



TRADING STANDARDS SERVICE

Form 13

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of witness (Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)

STATEMENT OF (Full name) Tracey Jayne Blanchard

Age of Witness (If over 18 enter "over 18"): Over 18

Occupation of witness: Fair Trading Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 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.

I am a Fair Trading Officer employed by Worcestershire County Council, Trading Standards Service and authorised for the purposes of the Licensing Act 2003. On the 12 June 2009 officers from the Trading Standards Service attended the premises of Costcutter, Unit 31, Woodrow Centre, Redditch. This was as part of a covert exercise carried out by the Trading Standards Service to ascertain whether traders holding a license to sell alcohol were selling to persons under the age of eighteen. During this visit Javed Iqbal, owner of Costcutter and the designated premises supervisor sold

Signed: [Signature] (witness)
Date: 18.5.10

(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:

File Reference: TJB/

Signed: *J Blanchard* (witness)
Date: *18.5.10.*

alcohol to a person under the age of 18. On this occasion, officers witnessed Mr Iqbal sell a bottle of Strongbow Cider to a 14 year old girl. Mr Iqbal did not ask the girl her age and neither did he ask for any identification. As a result of this sale on 12 June 2009 Javed Iqbal was prosecuted by the Trading Service at Redditch Magistrates Court on the 10 February 2010. He was found guilty of selling alcohol to a person under the age of eighteen. Javed Iqbal did not attend the hearing and was found guilty in his absence. He was fined a total sum of £742.77 including costs. Two days later on 12 February 2010 officers from the Trading Standards Service returned to the premises of Costcutter, Unit 31, Woodrow Centre, Redditch. This was again part of a covert exercise carried out by the Trading Standards Service to ascertain whether traders holding a license to sell alcohol were selling to persons under the age of eighteen. On this occasion Javed Iqbal again sold alcohol, namely a can of Stella lager to a 15 year old boy. He did not ask the child's age and neither did he ask for any identification. This matter is still under investigation by the Trading standards Service with a view to prosecution and as such I would request that this evidence is not produced within the public domain at any licence review hearing.

Signed: *J Blanchard* (witness)
Date: *18.5.10.*