

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

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Statement of: **Katherine Braithwaite**

Age if under 18: **Over 18**

Occupation: **Pc 824**

This statement (consisting of 4 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:

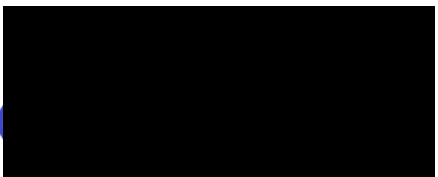
Date **16/02/2026**

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

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 I visited the convenience shop which is now trading as 'Deeping Local', 73 Manor Way, Deeping St James, Lincolnshire, PE6 8PX, in company with Sgt Amy Adams. The shop licenced under premises licence 6944 as 'Alisia Off Licence and Stores'.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Lincolnshire police submitted an objection to the transfer of the premises licence to a Nirusan Sivatharan, along with an objection to a vary DPS application into the name of the same individual. These had both been received on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

The full details regarding the objections are contained within documentation previously submitted to SKDC, but is based around concerns over who is truly in control of the premises.

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The findings from the visit on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 only add to our concerns regarding the management of the premises.

On arrival at the shop, we were met by a lone male shop worker who I will refer to as Mr A. He stated it was only his third week working at the shop and his fifth shift. Mr A stated he worked part time and did not have his own personal alcohol licence. When asked what training he had received in relation to age restricted products, he worryingly said 'none' but he had been trained on how to use to till. Staff training is conditioned within annex 2 of the premises licence. Mr A confirmed there were no written training records at all on site. When asked questions around an age verification policy the premises used, Mr A did quote the Challenge 25 policy but was unconvincing when asked to explain what he understood in relation to the policy, for example what types of identification could be accepted.

When asked if the premises used a refusals or incident book, Mr A stated they did not exist. It was also noted that the CCTV monitor within the shop displayed cameras that provided no meaningful coverage of the shop and its exterior (*see exhibit KB/02*). Mr A confirmed he has no access at all to the system.

Mr A only knew his employer as 'Niv', who had taken over the shop around 2 months ago, and did not know any further details for him other than his mobile number. He stated that he did not know who else worked at the shop other than 'Niv' and his brother, who he only knew as 'Nish'.

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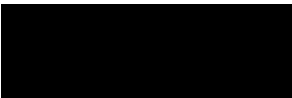
When Mr A was asked further about the hours that he worked, he stressed that was not permitted to work anymore than 16 hours a week but was very vague about the actual hours he worked on what days. For example, he couldn't recall what hours he had worked during recent days and said he had been handed the shop keys that morning, arrived at 0730hrs that morning to open up at 0800hrs, but had no idea who he would be handing over to during the day and at what time. This vagueness felt very strange and gave the impression the premises was disorganised in its operations.

Whilst inspecting some invoices located within the premises, we were concerned to find Booker Cash and Carry invoices in the customer name / company of Mr Kugenthiran Kugathas.

Concerns regarding Mr Kugathas' involvement with the premises have been documented within our previous objection bundles provided to SKDC. Photographs of these invoices were taken (*see exhibit KB/01*), and show that purchases of grocery items, alcohol and tobacco products were made using the account of Mr Kugathas on three occasions, on the dates of 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 13<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

It was interesting to see that Mr Sivatharan has clearly got his own Bookers account which is linked to the premises, and has used it to purchase products and invoices dated the 11<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 evidence this (*see exhibit KB/01*).

A further invoice for Bestway Wholesale was photographed for a purchase of grocery items, alcohol and tobacco products on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026 in the customer name of Mr Kugathas

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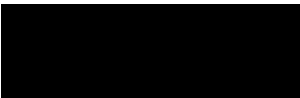
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with the customer account address of 73 Manor Way Superstores, PE6 8PX (see exhibit KB/03).

Two unopened letters addressed to Mr Kugathas were also photographed at the premises (see exhibit KB/01 page 10).

These findings support the concern that Mr Kugathas still is involved with the premises.

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