KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL STATEMENT OF WITNESS

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

STATEMENT OF
(full name)
AGE OF WITNESS
(if over 18 enter "over 18")
OCCUPATION OF WITNESS
ADDRESS

William George FIELD

Over 18

ENVIRONMENT & PARKING WARDEN KETTERING BOROUGH COUNCIL, MUNICIPAL OFFICES, BOWLING GREEN ROAD, KETTERING, NORTHANTS, NN15 7QX,

This statement (consisting of 1 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.

Dated the 17th April 2018

Signed:

My name is William (Bill) FIELD I am a Team Leader for the Environment and Parking Wardens at Kettering Borough Council and as such I am warranted and authorised to investigate offences under the the Environmental Protection Act 1990, Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. On Tuesday the 6th February 2018 myself, colleagues and members of partner organisations including Northamptonshire Trading Standards and Northamptonshire Police joined a briefing at the New Police facility in Kettering, this briefing was given in regard to a joint operation and investigation into alleged offences at FRESHPOL and ALMA shops on Montagu Street in Kettering. Whilst colleagues from trading Standards were concerned with allegations surrounding the reported sale of illicit alcohol and tobacco Myself and Will BOLTER from Wardens Services at Kettering Borough Council were there to observe and act upon any issues arrising from the incorrect disposal of waste. My colleague Will BOLTER had previously been tasked to undertake work around inappropriate waste disposal from the FRESHPOL business. At approximately 10.10 hrs simutaneous raids took place on both FRESHPOL and the ALMA stores on Montagu Street. Initially I had been tasked to help with the investigation on the ALMA but when the building was made secure and it became apparent that there was unlikely to be any viable evidence found at ALMA, I made my way a short distance across the street to FRESHPOL. I arrived at FRESHPOL at 10.20hrs just as two Police officers were in the process of arresting a male within the shop. As a result I could see that the rear of FRESHPOL was only being covered by my colleague Will BOLTER. I decided to move to the rear of the shop to help him. Whilst covering the rear of the shop I witnessed a tall thin Asian male in a baseball cap walking up and down Eskdaill Street on a mobile phone, I later learned from partners that this male was one Saeyd QADIR. Hving been stood to the rear of the building for 15 minutes other partners from Trading Standards managed to gain access to warehouse door facing Eskdaill Street. On entering we witnessed a large pile of putriciple waste and numerous cardboard crates of

Signed:

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cans of alcohol. We entered the building further and found most of it to be empty. We then heard a call from colleagues outside that an individual was throwing cigarette cartons off the roof to the rear and that an individual was putting them in a car, myself and will BOLTER ran outside to see colleagues from the Police running from the main entrance of the shop to the rear entrance on Eden Street, a Silver/grey SAAB car sped over Eskdaill Street, on to the lower end of Eden Street and failed to stop for officers. Trading Standards officers along with a dog handler then recovered numerous boxes of illicit cigarettes from the roof of the building. On returning to the building we continued with colleagues to search the property and eventually a "secret room" was found with some further tobacco and a large quantity of alcohol. Trading Standards eplained that they were looking for a chute by which cigarettes could be delivered from the "secret room" to the counter staff within the shop below, initially we helped them with the search but with so many staff in the one area I decided I was getting in the way so returned to the counter area of the shop. On returning to the counter area my colleague from our Health Protection Team, Eleni MIDDLETON made me aware of her concers about both the safety of a number of the shelves with alcoholoic spirit bottles on them but also the labels on some of the non prescription medicines within the shop as they did not appear to have been labelled for the UK market. I then continued to search for the "chute" in that area and although this was not at first evident I did recover a packet of 20 Regal cigarettes in a blue and white packet under the counter, this packet was similar to a number of others recovered from the roof. At around 13.00hrs Trading Standards colleagues found the "chute" in the floor of the secret room which led via some electrical conduit to the rear door area to the right hand side of the counter area of the shop. The staff present denied any knowledge despite packets of similar cigarettes being found both under the counter and in the secret room. Partner organisations concluded their investigations and we left the property at 13.30hrs.

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