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**DURHAM CONSTABULARY**

**Witness Statement**

(CJ Act 1987, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss5A (3)(a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r70)

Statement of: Gareth Iain Hopps

Age if under 18 ☐ Over 18 ☐ (if over 18 insert 'over 18' ) Occupation: Police Constable 1800

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.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 15/02/2012

I am Police Constable 1800 of Durham Constabulary, currently stationed at Darlington Police Office.

At 2110 hours on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012, I was on duty in full police uniform performing mobile patrol duties in a marked police vehicle. It was at this time I attended Grange Road, Darlington, outside the Grange Public house at the request of Sgt. 690 CURTAIN. I was aware that a youth party had been arranged at the Grange and many more people arrived than could be accommodated inside the pub, as such the party was ended and the venue shut down. As a result of this there were hundreds of male and female youths in Grange Road. I would approximate about 400 youths who were congregated. Most of the youths were stood in the road, blocking traffic from passing, so I assisted with keeping the road clear by asking persons to stand on the pavement. I was doing this for about twenty minutes, without any incident, most of the youths were complaint and followed instructions without any fuss or question.

I then approached a male youth who I now know to be [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was wearing a blue t-shirt, denim jeans and black laced plimsoles. [REDACTED] was stood in the middle of the road with three or four other male youths, I approached the group and said; "Can you move out of the road and on to the pavement please?" [REDACTED] had his back to me and did not move I was close enough and spoke loudly enough that I was sure that he heard me and was ignoring me. I approached him again and placed my hand on his side and again requested that he moved. I could feel the he tensed his body and pushed against my hand, he then turned and looked me directly in my face and shouted "Fuck off!" He had an aggressive expression on his face, and it was clear to me that he knew that I was a police officer. I was shocked at being subject of such language from a 15 year old. I approached [REDACTED] to sternly warn him about using such language, at which point he started to walk backwards away from me and again shouted at me "Fuck off! Who the fuck are you!" at this point a number of his friends started grabbing him and trying to pull him away, I had decided that his behavior and language was unacceptable so intended to arrest him for section 5 public order act, using threatening abusive and insulting words and behavior, so I approached him in order to place him under arrest and place him in handcuffs. As I got to him and took a hold of his arm, he pulled it away

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Continuation Statement of: Gareth Iain Hopps

vigorously and again people who were around him started to grab him and were attempting to pull him away from me.

I could hear voices in the crowd shouting "Calm down" "calm down" I also heard females screaming, in the crowd. At this point the situation was becoming dangerous, I was surrounded by a large group who were trying to get away from me, and had a hold of him and was trying to handcuff him. At one point a person in the crowd grabbed the handcuff as I was holding them. I was fearful that if the group turned on me and I would be seriously injured. I was looking around for assistance from colleagues who were also in the street; however, because of the number of youths crowded around me I don't think they were able to see me to offer assistance. I was struggling with [REDACTED] and the other group for what felt like a couple of minutes before I saw PC CUNNINGHAM arrive to assist, shortly after this PC DAWSON and Sgt. CURTAIN also arrived. PC DAWSON assisted me and I was able to successfully handcuff [REDACTED] to the rear, I escorted him to my nearby police vehicle and placed him in the rear. Once he was in the rear of the police vehicle, I cautioned and arrested him for using abusive, threatening and insulting words and behavior and resist arrest. He made no reply to this, but shortly after became argumentative and abusive towards me, claiming that I had arrested him for no reason.

[REDACTED] was transported to Darlington police station where I outlined the circumstances of the arrest to the custody Sgt. who subsequently authorized his detention.

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Signature: .....

Signature witnessed by: .....

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## Witness Statement

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

Statement of: Gareth Iain HoppsAge if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over18') Occupation: Police Constable 1800

This statement (consisting of 1 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.

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 14/03/2012

I am Police Constable 1800 of Durham Constabulary, currently stationed at Darlington Police Office.

Further to my statement made on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012, in relation to [REDACTED] who was arrested for a Public Order offence on Grange Road, after a party at the Grange; I would like to add the following.

Upon dealing with [REDACTED] it was immediately apparent to me that he was drunk, from the moment I spoke with him I could hear that his speech was slurred and he smelt as if he had consumed alcohol. I believe that his behavior was affected by that fact that he was drunk, and he may not have reacted in such an aggressive manner should he have been sober.

When [REDACTED] was booked into Darlington custody he admitted that he had consumed an amount of lager and vodka. He continued to be argumentative and aggressive even when in front of the custody Sgt. [REDACTED]

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Signature: [REDACTED]Signature witnessed by: [REDACTED]

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Form MG11

## Witness Statement

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

Statement of David Frederick KirtonAge if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18' Occupation: Police Sgt 690

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

Signature: David KirtonDate: 29th February 2012

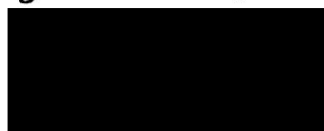
I am David Frederick Kirton I am employed as a police officer with Durham Constabulary; I currently supervise the Darlington Town Centre Neighborhood Team. About six weeks ago I received information that the Grange Bar in Grange Road, Darlington were planning on hosting an under eighteen party. The venue had been booked by a sixteen year male [REDACTED] who had previously held a successful birthday party at the venue. [REDACTED] would be responsible for promoting the event and selling the tickets. The party billed as "Atmosphere" had its own face book page managed by [REDACTED] with details on how to obtain tickets from the various representatives based in the town's comprehensive schools. The face book page indicated that these tickets were being sold quickly. I immediately had concerns about the legitimacy and legality of this event taking place in a licensed premise. I informed the police licensing unit of my concerns and requested that they met with the licensee. I was later informed that a meeting had taken place and safeguards had been put in place to assist the event running smoothly. The event was scheduled to take place on Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2012. My concerns were such that I agreed to work over time to police the event with two of the PCSOs off my team, PCSO Heinzman and Cusick. The event was due to commence at 2000hrs and at 1800hrs I commenced mobile patrol in the town centre with my colleagues. By 1930hrs we had recovered approximately forty litres of alcohol hidden in bushes near to the venue. At about 1945hrs I spoke with the head doorman and the manager and made them aware of our presence in the area. We tested the link radio system and I made it quite clear that if they had any issues we would be available to assist. At 2000hrs the venue opened and several hundred young people entered the venue without incident. I have worked in the town centre for three years and have never witnessed this volume of people out on a Wednesday night. This was totally out of the norm and I was aware that we would struggle for resources if they were required. At about 2020hrs door staff appeared with a young woman 14yrs who was unconscious due to alcohol. I requested an ambulance via my control room and was

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given an arrival time of 26 minutes. I managed to contact the young woman's parents who attended the venue and took her to hospital. By now young people were wondering about outside the venue that had either been turned away or ejected who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. Just after 2100hrs the manager came out of the venue and informed me he was closing down due to problems inside. Shortly after that door staff contacted me on the link radio requesting assistance to clear the premises. We assisted with clearing the venue, keeping the young people moving as they exited out onto Grange Road. Within about five minutes we had approximately five hundred young people stood on Grange Road. For there safety I had to close the road at the junction with Victoria Road. Most appeared confused and agitated as to why the venue had been closed. Within a few minutes a scuffle started between two young women, this was quickly broken up and they were sent off in different directions. It was clear that the atmosphere was very volatile and I requested for further assistance to the scene. A second fight then broke out that resulted in a young male being arrested for public order. Several officers eventually arrived and we managed to disperse the young people from the area. Another fight was reported in Skinnergate but it was impossible to attend due to the volume of people in the street. When we did eventually arrive the youths had moved on. The main group moved through the town centre to McDonalds Restaurant in North Gate. We parked up outside the restaurant and with a few minutes the manager came out and requested assistance inside, due to problems with customers. The restaurant was full to capacity and the manager only had three members of staff on duty. We had to enter the restaurant and assist in organising orderly ques to avoid any further confrontation. Wednesday is not usually very busy in Darlington Town Centre and had I not been on duty with my colleagues I believe the event could have been very much worse. We had to remain at McDonalds until it closed at midnight and the youths had dispersed. This event failed because young people had consumed alcohol prior to event that took effect once inside. The venue had no control over the ticket sales and it is believed tickets were duplicate resulting in the restricted capacity being breached.

*Sgt 690 DF Kirton*

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<b>RESTRICTED</b>		Form MG11(T) <small>(revd Jan 07)</small>
<b>DURHAM CONSTABULARY</b>		
<b>Witness Statement</b>		
<small>(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss 5A (3)(a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981, r70)</small>		
<b>Statement of</b>	<b>Matthew Frederick HEINZMAN</b>	
<b>Age if under 18 + 18</b>	<small>(if over 18 insert 'over 18').</small>	<b>Occupation: PCSO 7440</b>
<p>This statement (consisting of 2 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: <i>M. Heinzman</i>		Date: 29/02/2012
<p>I am Police Community Support Officer 7440 HEINZMAN, currently stationed at Darlington.</p> <p>In January 2012, I was made aware through conversation with Sgt 690 KIRTON and PCSO 7355 CUSICK that a party organised on Facebook was to take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2012. The party was to be run under the name 'ATMOSPHERE' and would be held at THE GRANGE, GRANGE ROAD, organised by a male named [REDACTED]. It was billed as an under eighteen party and, from my understanding, all tickets were being sold through Facebook by [REDACTED] who was promoting the event. Along with my colleagues, a look at the Facebook page for the party suggested that the event would be very popular and I raised my concerns to Sgt KIRTON, having experienced other under eighteen parties in the town centre which have resulted in many issues and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>It was decided that we would work an overtime shift on the evening of the 15<sup>th</sup> February due to our concerns about the problems that may arise, ensuring that we would be on hand to deal with anything that occurred. Myself, Sgt KIRTON and PCSO CUSICK all agreed to this and we came on duty at 1800hrs, commencing patrol of the town centre shortly after this. The event was due to start at 2000 hours but it was clear very early on that many young persons were starting to make their way into the town centre, most of whom were in possession of alcohol. Due to our working knowledge of the town centre, we focused patrol on areas that we believed we would find juveniles with alcohol and within an hour and a half, we had confiscated a large amount of lager, vodka, cider and wine as well as disposing of already open vessels confiscated from other persons and locating hidden alcohol which had been stashed in bushes near to GRANGE ROAD. Several names were taken but this soon became impossible due to the large numbers heading to the area and the priority being to confiscate the alcohol to prevent problems later on. I also came into contact with several persons who were very intoxicated before the event had even begun and in these cases, told them to leave the town centre and make their way home as they would be</p>		
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Signature: <i>M. Heinzman</i>		Signature witnessed by:
		<b>37.</b> P.T.O.