

Statement of witness:	Angela Seaward
Occupation of witness:	Senior Licensing Officer
Date:	12 th May 2016

This Statement, consisting of 3 pages 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.

I am employed as the Senior Licensing Officer overseeing the licensing function for Swale Borough Council. As part of my role we are working closely with licensed premises carrying out compliance checks and as an Authority we support Better for Business to help promote safer night time economy. We work alongside premises in the Borough to help them grow and change the way in which regulation is delivered and received, therefore helping them comply with the Licensing Act 2003.

A meeting was arranged with the current DPS Mr Bradley Wright on 15th January at 9:30am following a conversation with Mr Bradley Wright and myself on the possibility of extending the licensable hours. It was suggested that a joint visit take place together with Kent Police and Kent Fire to get all the correct advice and guidance to support the club. I contacted PC Holroyd who was happy to discuss the matter with Mr Bradley Wright and advised that on the face of things they couldn't see a problem as there had been no reported issues. Mr Bradley Wright expressed his concerns, at the meeting, that he didn't wish to trade later than 01:30 as he felt that trading later would leave the premises at a high risk of having incidents and did not wish the club to go backwards as he has spent the last year improving the club and changing the clientele since he took over. It was left that Mr Bradley Wright would contact the Licensing Authority if he wished to extend the half hour on a Friday and Saturday Night. Kent fire concluded their inspection and advised Mr Bradley Wright of a schedule of Works.

21.01.16 Kent Fire sent through the occupancy levels for the premises which were set at 300, whilst works were carried out.

22.01.16 Mr Bradley Wright advised that he had received two quotations for a fire risk assessment and was awaiting another two to be done week commencing 25.01.16 leaving him with 4 quotes to choose from.

27.02.16 Op pilot was carried out by Kent Police inviting the Licensing Authority to attend. This was to attend a number of premises in Sittingbourne and Sheerness. When Sittingbourne Snooker Club was visited we noticed some conditions on the Premises Licence were not being complied with. This was for potential entry after midnight and door staff not in hi-vis as stated on the licence.

Signed: _____

03.03.16 A meeting was held with Mr Bradley Wright following the visit on 27.02.16. An action plan was discussed to be put in place to cover all the areas needing to be addressed in order to be compliant with the Premises Licence. It was agreed that we would set a 4 month action plan and that I would issue a letter to confirm. This time frame was set as there would be building works required and some areas also covered works that were being carried out by the Fire Risk Assessment. I emailed a copy of the letter on 4.3.16 at 13:27 as shown as appendix (i)

04.03.16 PC Holroyd and I were in the town visiting another licensed premise, which at the time was on an action plan. After our inspection we visited Sittingbourne Snooker Club as PC Holroyd wanted to empty the drugs box. Whilst PC Holroyd was inside with Mr Bradley Wright I witnessed a gentleman leaving the premises with a glass in his hand. There were no door men on the front entrance as they were positioned at the top of the stairs. We left the premises and walked up the High Street, a group of males walking behind us were loud and hostile. We continued up the high street back to the previously visited premises to alert the door staff this group were on their way up the town; however the group then turned around and proceeded back down the high street towards the snooker club. PC Holroyd called CCTV and they confirmed that a fight had broken out at the bottom of the high street. PC Holroyd and I went back towards the Snooker Club where we see another gentleman had been hit just outside of the Snooker Club. The same gentleman who I had witness leaving the club with a glass was also there, now with no shirt on and what appeared to be a punctured wound on his side. A member of the door staff from Sittingbourne Snooker Club was outside at this point and another gentleman was shouting at him that he will lose his badge. The victim was being treated by street officers and PC Holroyd had to call for back up as the gentlemen with no shirt was being hostile in the road because someone had attacked him and his friend. A patrol car then arrived and defused the situation, both PC Holroyd and myself left the scene and no one pressed any charges. On the face of things we were unsure if control of the club had been lost but no formal investigation was suggested at this point.

15.03.16 I took a call from PC Cossar who advised that PC Holroyd was now on leave and that she was thinking of putting in a review following me witnessing a glass leaving the premises. It was also suggested that as I had witnessed the glass leaving I should call a review however I advised that we hadn't investigated and asked if the Police had looked at the CCTV? PC Cossar said the Police were too busy to collect the CCTV so I offered to obtain it and suggested if I should obtain details of procedures that the premises has in order for them to determine if they wanted to put forward a review. This was agreed and a copy of the action plan was also sent to them as requested.

18.03.16 A meeting was held with Mr Bradley Wright, Mark Hawkins Director of Star Protection and myself. We went through all processes of the club relevant to the 4 licencing objectives and I obtained the CCTV I had requested from Mr Bradley Wright. I was writing up a report for Kent police when a Review Application was submitted by DC Gill Angus on 21.03.16, as I had not yet sent the information or CCTV over to PC Cossar I ask DC Angus if she wanted this information still, as she had submitted the review. This was agreed and sent over on 22.01.16 at 09:12 as shown in appendix (ii)

Signed:

22.03.16 I discussed the matter with DC Angus as she had not been involved with the case, there appeared to be some confusion over the GBH incident, I advised I would obtain the details for her and the CCTV was also issued to DC Angus. She requested that the review application be withdrawn pending a possible re-submission of another review or possibility of requesting a Minor Variation to tidy up the conditions, as she wanted to talk to the office and review the information I had. The information was emailed on 24.03.16 as show as appendix (iii)

29.3.16 DC Angus emailed me to advise they still want the review application to go ahead unchanged and to send to responsible authorities. I requested the back page to be re-signed and dated as this affect the time scales.

30.03.16 DC Angus emailed back to advise that based on the information provided she is now re-writing the application which was then resubmitted on 31.03.16.

Mr Bradley Wright has continued to work with the Licensing Authority and has effectively addressed all the outstanding issues. The action plan that was issued on 4.03.16 is almost complete and to date there is only 1 item on the list left to be done which is to box in the toilet cistern to have no flat surfaces in the toilets upstairs.

Signed:

