

Witness Statement

(Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, r27.1(1);
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s5A(3)(a) and s.5B)

Statement of Craig Coleman

Age if under 18. Over 18.

Occupation Licensee

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 in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 18th day of January 2017

Tick if witness evidence is

visually recorded

(supply witness details on rear)

Signature

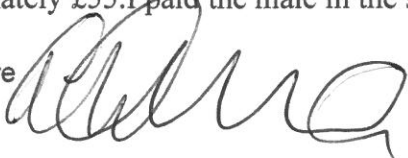


I am Craig Coleman and currently reside at the address stated overleaf. On Thursday 24th November 2016 I went to the Al amir, 37 Talbot Road, Blackpool with my partner Alec to order some takeaway food. We ordered about 6 main meals with an intention of taking some home to freeze for a later date as we live out at Wrea Green.

We entered the restaurant about 5.10pm, I remember the time distinctly as I looked at my watch on entry and also noted that they only opened at 5pm. There were 2 Asian males inside the premises who stood towards the back, one I assumed to be the chef as he was wearing a light coloured Lab Coat and the other man was wearing a black trousers and a black shirt.

The male in the black shirt and trousers approached us and asked if we wanted a table, I replied that I needed to place an order for a takeaway adding that I knew they had only just opened and that my food order would be quite large. The male in the shirt agreed that there would be no problem with that and went behind the bar where he took a note of our order. The other male who I assumed was the chef went into the kitchen area. As the man in the black shirt was writing our order he added the price next to the item without referring to a menu or price list. He then asked if we would like a drink while we wait as it would take about 40 minutes. I ordered 4 lamb baltis, 2 chicken tikka masalas, 1 mushroom pilau rice, 1 x chips, 1 garlic naan and 2 chapatis which came to approximately £55. I paid the male in the shirt who then took our order to the kitchen.

Signature



Signature witnessed by

He returned a short time later where I then ordered 1 pint of larger and 1 pint of larger shandy and paid for the drinks separately to the food.

We spoke to the man in the shirt as he stood behind the bar for a few minutes where we passed comment about the fact that there was no decent Indian Restaurants or takeaways near us. About 5 minutes after we had been served our drinks, a group of people came through the front door one of which I recognised as Mark Marshall who I know through my role as a Licensee, he was in company of a female police officer in uniform and 2 other males dressed in plain clothes, he greeted us as he passed, and then introduced himself and the group to the man in the black shirt, he explained that a licensing check would be done along with some sampling of the bar products and also that the staff details would be checked to do some Immigration checks. A male I presumed to be from Immigration asked how many staff was on the premises and where they were, the male in the black shirt showed the immigration officer to the kitchen area where they disappeared from sight for a minute. He then came out of the kitchen walking in front of the Immigration Officer. The male walked past us quite casually as we were sat at the bar. I then turned to see that he was still walking quite slowly towards the door. When the male was close to the front door, he suddenly bust into action and grabbed the front door, flinging it open and ran out of the premises. I remember the Immigration Officer shouting out that "he has just ran and nearly got knocked over by a bus".

We waited about a further 20 minutes or so where our food was then delivered to us as at the bar by the chef, we saw no additional staff members whilst we were there and the bar area was essentially not staffed after the male in the black shirt ran away.

Signature



Signature witnessed by