

Case No:

BETWEEN:

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Applicant

-v-

Victoria Warehouse

Respondent

STATEMENT OF MELISSA SHINE

1. My name is Melissa Shine and I am employed by Trafford Council as a Senior Fair Trading Officer in the Trading Standards department of the Place Directorate, at Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, Manchester, M32 0TH. I am authorised by Trafford Council to enforce consumer protection legislation.
2. On Friday the 1st of December 2023 at approximately 19:00hrs I attended a business trading as Victoria Warehouse on Trafford Wharf Road, Trafford Park, M17 1AB with colleague Alison Courtney, trainee Trading Standards Officer of Trafford Council and James Boles, a Licensing Enforcement Officer of Trafford Council.
3. Outside the business at the time of my visit, at the entrance/exit gates to the venue trading as Victoria Warehouse, were individuals offering items of clothing for sale. The items were on the floor. James Boles requested that the individuals provided their street trading licence for inspection. As the individuals were unable to produce the necessary documentation they were advised by James Boles to pack up the items and move on. The individuals did pack up the items and left.

4. Upon entry to the business trading as Victoria Warehouse on Trafford Wharf Road, Trafford Park, M17 1AB we met several members of staff, including a male who identified himself as Russell, the designated premises supervisor and a male who identified himself as Phil Noe.
5. We were escorted around the venue by several members of staff. I conducted observations whilst in the venue of the bar areas in operation. The venue operates a challenge 25 policy. I observed some customers provide forms of identification to verify their age to bar staff.
6. Before leaving the venue Russell asked if the business would receive any feedback or recommendations following our visit. I advised Russell that any advice or recommendations from Trading Standards following the visit, would be made in writing. Russell enquired about my earlier pricing questions and was receptive to advice as he explained that he is heavily guided and steered by senior management and would welcome advice from Trading Standards. James, Alison and I left the venue and later left the area.
7. I returned to Trafford Wharf Road, Trafford Park, M17 1AB later that evening at approximately 22:10 hrs with James Boles.
8. On approach to the front of the venue trading as Victoria Warehouse, a road closure was in place on Trafford Wharf Road. Customers of the venue were exiting, and a number of individuals were present at the entrance/exit point, with items of clothing for sale, laid out on the floor, offering them for sale. James Boles approached the individuals and requested sight of their street trading licences. The individuals were hostile to James and I. Individuals that were advised to pack up earlier in the evening by James Boles had returned. One female was verbally aggressive towards me as I attempted to photograph the clothing offered for sale. The traders refused to pack up and move on and continued to make sales with customers exiting the venue.

9. James and I walked further along Trafford Warf Road, towards the junction with Trafford Road and observed more individuals offering clothing products for sale, which were placed on the floor by the roadside.
10. Several individuals leaving the venue trading as Victoria Warehouse appeared to walk towards Trafford Road and congregated at the pedestrian crossing at the end of Trafford Warf Road. I observed vehicles park up on lane one of Trafford Road, a live lane of traffic, blocking the lane, often blocking the pedestrian crossing and blocking the road exit points from Trafford Warf Road to Trafford Road. As lane one was predominately blocked, drivers stopped in live lane two of Trafford Road and attempted to collect passengers.
11. James Boles asked drivers including those of private hire and hackney vehicles to move on as they were causing a hazard and nuisance. I assisted. Some drivers complied with the request, but others were obstructive and refused to move.
12. We left the area at approximately 23:15hrs.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings for contempt of court may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief in its truth.


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Signed by

Date 8th December 2023