

Witness Statement

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of **Kirsty ASHWORTH**

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Age if under 18 **over 18** (if over 18 insert "over 18"). Occupation **Police Community Support Officer**

This statement (consisting of 3 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 **14** day of **08** **2018**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded
(supply witness details on rear)Signature *K Ashworth 7612*

I am Police Community Support Officer 7612 Kirsty Ashworth. I have been in this role almost 10 years. I have worked on the Bloomfield wards for just over 1 year. Prior to this I covered the Marton and Clifton Wards of Blackpool South. My role as a PCSO involves dealing with low level crime and Anti-social Behaviour but my main responsibility is being a visible presence in my area conduction community re-assurance and being a point of contact for residents.

I am writing this statement in respect of the licence application for the property of 190-192 Central Drive.

The area that this address falls on to is my beat area, where I work as a Police Community Support Area. I cover the ward area of Bloomfield, which is broken down into three respective areas. 190-192 Central Drive falls on the ward we refer to as Bloomfield 1. This area is densely populated with a lot of HMO's and social housing. Up until recently the area fell in to the top 5 of the most deprived areas of Europe. The problems in the area being that of poverty, alcohol misuse, other substance misuse, mental health issues and social issues. A lot of funding has been put in to the area to help with some of these issues, but on a day to day basis these are the issues I still see, deal with on my area.

Bloomfield as a ward contributes heavily to the demand seen on Blackpool South Section.

Between 01/01/2018 and 31/07/2018, there were 1687 incidents of ASB on South, 491 of these

Signature *K Ashworth 7612*

Signature witnessed by

the day and into the night, which would then result in calls to services. Being, to police for ASB/offences being committed or, ambulance re the health of the individuals. In regards to the residents at Ibbison Court, I believe that a lot would be concerned about another business selling alcohol in an area they already feel there are too many.

My final concern about this application is its location. As mentioned there are already numerous other licenced businesses in very close proximity, but this one in particular is very close to a child's play park which is well used by local young children. There is a public house next to this park, however people accessing the public house, generally stay within the confines of the property and children cannot enter alone. The park however still provides a place for anyone purchasing alcohol locally to sit and consume it. I appreciate that this can still be done from the other premises on Central Drive, however this one would be the closest. We found that the business that used to operate at this location, which was licenced, did close not long after the removal of the benches, giving the thought that it was a key part in the problems on the court area in particular. These problems do still exist, but on a smaller scale and my concern adding yet another Licence business on this stretch road will exacerbate these issues and also affect the concerned residents. *KAW 7612* _____

Signature *KAW 7612*

Signature witnessed by