

RESTRICTED (when complete)

CLEVELAND POLICE

WITNESS STATEMENT

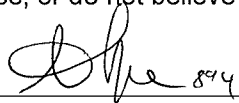
(CJ Act 1967, s9 MC Act 1980, ss5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, r.27.1(1))

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Statement of **Andrew THORPE**

Age if under 18 **Over 18** (If over 18 insert "Over 18") Occupation **Police Constable 0894**

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

Signature **Andrew Thorpe**  Date: **10/02/2022**

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

I am a serving police officer with Cleveland Police. I am currently stationed with the Licensing Support Unit at Middlesbrough Police HQ.

Part of my role as a licensing support officer is to monitor licensed premises within Hartlepool and Stockton districts, to ensure that the numerous premises within those areas are trading within the spirit of the licensing objectives and are doing everything their can to promote them

Cleveland Police provide this statement in response to a licensing application that has been received, that relates to an on licensed premise known as the Porky Pint, which is situated on Mill Lane, Billingham. The application is requesting that the current Designated premises supervisor, a male called Benjamin Orchard is replaced by a male called Paul Henderson. The initial application shows Public Safety as a basis for objection, this was ticked in error on the digital form and should be disregarded.

Signature  Signature Witnessed by _____

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Cleveland Police object to this application for the following reasons,

On the 6th of July 2021, a review hearing for this premise was held in front of Stockton Council's licensing committee, the review process for this premise was initiated by Cleveland Police, Stockton Council's licensing unit and Stockton Council's trading standards department. The reasons for bringing about the review hearing, which are detailed in much more depth within statements from Cleveland Police, Stockton Council's licensing unit and Stockton Council's trading standards department submitted for the review hearing, showed that Paul Henderson, who owns the premise and was the Designated premises Supervisor at the time, had shown a complete disregard for the Governments rules surrounding licensed premises during the worldwide Coronavirus pandemic, he refused to comply with any of the Coronavirus lockdown regulations, which in part had been brought in to save life and kept the premise open for business. During that time and this is also documented within the statements already submitted, it was discovered that Paul Henderson was not complying with the conditions on the premises licence, namely, the condition surrounding CCTV.

As a result of the evidence presented, Stockton Council's licensing committee revoked the premises licence forthwith.

As a result of the decision to revoke the premises licence, Paul Henderson submitted an appeal to Teesside magistrate's court; this has not been heard yet. Given the fact that the appeal is still pending, the premise is allowed to open and operate as normal.



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After the review hearing and on the 27th of September 2021, Benjamin Orchard replaced Paul Henderson as the Designated Premises Supervisor. Of note, The Porky Pints premises Licence is held under the company name of The Porky Pint Ltd, for which Paul Henderson is the sole director.

Cleveland Police are opposed to Paul Henderson becoming the Designated premises Supervisor because he showed a complete disregard for the legislation which the Government implemented to safeguard the public from a devastating pandemic which has been responsible for the deaths of many thousands and left even more with serious ongoing health issues, he did not want to listen to advice from the various Officers that attended his premise when he was blatantly flouting Government rules and regulations or even acknowledge the legality of the coronavirus legislation. Accompanied with the failure to fully comply with the conditions positioned on the Premise Licence, all of which resulted in Stockton Councils licensing Committee decision to revoke the premises licence. We ask that the committee to refuse this application, as Paul Henderson has repeatedly shown his refusal to abide by the Governments legislation and to adhere to the conditions on the premises licence, which he himself agreed to.

In Cleveland Police's opinion, the granting of this application will undermine the licensing objectives, as Paul Henderson has repeatedly shown that he does not promote them.

Handwritten signature of Andrew Thorpe, dated 8/9/21.

