

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: Sam Moore

Age if under 18: Over 18 *(if over 18 insert ‘over 18’)* Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of one 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.

Witness Signature: Date: 31st July 2022

I am a Police Constable in the Metropolitan Police and work on the Central Football Unit. I have been part of this unit since 2020 and have been a Police Officer since 2009.

This statement relates to an application being made by Millwall Café, 3 Bolina Road, London, SE16 for an alcohol licence to enable them to serve alcohol on a football match day.

If an alcohol licence was to be granted I think it could cause significant issues for The MPS, Millwall Football Club and those supporters attending The Den to watch football. The Millwall Café in itself is an iconic site in the Millwall footprint, it is already busy on match days and sees people seated inside and out.

The outside area of the café is already extremely densely populated and sees supporters congregating on the footpath and roadway adjacent to the building. Although the large gathering of people on most days is manageable, it can cause issues when a large number of away coaches need to get into the away compound.

This was most recently the case when Millwall played Stoke City on 30th July 2022. There were 18 travelling coaches which gain entry into the away compound via Stockholm Road and across the front of the stadium. Due to the large gathering around and outside of the café, it took a large number of Police resources, including mounted branch to manage the crowds and enable the safe passage of those travelling coaches.

What is usually seen as some inter-rivalry ‘banter’ when the coaches come across the stadium and into Bolina Road, generally sees some banging on windows and anti social behaviour. Like mentioned previously this is manageable, however it can escalate to supporters exiting coaches to engage in disorder and/or violence.

This has all occurred whilst no alcohol is being sold or consumed on the premises of Millwall Café. I fear that the alcohol consumed, will see poor behaviour exaggerated, escalating to missiles being thrown, damage caused and persons injured.

In my opinion, the addition of an alcohol licence will see the generally good behaviour of most supporters decline as they consume alcohol from around four hours before kick-off.

Witness Signature:

Signature Witnessed by Signature:

Continuation of Statement of: Sam Moore

It is well known that football violence and fan behaviour saw a sharp increase last year as the world got back to normal following the pandemic. It is no secret that alcohol is a primary factor and likely contributor to violence and disorder around football. The addition of an alcohol licence at the Millwall Café will pose a threat to safety, security and match-day experience for the vast majority.

If a licence was to be granted, without doubt more Police resources would be needed to Police the footprint around Millwall. This will come as an extra cost to both the MPS and potentially Millwall Football Club. In a time when money is tight and efforts are being made to scale back Policing resources where possible, this would be a backward step.

Witness Signature:

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....