

WITNESS STATEMENT**Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B****Crime No.****URN**

Statement of Lesley Ann Meade

Age if under 18 Over 18 years (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Police Licensing Officer

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: Lesley Ann Meade (witness)**Date 7th July 2026**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am an accredited West Midlands Police Alcohol Licensing Officer with responsibility for Licensing under the 2003 Licensing Act within the Coventry area.

In this capacity I had cause to visit Clayton Off Licence, 8 Hales Street, Coventry on the 25th November 2025. It had been brought to my attention that children had been able to purchase bottles of alcoholic spirits from Clayton Off Licence, without any age- related challenges taking place.

I was joined on this visit by Carline Simms from Coventry City Council Licensing team.

Upon arrival at the premises, I asked to speak to the designated premises supervisor or premises licence holder and I was eventually introduced to Mr Subir Singh Kukrija. I explained to Mr Subir Singh Kukrija that at 13.45 hours on 22nd November 2025 a 14 year old male entered Clayton Off Licence (which was captured on the CCTV at the premises) and purchased a bottle of Vodka & WKD and various soft drinks. It was identified that the sale was conducted by sales assisatnat, [REDACTED]. The young male was accompanied by an underage female who was able to purchase a vape in a separate cash transaction. Despite the male and female both looking young, at no point did the staff challenge either of them to produce photographic ID. As a result of the sale, an ambulance had to be called to the West Orchards area shortly afterwards to administer first aid to the 14 year old male who was found collapsed having consumed too much alcohol. This is a very serious incident and the boy's parents were understandably extremely upset and worried about this incident.

I pointed out to Mr Subir Singh Kukrija that the sale of alcohol to persons under 18 is strictly forbidden.

Where the customer looks under 25 years of age the production of photographic identification is a must before the sale of alcohol takes place.

The supply / sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years is not acceptable under any circumstances and should it continue it would lead to an immediate review of the premises licence with potential for its

Signature

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revocation.

I asked Mr Subir Singh Kukrija to take immediate action to ensure that he and his staff were fully trained in all aspects of the premises licence operating schedule in order to comply with their licenising objectives..

I informed Mr Subir Singh Kukrija that West Midlands Police take a staged approach to intervention with premises and as a result of which, I felt it appropriate on this occasion to make a written record of my concerns and record this incident as a formal written warning. Later the same day, I sent a copy of the Warning Letter (Ref: LAM1) (Exh) to the email address which Mr Subir Kukrija Singh provided me with, "Clayton Off Licence@gmail.com"

I received a reply from this email address on the 26th November 2025 which read, "I've received"

I had no further dealings with the premises.

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Statement of Adam Pitham

Age if under 18 O18 (if over 18 insert "over 18")

Occupation Police Sergeant 0252

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.

Signature: A. Pitham (witness)**Date 15/07/2026**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am a serving police officer for West Midlands Police currently stationed at Coventry Central Police Station, Coventry.

My role within the organisation is supervisor of the Coventry City Centre Neighbourhood Team. Some of my responsibilities is investigating causes of anti social behaviour and tackling serious youth violence within the City Centre.

This statement is about Clayton Market, 8 Hales St, Coventry CV1 1JD and the sale of alcohol to minors.

There have been a number of calls for service within the City Centre where my team encountered children who are intoxicated which has lead to offences being committed by them or they have resulted in being victims of crime.

An example of this would be on Wednesday 8th July 2026 officers were called to an incident outside Coventry Central Police Station, log number 6585-080726 refers, where an intoxicated 17 year old female was self harming with a razor blade. The female was part of a group, all of which were intoxicated and underage. The female who was self harming was detained by ambulance staff and taken to hospital. One of the group was arrested for threatening violence towards officers and made an attempt to punch and kick me. The incident was resolved and the female arrested was dealt with by me and of an out of court disposal. Whilst this incident was being dealt with, the group were in possession of closed vessels of alcohol and they confirmed that they had purchased these from Clayton Market. This incident alone required 6 police officers, one ambulance crew and NHS professionals and security to deal with the individuals at a large cost to the public purse. The sale of that alcohol placed those individuals in a vulnerable position and resulted in the hospitalisation of one of them.

Another example would be on Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 1940hrs officers were called to German Donner Kebab, Hales Street, Coventry to reports of two intoxicated females aged 12 and 13 years of age. When

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officers arrived one female was stotious and unable to respond. An ambulance was required to treat that female, whilst the other female was dealt with by police and placed into the custody of her parents. Again, it was disclosed that the alcohol was purchased from Clayton Market.

Along with the above examples I have emails from security staff at West Orchards Shopping Centre, Coventry City Centre, Coventry on Friday 12th June 2026 that states that staff there had seen a large increase in children in school uniform walking through the City Centre with alcopops and 'buzz bombs' and they were highlighting their concerns. From encounters with youths within the City Centre my team have discovered that a majority knew that it was easy to obtain alcohol from Clayton Market.

There have been a number of anti social behaviour investigations that are attached to the businesses with Hales Street and the surrounding area where intoxicated children has been one of the driving factors and it is widely regarded that the sale of alcohol to minors has been behind this, although I can accept that most of this is based on anecdotal evidence from encountering youths on a daily basis.

In addition to the above priorities, I also have the task of tackling street drinking within the City Centre. One of the flashpoints is at Millenium Place, Coventry City Centre. This is located a very short walk away from Clayton Market and it has been observed, on occasions, that individuals who are already intoxicated attend the location and purchase aclohol from Clayton Market. This has a detrementel effect on tourism as the Coventry Transport Museum, Millenium Point, Coventry have complained on a number of occasions that the groups that gather there are intimidating to tourists who visit Coventry.

In my opinion, whilst Clayton Market retains a licence to sell alcohol, they are directly contributing to an increase of antisocial behaviour, youth violence and cost to the public purse within Coventry City Centre and it has a negative impact on tourism and the surrounding businesses.

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Review of Premises Licence - Clayton Off- Licence, 8 Hales Street, Coventry, CV1 1JD

Response of The Child Exploitation Coordinator in the Horizon Team in Childrens Services

I write in respect of the above premises; as a Responsible Authority I wish to support wish to support Trading Standards in their application for a Review of the Premises Licence under the Crime and Disorder Licensing Objective and the Protection of Children from Harm Licensing Objective.

I'm Rebecca Pearson and I am the Child Exploitation Coordinator in the Horizon team in Childrens Services.

Clayton Off-Licence came to my attention this year on 23rd March 2026 when Councillor Bally Singh contacted the Horizon team to report sighting of underage children loitering around the shop and sitting on the staircase to the restaurant upstairs. At that time, the location of Clayton Off-Licence was (and still is) part of a wider piece of work aimed at disrupting activity in locations including Millennium Place, Hales Street and Lady Herbert's Gardens and is overseen by a specific monthly multi-agency panel chaired by West Midlands Police that manages this location and implements disruption activities when required.

Then in June 2026, a Horizon Team Manager attended our daily meeting with West Midlands Police and was made aware of concerns surrounding the premises, mainly that the shop was selling alcohol to children under 18 and a high level of robberies and thefts in the vicinity of the shop. I then spoke about this information in the Responsible Authorities meeting which led to the Underage Test Purchase being carried out and subsequently failed.

I am aware also of previous warnings issued in respect of upholding licensing conditions in previous years.

Anecdotally, children open to Horizon have advised that they are able to purchase alcohol from this shop, and this is widely known amongst their peer groups. Horizon are supporting some peer groups of children who regularly frequent the city centre and experience issues in the city centre including but not limited to anti-social behaviour, ketamine use, cannabis use, drinking alcohol and being approached by adults whose intentions towards them are criminal. Clayton Off-Licence adds to these issues by selling alcohol to children.



It is my opinion that this premises increases the harm experienced by children in the city centre and I would welcome a review of the alcohol licence.

Rebecca Pearson

July 2026