a) in that without reasonable excuse he had contravened a step 3 restriction as set out under paragraph 7 of part 2, schedule 3.

SIGNED.....  WITNESSED.....



Licensing Act 2003
Premises Licence

P0443

ANNEXES continued ...

(2) The permitted price which would apply on the first day applies to sales or supplies of alcohol which take place before the expiry of the period of 14 days beginning on the second day.

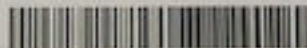
**If the Premises Licence has conditions in respect of Door Supervision
[except theatres, cinemas, bingo halls and casinos]**

1. Where a premises licence includes a condition that at specified times one or more individuals must be at the premises to carry out a security activity, each such individual must:
 - (a) be authorised to carry out that activity by a licence granted under the Private Security Industry Act 2001; or
 - (b) be entitled to carry out that activity by virtue of section 4 of the Act.
2. But nothing in subsection (1) requires such a condition to be imposed:
 - (a) in respect of premises within paragraph 8(3)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Private Security Industry Act 2001 (c12) (premises with premises licences authorising plays or films); or
 - (b) in respect of premises in relation to:
 - (i) any occasion mentioned in paragraph 8(3)(b) or (c) of that Schedule (premises being used exclusively by club with club premises certificate, under a temporary event notice authorising plays or films or under a gaming licence), or
 - (ii) any occasion within paragraph 8(3)(d) of that Schedule (occasions prescribed by regulations under that Act).
3. For the purposes of this section:
 - (a) "security activity" means an activity to which paragraph 2(1)(a) of that Schedule applies, and which is licensable conduct for the purposes of that Act, (see Section 3(2) of that Act) and
 - (b) paragraph 8(5) of that Schedule (interpretation of references to an occasion) applies as it applies in relation to paragraph 8 of that Schedule.

Annex 2 Conditions consistent with operating schedule

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

- 2010
1. The licence holder shall ensure that all staff are properly trained in those aspects of the job which may have an impact on crime and disorder. Such training will consist of dealing with angry customer and how to respond if crime or anti social behaviour is witnessed.





Licensing Act 2003
Premises Licence

P0443

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ANNEXES continued ...

2. The licence holder shall ensure that a burglar alarm is installed at the premises. - Yes -
3. The licence holder shall ensure that CCTV is installed and operational both on and off the premises. - Installed - not like operational.
4. The licence holder shall ensure that membership of Rotherham Licence watch is maintained. no but I will be.

Public Safety

5. The licence holder shall ensure that staff have appropriate training to secure the safety of the premises and the patrons. - I don't think there is no data.
6. ? The licence holder shall ensure that there is regular testing and appropriate certification of the fire equipment, procedures, appliances and systems pertinent to safety.
7. The licence holder shall ensure that fire escape routes are clearly sign posted.
8. The licence holder shall ensure that access for emergency vehicles are kept clear and free of obstruction.
9. The licence holder shall ensure that first aid equipment and materials are available on the premises and a qualified first aider is on site.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

9.
10. The licence holder shall ensure that customer arrive and leave the premises quietly.
11. The licence holder shall record any incidents of public nuisance.
12. The licence holder shall make regular daily checks for litter outside the premises so that it does not cause offence to people passing the premises. Yes -
13. The licence holder shall be familiar with the British Beer and Pub Association Guidelines - Licensed Property: Noise Control: Effective Management of Noise from Licensed Premises.
14. The licence holder shall ensure that whilst Karaoke is taking place at the premises all windows and doors (save for ingress/egress) will remain closed. nA aware.
15. Whilst entertainment is taking place at the premises the noise from within the premise will be monitored from outside and volumes adjusted accordingly.
16. The licence holder shall ensure that speakers are located away from party walls and orientated away from neighbouring properties to minimise noise disturbance.

Protection of Children from Harm

17. The licence holder shall take any suitable and sufficient measures to protect children from harm.
18. The licence holder shall operate the 'Challenge 21' Scheme and only accept accredited proof of age schemes and/or photo card driving licences.
19. The licence holder shall ensure that unaccompanied children under the age of 16 are not allowed into the premises under any circumstances.
20. The licence holder shall ensure the effective and responsible management of the premises.
21. The licence holder shall ensure all staff have instruction and training to ensure the protection of children from harm as well as safe guarding issues. All in thought with them
22. The licence holder shall ensure that at least one member of staff takes a lead on safeguarding issues.
23. ? The licence holder will adopt best practice guidance such as that suggested by the Portman Group.





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Licensing Act 2003 Premises Licence P0443

ANNEXES continued ...

- 24. The licence holder shall ensure that all children are accompanied by an adult.
- 25. The licence holder shall ensure that no entertainment of an adult or sexual nature takes place at the premises at anytime. ✓
- 26. The licence holder shall ensure that signage is displayed indicating which areas, activities and time sessions are family friendly.
- 27. The licence holder shall display signage which explains the law in relation to children and alcohol.
- 28. The licence holder shall operate a 'No ID No Sale' policy.

Annex 3 Conditions attached after a Hearing of Licensing Authority

None.

Annex 4 Plans

See attached.

*above all
signs notices
no ID
no sale*

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967 Section 9, Magistrates Court Act 1980, Section 5B
and Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 27.2)

Statement of: Lisa Underwood-Parkin

Age (if under 18): Over 18 *(if over 18 insert "over 18")*

Occupation: Licensing Enforcement 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 1st day of July 2021

Signature

Witness

I am the above named person and I currently work for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council as a Licensing Enforcement Officer based at Riverside House, Rotherham. I have been in this role since April 2021, my duties include dealing with Licenced drivers and Private Hire and Hackney carriage licences and licenced premises. I have worked within the Licensing Service with RMBC 2004.

This statement refers to a visit that I undertook as part of my role as a Licensing Enforcement Officer at Red Lion, Bridgegate, Rotherham following an application for a expedited review of the premises licence by South Yorkshire Police (SYP) and a subsequent interim steps hearing in which the licence for the premises was suspended.

The other people I will mention in my statement are Keeley Ladlow, the Principal Licensing Officer at RMBC, Rachael Winstanley, the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer at RMBC. Natalie Victoria Butler the Designated Premises Supervisor at the Red Lion, Bridgegate and Mr Gary Gill an acquaintance of Natalie and the brother of the Premises licence holder at Red Lion, Bridgegate – Mr Paul Andrew Gill.

On Monday 21st June 2021 I was made aware of the fact that SYP had put in an application for a expedited review of the premises Red Lion, Bridgegate following reports of violence and disorder at the premises over the previous weekend, Friday 18th

(In addition to signing the declaration above, the witness must sign the statement at the end of the script on each sheet)

SIGNED

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June 2021 – Sunday 20th June 2021. Keeley Ladlow emailed the application to myself, as part of my old role within the licensing service I was asked to arrange the interim steps hearing on the coming Wednesday 22nd June 2021.

On Tuesday 22nd June 2021 I made contact with the Premises Licence Holder Mr Paul Andrew Gill via email advising him of the interim steps hearing the following day using the email address that we had on file, I was aware that Mr Paul Gill had not read the email so I made contact with him via phone and took an alternative email address, I advised him of the hearing and told him to look out for the email as it contained important information and further details of the hearing.

On the morning of Wednesday 22nd June 2021 following the interim steps hearing, myself, Keeley, and Rachael went through the details of the complaints over the previous weekend at the premises. I was advised that there had been a number of incidents over the weekend which included a large fight being reported on the Friday 18th, and a report of 2 children outside the premises allegedly drinking whisky, one being 13 years old and giving his surname Gill, the second claiming to be 17 and giving the surname of Southerland and had stated that they had bought from the premises. It was reported that there was no DPS on site and that the staff were obstructive and intimidating. Apparently, it had been said that the DPS had eaten bad food which was the reason why she was not there. It was also reported that the premises were non-compliant with Covid regulations at the time of the police visits, that there was no track and trace and there was a full bar service with staff servicing customers at the bar. It was also reported that same evening that police had attended the venue and seized a pool cue with blood on it and saw blood on the floor in the premises.

On the 19th June SYP reported that police attended that night and spoke to 2 people who claimed to be members of staff, one giving details of Dave Chen and the other refusing to give details. I was aware that there had been further disturbances and violence over the weekend which had prompted police to attend further.

I was aware that Keeley had visited the premises on Monday 21st June 2021 with Helen Cooper – the police licensing officer and some other staff from RMBC and the police.

During the interim steps hearing the Licensing Sub-committee took the decision to immediately suspend the premises licence. I attended the venue at approximately 12.30pm with Keeley Ladlow, Rachael Winstanley and 2 Police Officers from SYP, whom I do not know the names of. The intention of our visit was to inform the DPS, Natalie Butler and the Premises Licence Holder, Paul Andrew Gill of the decision of the sub-committee to suspend the licence with immediate effect and to put up the notices outside the premises in regards to the review of the licence.

When we arrived, there was a number of people outside the premises around one of the benches near the entrance, about 6-8 adults and one child with a pram, on the table was a number of pint glasses with drinks inside. We followed a female inside the premises who was identified to me as the DPS Natalie Butler. Keeley served the notice to Ms Butler and asked about the whereabouts of the Premises Licence Holder – we were advised that he was not on site. Keeley explained the notice in full and advised that all licensable activity had to cease, and all alcohol removed from display. She advised that the few customers present could drink up, but that no more alcohol could be sold.

(In addition to signing the declaration above, the witness must sign the statement at the end of the script on each sheet)

SIGNED

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I noticed a 'Private Party' sign on the door into the other side of the premises and when we went into the other half of the premises I saw 4 people sat at a table, it appeared that they were holding the party, they had balloons on the table and a buffet to the side next to the bar that was covered in clingfilm. There was an older female sat down who identified herself as the Grandma of the male who's 21st birthday it was, she started talking and asking what were they meant to do, Keeley tried to explain briefly why we were at the premises but the lady was saying 'I don't know how you sleep at night' and asking 'What are we going to do about the birthday now?' I heard her shouting 'Hitlers bitch' towards Keeley, Keeley remained professional and advised that she could not go into many details with her. Mr Gary Gill then approached the group holding a small child and started a discussion with Keeley. Keeley advised that serious injury had been reported, Mr Gary Gill replied 'it was the football and the police had been to the County, we can't help what happens out here' Keeley asked about who had been taken unwell over the weekend Mr Gary Gill advised that it was both of them, they had eaten tuna at a restaurant which had made them both unwell, Mr Gary Gill reported that he had been suffering from chest pains and paramedics had been called and attended.

Keeley continued talking to Mr Gary Gill regarding the incidents to which Mr Gary Gill stated 'I thought you'd have given her a warning' referring to the incidents. 'Nothing happened in here – she rang the police' and indicated towards Ms Butler.

Keeley said to Mr Gary Gill that she was concerned that it appeared to be him running to pub rather than Ms Butler, Mr Gary Gill advised 'No Natalie runs the pub, you seem to be belittling her, she hasn't done anything serious, she has been serving over bar, fair enough, it happened.'

Keeley mentioned the allegations regarding the children drinking at the location, Mr Gary Gill stated 'He doesn't drink.....he isn't allowed to drink and he doesn't drink' Keeley had actually made no mention of which children she was referring to at that point, Keeley then told Mr Gill that the 13 year old advised that he had the same surname Gill, Mr Gary Gill said 'It's wrong, It's totally wrong'.

Keeley continued to try and explain the reasons for the review and the fact that the incidents were too serious for just a warning, Mr Gary Gill said 'You should give people a chance – in my eyes it was just a fight outside'. Keeley did also mention the buffet and said that buffets not allowed under Covid regs and reminded Ms Butler and Mr Gary Gill that it would have needed to be table service.

I would say the Ms Butler was co-operative, and accepted the information given, acting quickly to remove the alcohol from display. Mr Gill was more confrontational and directly challenging towards Keeley. Customers inside the premises were very aggressive towards Keeley and dismissive towards the police officer's presence. They were angry and upset that their 21st Birthday Party could no longer take place. Foul and abusive language was used towards Keeley directly on several occasions.

We then all made our way out of the premises and back towards Bridgegate, the older female from inside again started being verbally abusive towards Keeley calling her, 'Hitlers Bitch'. The lady was warned about her language by the police. We then all returned to the Council offices.

(In addition to signing the declaration above, the witness must sign the statement at the end of the script on each sheet)

SIGNED

WITNESSED