

## Sussex Police Exhibit 10 – PCSO Scott statement 22/09/2020

SUSSEX POLICE

MG 11(T)

**RESTRICTED (when complete)****WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9

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Statement of: Rachael Scott

Age if under 18: 018 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Community Support Officer

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

Signature: [REDACTED]Date 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am a Sussex Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) and I am based at Battle Police Station. On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020. I was in full uniform working a 1500hrs to 0000hrs shift.

On this day I was on duty with another colleague, PCSO ARON SMITH 39814. He was being tutored by me as he is a new recruit. At approximately 1838hrs. I was contacted by our control room via my airwaves radio and was asked to attend a grade 1 emergency call to 'travellers fighting' at the DEVONSHIRE PUB, DEVONSHIRE ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA, EAST SUSSEX. I wasn't happy to attend this call as I know this pub well from my experience as a PCSO. It is notorious for problems with violence and fighting. I understand their alcohol license is currently under review. I did not feel this was appropriate for us to attend as it was likely to end in an incident we would not be able to deal with such as a violent criminal offence. I stated to control room that I was not happy to attend but unfortunately another colleague, PCSO ROY COLLINS, then called control room and offered to go to the job. I felt he should not alone so I reluctantly agreed to go with him and take my tutor as well.

I was first on scene with my tutee PCSO SMITH, a male who I now recognise as a member of staff approached us pointing at one female and two males who were now sat outside the front of the DEVONSHIRE on a table and chairs. The member of staff was quite irate stating that he did not want 'those' people in his pub and that they had been fighting with each other within the DEVONSHIRE.

I went outside to speak with the people who had been fighting and causing 'aggro' inside the premises. I could see they were behaving in a very lively in a manner that made me feel very anxious. Both males were bare chested. The female was barefooted. They were all together around a Devonshire table. She was slurring her words and smelt strongly of intoxicating liquor. The males were staggering about and were unsteady on their feet. The males seemed quite wound up complaining that they had been thrown out because they were 'travellers'. They were still drinking alcohol out of Devonshire glasses even though they were clearly drunk. The bar staff had obviously still served them. However, they agreed with my requests to finish their drinks and go on their way. It took a long time for PCSO SMITH and I to calm them down using our communication skills. I managed to persuade them to leave the outside of the premise. They were clearly in no hurry and were still loud and boisterous. When I asked them what they were doing in the pub they explained to us that they were 'play fighting' between themselves within the pub and it was not serious. [REDACTED]

Continuation of statement of

After about 25 minutes of gentle coaxing and chatting between myself, PCSO SMITH and the three people in the drunk party, we managed to talk them in to actually leaving and going home. At this point a male who I do not know came out of the DEVONSHIRE. He was shouting and swearing at the 'travellers'. I heard him shouting 'PIKEYS' at them. This enraged the two drunk males and instead of walking away, they turned around and walked back towards this male. The two males and the further male squared up to each other. They were face-to-face and I thought they were all going to start brawling with each other. I managed to calm the situation and split apart the males. The two males then left again and walked away. I called up on my radio for assistance as I was sure it was not going to end well. It was an uneasy and tense situation. The threat of harm was very high.

I was surprised and disappointed at the attitude of the staff this night as they were very angry towards myself and my colleague. I felt this was unnecessary. They served the group with alcohol whilst they were already clearly drunk within their pub making the problem much worse. I explained that we would get them to move on, which we did. After the incident, PCSO COLLINS spoke to the member of staff to update them regarding this matter and we all left.

I do not feel confident in the staffs' ability to manage a safe environment in the Devonshire. I believe this will happen again as they are only interested in profit and seem to not care about public safety. I am aware of several complaints from neighbours about the continued noise and shouting from this premises. I mentioned earlier that the DEVONSHIRE is notorious for complaints and fighting. GINO FORTE, who owns the pub, constantly double parks outside the pub and this annoys the local residents as he does not seem to care about the community in which he works. My personal opinion is that I would confidently say that Gino is not liked locally and the pub has a bad reputation in BEXHILL for drugs and seasoned troublesome drinkers.

When we first attended the scene at the DEVONSHIRE there was paperwork being completed at the door for track and trace. I did note that there appeared to be a lot of people inside the pub and they were not wearing masks.

On this night there were no security at the door and there were many people drinking outside on the tables just outside the entrance. [REDACTED]

Signature

[REDACTED]

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

PTO