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STATEMENT OF

1. I am Kevin Hugh Welch
2. On 11th July 2022, in the course of my duties as a Trading Standards Officer for Trafford Council, I attended at Emirates Old Trafford to conduct inspections of the licensed bars on the premises to assess the level of compliance with their licensing conditions and associated relevant weights & measures legislation.
As the stadium was scheduled to host a live music concert that evening I was aware that, in addition to the permanently sited bars operated by the venue, there would be a number of temporary concessionary bars on the premises.
I attended at the premises at approximately 1600 hours, prior to the venue being opened to concertgoers, in order to identify and undertake an initial inspection of the various bars on the site.
The temporary bars were sited both on the pitch itself and in two separate designated catering areas on the concourses surrounding the stadium itself. The majority of these were operated by The Bar Co. and all the requisite pricing information was displayed at each bar. All the bars were operating a "Challenge 25" policy and notices to this effect were prominently displayed at each bar. Additionally, many of the bar staff were wearing "Challenge 25" t-shirts.
Whilst conducting my initial tour of the bars on site, I witnessed an on-site training session for staff at one of bars operated by The Bar Co. The training was delivered by someone from Edco Events who provided a thorough briefing covering the licensing requirements relating to the sale of alcohol to customers.
The supervisor of one of the other bars operated by the company subsequently confirmed that this training is standard practice for The Bar Co. and is given to all their bar staff (including temporary staff) at every event they cater prior to the commencement of the event.
I then proceeded to visit the permanent bars at the venue. Firstly I checked the public bars sited at intervals around the outside wall of the stadium. These were also operating a "Challenge 25" policy which was displayed on large screens behind the bars along with the required pricing and quantity information. However, as these screens were rotating through several different displayed images not all of the information was visible at the same time and very little was displayed all the time. Lastly, I gained access to the Pavilion in order to inspect the bars which were available exclusively to concertgoers with certain premium package concert tickets. Upon speaking to the bar supervisor I determined that 3 of the bars – the one in the 1864 Suite in the Pavilion and those in two of the suites in The Point adjoining – were selling drinks to customers and would therefore be subject to weights & measures requirements.
The 1864 Suite bar was not displaying the statutory notice informing customers in which quantity non-prepacked spirits were being served. Additionally, although a price list was displayed at one end of bar counter, it was quite small and partially obscured by a vase of flowers and therefore inadequate.
The bars in The Point were of a similar layout to the one in the 1864 Suite and, unsurprisingly, I observed the same non-compliances in both of them.
As these non-compliances were relatively straightforward to rectify I advised the bar supervisor of the issues and that he should take action to resolve these issues as a matter of priority.

I also inquired of the bar supervisor as to the absence of any "Challenge 25" displays or similar. He advised me that the suites were only accessible by adults aged 18 or over so they deemed such notices unnecessary.

Later, at approximately 1930 hours when the concert was in progress, I undertook another complete tour of the bars to see whether there were any signs of alcohol being sold to persons under the age of 18 which there weren't.

By this time, the non-compliances previously observed in The Point and Pavilion bars had been rectified.

Statement of Truth

3. I believe that the facts stated within this statement are true.

Dated 19th August 2022

Signed:

Kevin Welch