

WITNESS STATEMENT**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B**

URN

Statement of Phil Reed

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: PC 680

This statement (consisting of 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 which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

Date: 25.06.2026

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded

☐

(supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Constable of South Yorkshire Police currently stationed with the Operational Support Unit as the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) Coordinator and Safety Advisor. I am a trained, accredited, and licensed College of Policing Public Order and Public Safety Command-Band Trainer and have delivered the "Policing Events" module in its various iterations for the last 16 years. I am trained and accredited in Risk Assessment via the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH). I am also a College of Policing Advanced Practitioner in Public Order and Public Safety.

My current role involves triaging all events that South Yorkshire Police (SYP) are made aware of, risk assessing events as necessary, providing feedback and advice to event organisers where a SAG is not deemed necessary, requesting SAGs if required, and attending SAGs across South Yorkshire where I offer advice and guidance to event organisers. If necessary and proportionate I would also proffer any objections as a Responsible Authority (RA) to various license applications based on the licensing objectives and on behalf of SYP.

Signature:

Signature Witnessed by:

The advice and guidance I provide is based on a combination of both objective and subjective criteria gleaned from a number of different base documents, policies, legalities, models, and learning gleaned from past events.

I use our own Authorised Professional Practice (APP) online guidance relating to the Police role at events:

“The requirement for police attendance and action at an event is based on the need for the police service to discharge its core responsibilities:

- preventing and detecting crime
- preventing or stopping a breach of the peace
- traffic regulation (only under statutory powers relating to events)
- activating contingency plans when there is an immediate threat to life
- Coordinating emergency response activities associated with a major incident taking place at the event.”

I base most of my formal concerns about an event on any of the four licensing objectives outlined in the Licensing Act 2003:

“(2) The licensing objectives are—

- (a) the prevention of crime and disorder;
- (b) public safety;
- (c) the prevention of public nuisance; and
- (d) the protection of children from harm.”

I break an event down for assessment using the “DIM ICE Meta Model” taught to us in the Policing Events Course I deliver. That is to say, I assess the **D**esign of an event space, the **I**nformation

Signature: PC 680 Phil Reed

Signature Witnessed by:

available such as signage and publicity, and the intended **Management** of the event. I assess those during three distinct phases; the **Ingress**, **Circulation**, and **Egress**. I further make the whole DIM ICE assessment through two different lenses; during normal operating conditions, and during any emergency conditions. Given that during emergency conditions the Police must fulfil their obligation to “coordinate emergency response activities associated with a major incident taking place at the event” I try to ensure that event plans are as far as possible primed to work symbiotically with the fundamentals contained in our Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP).

I would also employ a “RAMP Analysis” of an event, which is again advocated by our “Policing Events” course. This assesses the **Routes** available at an event, the **Area** to be used, the **Movement** of people, and the demographic of **People** attending. Whilst there is some cross-over with the DIM ICE Model, it does provide a broader view of how an event may look and operate.

Finally, it is also beneficial for me to understand the contents of the Health and Safety Executive’s Purple Guide (PG) to Events. This comprehensive document contains advice, guidance, legal constraints and policies that an organiser would need to plan and manage an event safely.

On the 1st June 2026 I received an email from our Licensing department asking me to review a premises license application for an “Outdoor Event Space, Bassingthorpe Lane, Rotherham, S61 4QW”. The application included a very broad list of activities they wished to host on their 6 acre site, including “glamping, corporate events, outdoor plays, outdoor cinema screenings, and outdoor live music events and festivals”. It stated it had 200 car park spaces and could accommodate 3000 people, and it’s access to the site is via a single entrance which is approximately 15 meters wide and “therefore able to accommodate any emergency vehicle that may need access”.

Unable to visit the site personally, I searched for the site on “Google Street View”. This is obviously a less desirable option than in person, but is normally quite accurate within certain timescales. I

Signature: PC 680 Phil Reed

Signature Witnessed by:

concede though that changes to the roads may have occurred recently that have not been recorded by Google technology.

I was immediately struck by just how narrow and long Bassingthorpe Lane is. It is a single lane stretch of road that appears to be only able to accommodate one vehicle's width. In fact, the images from "Street View" clearly show a car having to pull into the bushes to allow a lorry to pass it.

Ordinarily I would expect to be provided detailed Event Management Plans on an event-specific basis which would show how various risks and problems would be mitigated against. Indeed, the application does commit to providing such in the future but I am effectively blind as to what those plans are in the meantime. I did however lose a degree of confidence in the application itself when it stated that access to the site was "approximately 15 metres wide". At best I thought this comment was naive, but it remains extremely misleading regardless. It completely overlooks the narrow, single track road that is Bassingthorpe Lane itself which is significantly less than 15 metres wide.

In the absence of detailed plans, I am left to imagine an event of 3000 people, with only 200 parking spaces on-site, and a long narrow road being the only ingress and egress. It is reasonable to assume that without significant mitigation, people would park along that track rather than walk. Even if it were kept clear of parking, the volume of traffic potentially queuing for, or leaving the site would dramatically hinder any emergency response to the site. For this reason, and in the absence of any mitigations, I am forced to object on behalf of South Yorkshire Police to the application in the interests of public safety in the event of an emergency.

Perhaps superseding even this is the fact that Bassingthorpe Lane leads directly through a large chemical manufacturing plant called "Victrex" on Gin House Lane. I understand that this is an

Signature: PC 680 Phil Reed

Signature Witnessed by:

Upper Tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site. Part of the emergency plans under COMAH regulations are that, in the event of an accident, the site will activate a loud alarm siren, which signals to premises (business and residential) within the Public Information Zone (PIZ), that immediate actions need to be taken (Vitrex provide all premises within the PIZ with the appropriate literature), which includes the immediate closure of all windows and doors to prevent toxic vapours from entering premises. Ultimately, any accident could result in full evacuation of the PIZ or wider area. Indeed, within the emergency plan, it specifically notes the persons most at risk in the event of an accident are staff on site and people within the immediate surrounding areas, or the public information zone (PIZ), which is 1km in all directions of the site. The proposed license application is within this 1km zone.

On 25.06.2026 I contacted the Business Fire Safety Inspecting Officer at South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Sally Strutt, to establish her professional view of the proposed site. In an email back to me she stated, "we would have huge concerns about this just regarding its location to Vitrex alone".

In the interests of both brevity and my collapsing timeframe for an objection, I will end here but suffice to say I still have other concerns about the site based on public safety, public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm. There is simply not enough detail in the application at present to mitigate my concerns.

Signature: PC 680 Phil Reed

Signature Witnessed by: