

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)

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Statement of **John Lindley Crapper**

Age if under 18 Over 18 (If over 18 insert "over 18") Occupation: **Police Inspector**.....

This statement (consisting of 2 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.

Signature *J L Crapper* (witness) Date: 23/04/25

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

I am a Police Inspector within South Yorkshire Police, currently stationed at Riverside House, Main Street as part of the Central Rotherham Neighbourhood Policing Team.

My role in part is to oversee the investigation of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and other long-term problem solving activity. Part of this is to monitor the standard of how licensed premises conduct themselves, with particular focus on the four core licensing objectives:

1. Prevention of crime and disorder
2. Prevent Public Nuisance.
3. Public Safety.
4. Safeguarding of Children

I am aware that Britannia Inn Shop on Lindley Street is currently seeking to obtain a premises licence for the sale of alcoholic drinks. This premises was formerly known as Mario's Mini Market, Lindley Street.

Contact which is made to South Yorkshire Police is recorded on a computer database called Smart Contact. I have reviewed calls which have been made to South Yorkshire Police and have identified the following calls which are of interest:

SYP-20240513-0306 – reports of 50 to 60 people getting drunk outside a shop called Marios on Lindley Street. They set up tables which blocked the pavement. This is a regular issue, particularly at the weekend in good weather.

SYP-20240526-0440 – intimidating men sat drinking at a table on the pavement outside the Britannia Shop on Lindley Street. They were staring at the caller when she walked past. Incidentally, two hours later, officers attended but did not find that the men were drinking alcohol.

SYP-20240609-0446 – People outside Marios supermarket, singing and drinking. Caller needs to walk in the road when she passes them. The caller was adamant that they were drinking alcohol, which could be smelled when the caller walked past.

SYP-20240622-0005 – 20 to 30 people outside a shop on Lindley street, singing, drinking alcohol, urinating in the park. It is a regular problem.

SYP-20240626-1049 – Staff from RMBC reporting about 10 to 15 adult males drinking in a public park opposite Mario's Mini Market. The caller could not be sure that they were associated with Marios but noted

Signature: *J L Crapper*..... Signature Witnessed by:

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that there were a lot of people hanging around outside the shop drinking.

SYP-20241019-0771 – Report that the caller has been told that Mario’s is selling alcohol without a licence.

I am also aware of a further incident which occurred on the afternoon of Friday the 28th of June 2024. PC 628 Wykes reported that he was on patrol in the Eastwood area, in plain clothes. Outside the Mario’s Mini Market, he observed several males consuming alcohol from open bottles and then a male joined them who was consuming what appeared to be beer, in a plastic pint glass.

PC Wykes entered the store and found a keg of draught beer, connected to a carbon dioxide cylinder and a pump, in order to enable the immediate dispensing of beer.

Serving in the shop were Sandra TANKOSOBA and Milada TANCOSOVA.

PC Wykes later interviewed a Lukas TANKOS, date of birth 4/6/92 of 96 Whiteways Road, Sheffield. He had previously identified himself as being the manager of the store. Mr TANKOS later pleaded guilty at court to the offence of exposing alcohol for unauthorised sale by retail.

I am also aware that on the 3rd of November 2024, members of my team entered Mario’s Mini Market, due to concerns that the store was selling fireworks that they did not have the correct fire safety authorisation to store the fireworks. They again found quantities of alcohol inside the shop. This consisted of various brands of bottles of spirits which were contained on shelves under the counter in the shop. They could not be seen by customers but were readily accessible by members of staff who served customers. Also within the shop were unopened packets of prescription only medicine, some of which were class C controlled drugs. These were on open display, on shelves behind where the staff stood.

During the time that the above incidents took place, the Lindley Street area was part of a Public Spaces Protection Order. This had certain conditions in place which included the condition to not consume alcohol or to possess an open container which purports to contain alcohol in a public place. It also has a condition which prohibits people from acting in a drunken manner, which may include being loud, intimidating or incapable.

I have been informed that the business which is making this fresh application is owned by Marion Tancos and that he was the owner of the store before it was subjected to a closure order. I note that this is the same surname as Lukas TANKOS and appears to be the same family name as Sandra Tankosoba and Milada Tancosova. I am understandably concerned that although the named individual who is the figurehead of the shop may change, the culture and ethics by which the shop is run will not, if there is no clean break from the same group of individuals who are involved in the running of the shop.