

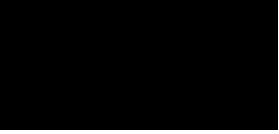
WITNESS STATEMENT

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 6 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 **03/10/2025**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am the above named person employed as a Police Constable within Lincolnshire Police. I currently work in the Alcohol Licensing Team and predominantly cover the North and South Kesteven District areas of the county.

This statement is in relation to a convenience shop trading as Manor Way Superstore, 73 Manor Way, Deeping St James, Lincolnshire, PE6 8PX which is licenced under premises licence 6944 as 'Alisia Off Licence and Stores'.

In November 2025 Lincolnshire Police received two reported incidents alleging a shop worker at the premises had behaved inappropriately with separate girls, on two different occasions within one week of one another. The description provided on the reports, suggested it was the same male shop worker involved with both incidents.

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One report alleges that females under the age of 16yrs old had entered the premises attempting to buy alcohol, and the worker said “*only if you show me your boobs and give me your Snapchat*”. It is unknown whether the females carried out these requests, but the females were reported as having left the shop in possession of alcohol.

The second report was made by a parent of a 14yr old girl. It was described that the shop worker had made comments to their child dressed in school uniform which had been interpreted as an effort to try and groom her and made the child feel uncomfortable. It is also alleged that the worker asked for the girl’s Snapchat details.

Following the first police report, I emailed the male I believed was the PLH and DPS, a Mr Veluppillai Alvappillai, requesting CCTV footage so an investigation could commence. I received an email back from Mr Alvappillai on the 5th November 2025 stating he was no longer the owner of the shop and advised me to contact the current owner. I replied, explaining that the police had not received any variations of the premises licence, and as such he remained PLH and DPS. When asked for further details of the new owner, Mr Alvappillai replied stating he did not have the details he could pass me. Mr Alvappillai stated he sold the lease for the business on the 18th June 2025 and his last day of trading was the 17th June 2025. When I asked if he had any discussion with the new owner regarding the premises licence, Mr Alvappillai stated ‘*I did inform the new owner of the premises licence and he confirmed that he was aware of it*’.

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On the 5th November 2025, I made SKDC Licensing Officer Chris Clarke aware of the email conversation with Mr Alvappillai. Chris agreed he would pay the premises a visit on the 7th November 2025. The visit was made, and the premises was instructed to stop selling alcohol immediately and to remove it from sale, or at least fully cover it up as they did not have a premises licence.

Later that same day, at approximately 1400hrs, a uniformed police officer attended the premises to follow-up the police reports. I viewed the officers body worn footage of his interactions with the male shop worker and took a screenshot of his image. Based on the description passed in both incidents reported to the police, it seemed very plausible that he was the suspect referred to. He was the only member of staff in the shop at the time of the visit. The shop doors were open, implying the premises was open for business, despite the male stating he didn't work there. He was seen moving alcohol stock around and entering behind the counter. The male would only provide his first name, despite being challenged multiple times for his surname and was unconvincing when providing a date of birth. Although a small amount of alcohol had been removed from sale, there was still a significant amount of alcohol still visible on display. It is a criminal offence to expose alcohol for sale without a licence under Section 127 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The attending officer remained at the premises approximately 35 minutes, awaiting the arrival of the new owner Mr Kugathas. On arrival, the shop worker had reassured the officer that his boss Mr Kugathas was "*just around the corner*" and was on his way. After waiting a substantial amount of time, the officer had to resume his duties without having spoken to Mr Kugathas.

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Statement of: **Katherine Braithwaite**

On the 12th November 2025 Lincolnshire Police received a transfer application for the premises to a Mr Kugenthiran Kugathas born 09/04/1985, and on the 13th November 2025, a vary DPS application to the same individual.

On the 13th November 2025 I made contact with Mr Kugathas to arrange a meeting with him at the premises. We agreed to meet on Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 1300hrs. I arrived a few minutes early for the appointment and was met by two males inside the shop. I will refer to these males as Mr P and Mr T. They both stated they worked in the shop and provided me with their details. Mr T described himself as the brother of Mr Kugathas. Mr Kugathas then arrived a short time later and Mr T disappeared.

My meeting with Mr Kugathas lasted well over one hour and Mr P remained present throughout. Mr P had initially stated on my arrival that he was the manager of Mr Kugathas and he was helping Mr Kugathas, who did not really have much knowledge of licensing. Mr P tried to answer a lot of the questions that I posed to Mr Kugathas, and seemed to me to be more in control of the business than Mr Kugathas. When questioned further about Mr P's role, he then stated he was just an employee of Mr Kugathas and was not financially involved in the business.

When I questioned Mr Kugathas regarding who worked at the premises. He stated, himself, his brother Mr T, Mr P, his wife and another male who I will refer to as Mr V, who sometimes helped him out. He claimed Mr V did not work at the shop, but admitted he was left alone in the premises. Mr T and Mr Kugathas confirmed that Mr V had been the lone worker at the premises

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during the dates/times the two police incidents had been reported recently. I also showed the officer's body worn footage image of the lone shop worker encountered during the visit on the 7th November 2025, and they both confirmed this was Mr V. I explained that Mr V would be classed as 'a worker' and should be treated as such. Mr Kugathas stated he did not pay Mr V but gave him food and accommodation. This is typical behaviour of an employer employing an illegal worker.

When I asked Mr Kugathas what Right to Work checks he conducted on Mr V, he said had not completed any, nor did he have any other records of him. It took a substantial amount of time for Mr Kugathas to provide me with Mr V's full details and he was unable to provide me with a full address for him. I was unconvinced that I had actually been provided with the correct details for Mr V.

I asked Mr Kugathas how he ensured his staff had the correct Right to Work, and he could not really provide a confident answer that correct processes were followed. When asked if he had any documentation relating to Right to Work checks he could show me, he could not provide any.

I questioned Mr Kugathas around licensing matters and his responses raised further concerns. He was unable to quote the four licensing objectives correctly, stated he had no written staff training records, did not have an incident book to present and could not access his own CCTV system.

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Mr Kugathas confirmed that he had opened the premises at the end of June and began selling alcohol. He stated there had been a few weeks of closure for around 23 days but it had then re-opened. Mr Kugathas stated he was unaware that the licence transfer had not gone through until the visit by SKDC on the 7th November. When I asked why he had continued to trade in the months before the visit without a licence, Mr Kugathas gave a convoluted story in which he ultimately passed responsibility back to the previous licence holder and landlord for failing to ensure the licence was transferred correctly. It is an offence under Section 136 of the Licensing Act 2003 to carry on licensable activity on a premises otherwise than under and in accordance with an authorisation.

Following my visit to the store, Mr V's details were checked through all police systems and Immigration and no trace could be found of this male. For Immigration not to have a record of Mr V is very unusual. Immigration have also confirmed that Mr T has never had the Right to Work (*see appendix B*).

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