

## STATEMENT OF WITNESS

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

### STATEMENT OF Ying Zhou

Age of witness (if over 18, enter "over 18"): .....

**This statement (consisting of            pages) 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.**

1. I am the Director of the Applicant company Redbud (London) Limited. I have been a director of this company since 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

#### **Background:**

2. I am a Chinese National however reside permanently in the United Kingdom. My husband holds a UK passport. This is a second marriage for me, I have a 13year old child from my first marriage in China, who lives with me and my husband in this country. My husband owns two Takeaway businesses one in North London and the other in East London, he rents out both businesses, but remains the manager of one of them.
3. I came to this country in February 2017.
4. In China I studied at the International Business University of Beijing. I studied economic management.

5. On leaving University I went to work in the Post Office. I worked there from 2007 until 2013. I worked my way up to the position of Supervisor having management responsibilities for a team. I was responsible for convening and taking charge of weekly meetings, supervising employee attendances, the health and safety of the team, the introduction of new business and the monitoring of the income and expenditure of the local branch. I was also responsible for the supervision of our complaints procedure. I took time out to have my child, and it was after that that I gained my first qualification in massage and became interested in Chinese medicine and remedies.
6. I came to the United Kingdom in February 2017.
7. In April 2017, through friends I gained employment with the Bamboo Spa in Holborn. I was there for four months. During that time my employer who managed the business went on leave to China and for a time I took over the management and day to day management of the Spa. This was a position I enjoyed. I found the financial management side very easy and the management of the staff and their schedules, and the management of small purchases little different than the management role I performed for the Post Office.
8. On the return of my employer from the China, I found the work of a simple masseuse less rewarding than management and so I left.
9. In August 2017, I joined Redbud (London) Limited – the Oasis

Spa. Initially I joined as a masseuse but knew there may be a business opportunity for me there. By December 2017 I had entered into a contract to purchase the Oasis Spa business for £30,000.00 payable by instalments over five years.

10. Since taking over the business I have been responsible for many changes:

(a) Bundle 1, photograph 3 – this is me behind the reception counter at the Oasis Spa. The Notice that can be seen attached to the counter is a Notice of Change of Ownership that I put there. At bundle 2, photograph 9 is the copy Notice dated the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017. On the reception counter is a customer record form.

(b) Bundle 2 photographs 2 and 3 are close ups of the customer record forms which I redesigned.

(c) Bundle 2, photograph 7 shows other notices on the reception for easy viewing by customers. One is our Special Treatments Licence, the one in the middle is a Notice forbidding sexual services and the third is a price list.

(d) Bundle 2, photograph 6 shows a close up of this Notice.

(e) On taking over the management I took the extra precaution of posting such a notice on the inside door of each treatment room

– see Bundle 2, photograph 7.

(f) Before the complaint by the Council relating to the provision of sexual services, I would encourage supervisors to ensure no treatment doors were locked (they cannot be locked) and during a massage would have a staff member bring in water for the customer. As a means of supervision.

(g) After the complaint from the Council I changed this policy to try and guard against employees performing sexual services for extra cash themselves. I introduced an “open door policy”. See Bundle 1. Photograph 4 and Bundle 2 photograph 8.

(h) I also implemented a system of weekly staff meetings see bundle 2 photograph 1. It was made very clear to staff that they were to not offer sexual services and that they were to abide strictly by the terms of our Special Treatments Licence.

(i) I communicate with staff every day. Every day I go to work, I will remind them to clean each room in the morning. I will remind them to check the safety of all electrics when I get off work at night. When I am not working, I will also call to ask about the shop and tell reception to do the supervision. My weekly meetings will summarize the problems that occurred, emphasizing the company's regulations and solving them in a timely manner

(j) I have been asked about Condition 12 of the Special Treatments Licence. I am concerned about the policing of this condition so intend introducing a system where there is at least two masseuses available at any one time qualified to undertake opposite sex massage between neck and knees. I have already approached an appropriate professional body with a view to (a) seeking specific Council approval, and (b) registering my staff members with such an organisation. The organisation is one of those listed on the notice received from the Council under section 4 of the London Local Authorities Act 1991. I would invite a further condition on my licence to this effect.

(k) My English is slowly improving. However, there is no difficulty in me managing because of language difficulties, I have three different Apps on my mobile telephone which provides simultaneous translation.

11. I have been asked to comment on the charges both I and the company face on the 27<sup>th</sup> March in the Magistrates Court. I deny all the charges as does the Company. I was present with my solicitor on the 15<sup>th</sup> November and confirm that my instructions were to plead not guilty for myself and the Company. I deny each charge as does the Company. I was not present on the premises on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

12. I carried out an investigation in respect of the staff who were on the premises that day. In addition to those registered/notified to the

Council there was [REDACTED] who was a waxing and make up therapist (not a masseuse) and [REDACTED] who was working as the receptionist. She was not a therapist my solicitor is in error. All those present denied offering sexual services to anyone. As time went on and we gained more particulars of this complaint I became suspicious of [REDACTED], I had no proof but I became suspicious of her so decided the safest course was to dismiss her which I did in August 2018.

13. I have been asked about an alleged massage on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018. I am unaware of any breaches of our licence on that day.

14. The accountant for my business is [REDACTED] from TB Accountants. I am in regular contact with her in respect to the financial side of the business.

15. This business is an important investment for my husband and I, I am determined not to allow any breaches of the Licence which would jeopardise that investment. The lease of the premises has five years to run so this was an important financial investment for us and it would be financial suicide for us if we were to allow breaches of the licence and ultimately loss of that licence.

**Signed:** ..... (witness)

**Date:** .....

*(To be completed if applicable: ..... being unable to read the above statement I, ..... of ....., read it to him/her before he/she signed it.*

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** ..... )