### NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED DURHAM CONSTABULARY

Form MG11(T)

### Witness Statement

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

Statement of Timothy Mark Kelly

Age if under Over18

(if over 18 insert 'over 18').

Occupation: Police Officer 277

This statement (consisting of 1 page 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: - 27th February 2012

I am a Police Sergeant in Durham Constabulary, currently stationed at Darlington Police Office in the capacity of Licensing Sergeant, a role I have held since January 2006.

At 10am on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 I attended The Grange, 3-6 and 8 Wellington Court Mews together with PCSO Mandy Mc Allister (Licensing Enforcement Officer), and Nicola Forster (Business Support Officer) of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board.

The purpose for the visit was to meet with Mr David Storer, the Designated Premises Supervisor for The Grange, and discuss with him an event advertised on Facebook, the social networking site, as taking place at the venue on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2012. It was apparent that this event was a "party event" and that those aged 16 and over were able to attend. Mr Storer advised us that the venue had hosted a number of similar events since November 2011 including one organised by the same promoters as those behind the event scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup> 2012.

Mr Storer was advised by me of the concerns held by both the Police and Safeguarding board regarding events at which those under 18 would be mixing with those 18 years or over and for whom alcohol would be available for sale. Mr Storer was also advised by me that any premises holding such events would be held accountable for all linked anti social behaviour and/or the undermining of the Licensing Objectives.

Mr Storer proceeded to detail a list of measures carried out within the premises to both manage the event with regard to Crime and Disorder and to prevent the accessing of alcohol inside the premises by those attending the event and aged under 18 years. In addition Mr Storer provided a written list of measures to Nicola Forster of Safeguarding for her information.

I noted that Mr Storer indicated that a number of additional measures were now undertaken as a result of previous events though he also stated that these events had not been especially problematic. Theses measures included a policy of no re entry, the deployment of doorstaff at both the top and bottom of the stairs and also the use of polycarbonate glasses only. Mr Storer also stated he had advised the organisers that the event was to be limited to a maximum of 350 attendees and was to finish at 12 midnight and not later as had been requested. When I asked him why the event was to close at that time and not earlier he stated that it was to be held during school half term.

I advised Mr Storer that information from Facebook caused me concern with regards to the potential numbers of people expressing an interest in the event. I showed him a copy of the Atmosphere "Valentines Special" page (TMK1) which indicated that 386 people had stated they were to attend, 75 were possibly attending and over 1000 had been invited. I also highlighted the latest entry on the page which stated, "feel free to come off your Barnet". Mr Storer confirmed that ticketing was being handled by the promoters and not the premises and that the event was not advertised on the premise website, he stressed that no tickets were to be available on the door.

I specifically asked Mr Storer what arrangements had been made by the venue to deal with intoxicated attendees and pointed out the duty of care held by The Grange both for those who may arrive at the venue under the influence of alcohol and for those who may become drunk inside the venue. Mr Storer stated the policy would be to turn away those who presented as being drunk and to eject those found to be drunk inside the venue. I asked Mr Storer if he had made available a "safe area" where those drunk could be looked after until handed over to a responsible adult or the emergency services as deemed appropriate. He confirmed he had not but stated that a member of bar staff was first aid trained and that kits were available on both floors.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

16

#### NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED **DURHAM CONSTABULARY**

Form MG11A(T)

Continuation of Statement / Interview of: Timothy Mark Kelly

I confirmed with Mr Storer my concerns as to the potential for issues of drunkenness and disorder should the event proceed. I also advised him that I would have to seek additional Police resources being deployed as a result of those concerns and that should the event undermine any of the Licensing Objectives there would be a robust response from the Police. Mr Storer advised that he was not able to be present on the evening of February 15th 2012, but that his business partner Mr Shaw would be present to manage the event and to meet with the organisers before the doors would be opened.

I was on Annual Leave on the night of the event and discovered on my return to work on Monday 20th February 2012 that there had been serious issues around the event which had been closed soon after its commencement by Mr

I attended a previously arranged meeting on the afternoon of February 20th 2012, afternoon at Darlington Police Office with Mr Storer and Mr Shaw from The Grange, together with representatives from the Licensing Authority, Darlington Safeguarding Children's Board and the Police. The meeting provided the representatives an opportunity to discuss. from their perspective, the issues which had led to the early closure of the event and the subsequent high volume of youths in the Town Centre who required Policing issues for approximately a further two hours. It was apparent from this meeting that a significant number of youths over and above the stated capacity (described by Mr Storer as 450) had attended and who appeared to be in possession of valid tickets. This pressure and the heightened degree of frustration internally and externally was the reason the decision had been taken to close the venue.

I advised Mr Storer and Mr Shaw that the events of February 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 had been of a serious nature which could have potentially been much worse, and that I would be collating evidence prior to a decision being taken as to whether a review of the Premises Licence was proportionate in these circumstances.

It is the case that this premise had given some consideration to how they were to manage the event inside the venue, this being reflected in the written measures provided by Mr Storer at our meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2012. The problems encountered on the evening of February 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 were largely the result of the premise abnegating responsibility for promotion and ticketing to third parties. In this instance the main organiser being 16 years of age. As a result large numbers descended onto the premise, well in excess of stipulated numbers, many claiming to have valid tickets, and, unfortunately, many of whom had pre loaded with alcohol. The resultant attempt at dispersal led almost inevitably to large groups of youths across Darlington Town Centre with associated issues of disorder and additional policing requirements.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Signature witnessed by:

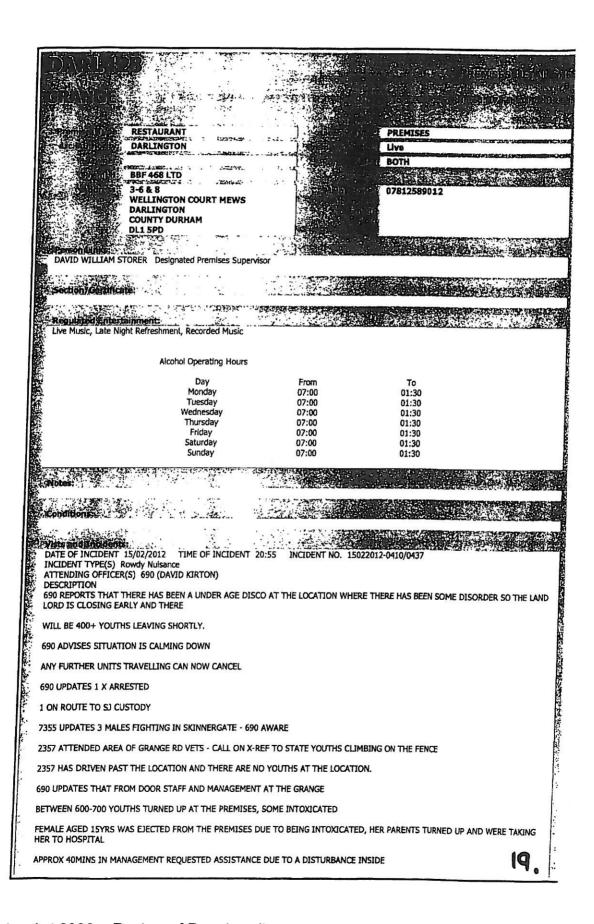
Signature: \_\_

# **APPENDIX 1B, cont**

K)	ATMOSPHERE	VALENTINES SPEC	CIAL! <b>II</b> 8PM - 1	12PM <b>1</b> 5.2.12!	Facebook Pag	ge 1 of
				Email	Password	Log in
	Sign Up Facebook h	elps you connect and share with	the people in your life.	C Keep me logged in	Forgotten your password?	
		ATMOSPHERE VALENT	INES SPECIAL! 8P	M - 12PM [		
		Wednesday, 15 February 2012 The Grange	20:00 until 00:00			
		THIS NEWEST STUDENT EVENT H WITH THE BIGGEST PARTIES YOU		ERY 2 MONTHS!		
		So lets begin with whats in store  * Give Aways  * LIVE Filming Crew				
	Going (3B5)	<ul> <li>▼ Confetti Cannons</li> </ul>				
	4 1 1	y Full Valentines Club Decor  y Balkoon Drops  y A Lazer Show + An out of this w  y An amazing 500+ Capacity Venu  y				
	Maybe (75)	<ul> <li>Professional Videographers &amp; Phe Courlesy Of http://www.lamvip.co.</li> </ul>	otographers			
	4. 1 1 1	Music on the night will be supplied	19010)			
	Invited (1,004)	WRISTBAND INFORMATION				
		TICKETS GO ON SALE ON WEDNES THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE!	SDAY 11TH JANUARY! AND CAN E	SE BOUGHT OFF ANY OF		

De Atmosphere Team V	
FEEL FREE TO COME OFF YOUR BARNET. 13 hours ago	
View all 4 comments	
No don't:)	r.
Oust drink for me :/	.1
I have no Uckers left unless the reserved ones don	( no -)

18.



# **APPENDIX 1B, cont**

ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO CLEAR PREMISES

PREMISES CLEARED, HOWEVER THERE WERE SOME FIGHTS IN THE AREA.

APPROX 300 YOUTHS HAVE DISPERSED TO MCDONALDS WHERE OFFICERS ARE REMAINING ON SCENE