

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of **Alan Cruickshank**..... URN:

Age if under 18 **Over 18**..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Constable**.....

This statement (consisting of: **1**..... pages 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:

Date:

I am a police licensing officer based at Bethnal Green Police Station, 12 Victoria Park Square, E2 9NZ. Part of my role is to investigate any offences relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

On 22nd April 2010 a joint operation was conducted at a number of off licences. Taking part in this multi-agency approach were H.M. Revenue and Customs, Trading Standards and Bethnal Green Police Licensing Unit.

At about 1020 we entered Cost Cut, 219 East India Dock Road, E14 0ED. After identifying ourselves to a man I now know to be a Mr Ali AHMED , a search took place throughout the store.

In the right hand aisle there was a large sack in clear view to anyone. Inside the sack there was 10,000 non-duty paid cigarettes.

During this time I was also at a nearby off-licence. Returning to assist in the search, 249 bottles of mixed wine were found on the shelf behind the counter and in the rear stock room. This amounted to 186.75 litres of wines. This evaded duty amounted to £420.06

Also found were five bottles of counterfeit Smirnoff vodka. £43.13 of evaded duty
Customs seized these goods and issued a Seizure Notice.

Seven bottles of counterfeit Glen's vodka, 29 packets of counterfeit condoms, as well as the 10,000 cigarettes were seized by Trading Standards.

As a result of our joint operation, this is one of a number of off-licences in Tower Hamlets who have been reviewed or are awaiting to be reviewed over the offences of smuggled goods and, or, counterfeit goods. This would seem to be an ongoing problem in relation to off-licences in Tower Hamlets.

DCMS guidelines state that the selling of smuggled goods is deemed a serious offence and should be viewed as such by licensing committees.

In light of this, I support Trading Standards and ask the Committee to revoke the premises licence.