


RESTRICTED – (When complete)					
DURHAM CONSTABULARY	Form MG11(T) <small>(rev'd. June 04)</small>				
Witness Statement					
<small>(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss 5A (3)(a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r70)</small>					
<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50px;">URN</td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> </tr> </table>		URN			
URN					
Statement of Nicola Forster					
Age if under 18 over 18 <small>(if over 18 insert 'over 18')</small>	Occupation: Business Support Manager				
<p>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.</p>					
Signature: N. Forster	Date: 1 st March 2012				
<p>Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded <input type="checkbox"/> (supply details on rear)</p> <p>I am a business support manager within Darlington Local Safeguarding Children's Board, a role I have held for the past five years. The Local Safeguarding Children's Board is the responsible authority for the protection of children from harm objective of the Licensing Act 2003.</p> <p>On January 24th 2012, I received an e-mail from Sgt. Kelly of the Police Licensing Unit. Sgt. Kelly raised concerns over a planned 16+ night to be held at The Grange, a licensed premises in Darlington. Particular concern surrounded various comments on the promotional Facebook page, which included encouragement to consume alcohol before the event. I recall one comment was "feel free to come of your barnet".</p> <p>Subsequently, together with Sgt. Kelly and PCSO McAllister, I attended The Grange at 10 a.m. on Monday 30th January 2012. We met with the licensee, a man I now know to be David Storer. Mr Storer confirmed that a party was arranged for the night of Wednesday February 15th 2012. Mr Storer stated the premises had held at least three previous events from just prior to Christmas. He stated the events appeared to be getting larger and that he had had to revise his security arrangements. Mr Storer did confirm that the parties including this event were organised by a third party, but that the premises had a close liaison with them.</p> <p>In evidence of the premises' response to the increasing number of attendees and issues identified by himself and staff, Mr Storer listed the measures undertaken to promote the licensing objectives.</p> <p>He stated that now six SIA- registered door supervisors were employed, two of which were now located at the top and bottom of the stairs to prevent congestion. He also stated that now it was policy that no re-entry would be allowed in order to control potential alcohol consumption by attendees outside their control and then returning to the premises.</p> <p>In addition, I was provided with a written list of measures employed (NF1). These included entry requirements, including bag searches, production of valid photographic ID by all attendees and the issuing of tamper-proof coloured wristbands to all those entering. Mr Storer stated the colours for those under 18, and those 18 and over, would be decided on the day, and doorstaff on the gate would be responsible for issuing and placing armbands on those attending.</p>					
Signature: N. Forster	Signature witnessed by:				
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Continuation of Statement of: Nicola Forster

Mr Storer also covered management issues inside the venue. He stated that no alcohol would be sold to anyone with no armband, that anyone with an armband that appeared to have been tampered with, or with a relevant armband but appeared underage, would be asked for relevant ID by the bar staff. If no ID was supplied, the armband would be confiscated and details placed in the underage register. Persons with no armband attempting to buy alcohol or drinking alcohol would have drink removed and warned re ejection if repeated.

Mr Storer stated all drinks would be served in plastic glasses, with only one alcoholic drink served at a time, staff being vigilant with regard to the time taken to return for another drink.

When asked about the numbers of people who were to attend the event, Mr Storer stated that it was 350 people. He said it was a strictly private event not open to the public and that the tickets would not be available on the door. He confirmed the event was not being advertised on the premises website. Mr Storer was very laidback in his demeanour when advised of police and Safeguarding concerns as to the risk of harm to children and the potential for crime and disorder.

Sgt. Kelly questioned Mr Storer about what arrangements were in place to deal with persons whether or not under 18 who attended clearly intoxicated. He confirmed that if found inside they would be ejected and would be turned away at the door if smelling of alcohol or showing symptoms of being drunk. Sgt. Kelly advised him of his responsibilities to provide facilities for such people as a duty of care, until they could be safely collected by a responsible adult or the police. Mr Storer confirmed there was no first-aid or "safe room" identified, he stated first-aid kits were located on both floors and the bar supervisor was first-aid trained.

Mr Storer was asked about provision of a female doorstaff member or toilet attendant, he stated he had neither, stating it was difficult to obtain a female SIA-registered doorstaff in Darlington. He stated toilets were checked every 20 minutes. Sgt. Kelly advised him to keep a written log of these checks. PCSO McAllister stated she would enquire on his behalf re a female supervisor. Sgt. Kelly expressed concern about the risks linked to the event, including the potential for disorder outside the premises by those attending the premises for the purpose of entering. Sgt. Kelly explicitly advised Mr Storer that any such disorder could well lead to a review of the premises licence. My impression was that Mr Storer understood the ramifications, but was confident in the arrangements made by the premises to manage the party.

During this discussion, I took written notes which I typed into a Word document later the same day, and which I produce at NF2. At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Storer stated he would not be present at the time of the event, but his business partner would be, and would liaise with the organiser 15 minutes prior to the event commencing at 8 p.m. He stated that previous events had had low bar sales and that in their experience this age-group (16-19 years) largely came to dance.

N. Forster

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

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The Grange

Private Party Predominantly Under 18,s**Security**

- 1 6 staff
- 2 Meet with organisers 15mins before event to familiarise organisers with door staff and answer any questions
- 3 2 staff at gate
 - 1 stationed in court yard
 - 1 stationed at bottom of stairs
 - 1 stationed at top of stairs
 - 1 stationed on balcony

Admission

- 1 All guests asked to show valid ID, Passport, driving licence, citizen card
- 2 Bag searches are a pre- requisite of admission
- 3 Anyone smelling of alcohol or seemingly intoxicated with out proof of age i.e. 18 and over will be refused admission
- 4 Anyone intoxicated even with proof of age will be refused admission
- 5 Anyone leaving the venue will be told that they are not allowed re-admission
- 6 Anyone with acceptable proof of age will have a tamper proof arm band put on by one of the party organisers at the gate (Arm band colours picked randomly on the day)

Consumption of drinks

- 1 Anyone without an arm band will not be served alcohol. If they try, valid ID will be requested and if not supplied details will be place in the bar under age register
- 2 Anyone with an arm band that seems to have been tampered with or still looks under age will be requested to show valid ID to the bar staff, if none is supplied the arm band will be confiscated and details placed in the under age bar register
- 3 Any one seen drinking without a valid arm band will have the alcoholic drink removed with a warning of a repeat offence will lead to ejection from the premises
- 4 Alcoholic drinks will only be served to valid customers one at a time with staff being vigilant regarding the time taken to return to the bar for another drink.

Additional safety

- 1 All drinks will be supplied in plastic glasses
- 2 Regular toilet checks will be carried out
- 3 Traffic between upstairs and down stairs will be regulated and the stair well will remain clear
- 4 At point of last track from DJ, all house lights will be brought up to allow safe egress of customer

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The Grange
51 Grange Road, Darlington, DL1 5PD

- Contact was made to the LSCB by licensing officer (Police), Sgt Tim Kelly on 24th January 2012.
- Concerns raised regarding the above property holding a 16+ night and the numerous comments etc being featured on facebook. Licensing was not aware of this event.
- It was agreed for a meeting to take place on 30th January 2012 with myself (nicola forster), Tim Kelly (police) and Mandy McAllister (police) to speak with the owner.
- Meeting held, owner confirmed that this would be the 4th event held. He was initially approached to hold a private birthday party and the number of attendees increased. He was later approached to hold future parties.
- The initial parties were a logistical nightmare, therefore they have increased the number of doorstaff and refused YP to leave and re-enter the premises as they were going out to buy alcohol.
- The event is private and not featured on their website.
- Maximum attendance 350.
- **Please refer to 'Private Party Predominantly Under 18's' checklist**
 - 6 door staff, 2 on front gate, 2 on stairs (top and bottom) and 1 court yard and 1 other)
 - Guest show appropriate ID's to get a coloured wrist band to allow them to purchase alcohol. Coloured decided on the day.
 - Any tampered wrist bands will be asked for ID (passport, driving licence etc) if they cannot provide appropriate ID they will be refused service and asked to leave.
 - If you leave the premises you are not allowed to come back in.
 - Anyone intoxicated will be refused entry, anyone found to be intoxicated within the premises will be asked to leave.
 - No safe room available where YP can wait to be collected.
 - Supervisor first aid trained, do not have male and female first aiders and no first aid room, but first aid kit located on both floors
 - Age range 16-19 years old.
 - Alcohol sold to 18-19 year olds
 - Low bar sales as YP mainly come for a dance.
 - No tickets etc bought on the night.
 - Not open to the public
 - Event 8pm to 12am.
 - No female door staff/toilet attendant
 - Toilets get checked every 20 min, but no recording log of toilet checks undertaken
 - It was agreed for both Licensing and Police to be notified 28 days prior to events taken place
- **Owner was informed and agreed that any anti social behaviour or underage drinking etc his licenses could be asked to be reviewed.**

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DURHAM CONSTABULARY


Form MG11

Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss5A (3)(a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of Mandy McAllister
Age if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Licensing Officer

This statement (consisting of one 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 willfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature:  Date: 12th March 2012

I am the above named person, employed by Durham Constabulary as a Licensing Officer stationed at Darlington.

On the 24th January 2012 I received information from a police colleague stating that an event was to be held at licensed premises called The Grange, Wellington Court Mews in Darlington. This was to be aimed at young persons from sixteen years of age upwards, and had been promoted via Face book.

I contacted the designated premise license holder, and arranged a meeting in order to discuss the event. On Monday 30th January 2012, Sgt Kelly, myself and Nicola Forster a representative from the local Safeguarding Children's board attended the venue and spoke with Mr David Storer.


Mr Storer confirmed that a party was arranged for Wednesday 15th February 2012, and stated that there had been previous events held at the venue without incident. He then that they had been a learning curve which had culminated in him writing a list of measures to be undertaken by the event organizer, a copy was given to Ms Forster.

Mr Storer stated that six door staff would be employed at the event, bag searches would be carried out, taper proof wristbands would be issued to all persons entering, with a different colour band being issued to persons over the age of 18 years of age, once an individual had produced photographic id. He stated that only one drink per person would be allowed, and would be served in a plastic glass. All wristbands would be checked at the bar and if found tampered with or the individual appeared to be underage, the wristband would be confiscated.

Sgt Kelly questioned Mr Storer regarding intoxicated persons attending the event and what provisions the premise had in place. Mr Storer stated that drunken persons would not be allowed entry, and if found inside the premise, they would be ejected. Sgt Kelly stated that

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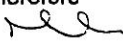
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as DPS he had responsibilities to provide facilities as part of a duty of care. Mr Storer stated that members of staff were first aid trained.

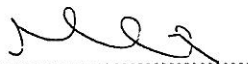
Mr Storer was informed that additional police resources would be sought as there were concerns with regards to potential for disorder with the event. Sgt Kelly stated that if any of the licensing objectives were undermined, robust action would be taken.

On the 16th February 2012 I was informed that the event had been closed early due to large numbers of persons attending. I spoke with Mr Storer on the telephone and arranged a meeting for 20th February 2012 in order to discuss the issues surrounding the event.

The meeting was held at Darlington police office with representatives from varying interested parties. Mr Storer and Mr Shaw attended from The Grange. Discussions took place surrounding the early closure of the party and subsequent events that that followed, including the policing of the large amounts of persons who attended the event.

Sgt Kelly advised Mr Storer and Mr Shaw that he considered the issues surrounding the event held at The Grange on 15th February 2012 to be of a serious nature, and therefore evidence would be collated in consideration of a possible review of the premise. 

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