

Witness Statement

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

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Statement of: **Trevor THOMAS**Age if under 18 (if over insert "over 18"): **Over 18**Occupation: **Police Constable 15488**

This statement (consisting of2..... Pages(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: **Trevor Thomas**Date: **21/11/2020**

I am P C 5488 Thomas of the Devon and Cornwall Police, presently stationed in Torquay.

At approximately 1543 hours on Wednesday 11th November 2020, myself and P C 17181 Abercrombie arrived in Church Lane Torquay in order to check on a possible Covid 19 Breach at Sportys bar, the entrance to which is on Belgrave Road Torquay.

We went to the rear of Sportys, and gained entry through the rear gated and approached the back door. I could hear music coming from inside and could see people moving about inside through the frosted glass. P C Abercrombie knocked on the door and a male in a white shirt went to open the door by placing his hand on the handle but then walked back from the door and out of sight. Approximately 10 seconds later he returned and opened the door.

Upon entry P C Abercrombie asked if the male was "alright" and then said "WHERE'S EVERYONE HIDING ?"

The male, whom I now know to be called Jim LANG, said that there was only him and one other there, a male called [REDACTED] and that he was upstairs.

I asked LANG if he was the licensee and he replied "YES".

I asked if we could search the premises and LANG agreed. I checked the toilets and the remainder of the bar area but no one else was there.

LANG then allowed me to follow him upstairs. As we walked up the stairs LANG said "[REDACTED], COME DOWN HERE."

As I got to the top of the stairs, I was met by a male whom I now know to be called [REDACTED] born [REDACTED]. I then followed LANG into his lounge where, sitting on the sofa, was another male, called [REDACTED] born [REDACTED].

I asked Lang who he was and he said "THAT'S [REDACTED]". After a brief conversation, LANG said "IM IN TROUBLE NOW." At was at this time I could tell that LANG was in drink as his speak was slurred and laboured.

I then searched the rest of the building, but didn't find anyone else.

Signature: **Trevor Thomas**Signature Witnessed by: **N/A**

Witness Statement

Continuation of Statement of Trevor THOMAS

We then went back into the lounge area where , in conversation, Lang admitted that he had been stupid and that "WE HAVE BEEN THIS ROAD BEFORE." He then said that there were no case in the South West!

I then took [REDACTED] details, and the 3 of us went back down to the bar area.

I had a brief conversation with him whereby he tried to justify why he was present. We both then walked back towards to where P C Abercombie, Lang and [REDACTED] were standing, next to the pool table in the rear of the bar.

We then had a conversation with [REDACTED] and Lang-[REDACTED] too was heavily in drink and I could see empty glasses on the bar. Both [REDACTED] and Lang consumed alcohol from glasses in our presence.

Lang continued to try and justify what he had done and that, as far as he is concerned, Covid 19 doesn't exist, as he doesn't know anyone who has had it. I pointed out that it was a very naïve thing to say. I then asked him how old he was-he replied "59". I then said "WELL IF YOU GET IT, COS YOURE A SIMILAR AGE TO ME." He then interrupted and said "I ALREADY HAVE." "I GOT IT AT THE BEGINNING." I asked if he had been tested and he said no.I asked "HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAD IT THEN?" He replied "ITS SOMETHING I NEVER HAD BEEN BEFORE AND A WEEK LATER I WAS ALRIGHT." At this time, [REDACTED] was finishing his pint in the background, and also smoking a cigarette- Lang didn't ask him to extinguish his cigarette.

[REDACTED] and Lang then continued to argue that they believed that no one has died due to Covid-19.

We told Lang and [REDACTED] that we had to leave and we exited at 1600 hours.

The whole incident was captured on my Body Worn Video camera.

This is the second time that I have been present in LANGS company within Sportys where not only has he not complied with the Covid Guidelines, but has argued that Covid 19 does not exist.

Signature: Trevor ThomasSignature Witnessed by: N/A

05/2012

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE