

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 27.2;  
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9, Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)*

**STATEMENT OF** Helen Louise SEFTON

**Age of witness (if over 18 , enter "over 18"):** Over 18

**This statement (consisting of 5 pages) 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 it to be true.**

I am a Senior Licensing Officer employed by the City of York Council to administer and enforce a wide range of licensable activities. I have been a Licensing Officer for over 20 years, I am trained, qualified and authorised in several licensing regimes. Part of my role is to inspect licensed and unlicensed premises in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

On 8 September 2017 I was tasked to attend a multi-agency operation targeting two licensed premises within the district of York. At that time I held the position of Licensing Enforcement Officer. The operation was led by North Yorkshire Police, also in attendance were officers from the Home Office Immigration Enforcement Team. At 18:00 on 8 September 2017 I attended a briefing at Fulford Road Police Station in York where Inspector FREER outlined the plan for the evening and allocated roles and responsibilities to the Officers. I was to attend an address in York entering the premises under my powers conferred under Section 179 of the Licensing Act 2003, once I had carried out my inspection at the first address I was then to attend a premises at 2-4 George Hudson Street, York, YO1 6LP also under the powers conferred by Section 179 of the Licensing Act 2003.

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At approximately 20:00 on the 8 September 2017 PC BOLLAND Licensing Officer from North Yorkshire Police and I attended a premises, called REGENCY Supermarket located at 2 – 4 George Hudson Street, York, YO1 6LP. Police and Immigration Officers were already in attendance at this premises and had already searched the premises and spoken with staff. The premises consisted of a supermarket to the left of the front door/entrance and a restaurant/takeaway to the right. I met the Manager who introduced herself as Tina FENG although her actual name was Yan Tong FENG. FENG advised me she had worked at the premises for 2 years, she was unable to use or view the CCTV as she did not have the necessary permission to use the system. FENG stated staff were trained but it was not documented. She stated the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was Zhong Le CHEN. She stated the restaurant side of the premises also had a manager but did not provide a name for that person. She advised the premises did not open beyond 1am. I noted that the front glass door of the premises which was also a fire exit was broken and in need of urgent repair, one side of the door was in a locked position due to the damage – I asked FENG to get this done as a priority as this meant the fire escape route was effectively reduced in width by 50%. FENG was advised that someone on site needed to be able to access the CCTV and that all training must be documented. I was also informed by a Police Officer on site that when they first attended the premises the rear fire door, which had a push bar, was locked shut. I was made aware on the night that the Immigration Officers had detained members of staff from this premises who

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potentially did not have the right to work in the UK, I do not know the specific number of staff members detained.

In the summer of 2019 I was contacted by Inspector FREER of North Yorkshire Police, he told me of his intention to organise another multi agency visit to both to two licensed premises in York, he wanted support from the Licensing Team. At 16:30 on 6 September 2019 I attended a briefing at Fulford Road Police Station. In attendance were officers from North Yorkshire Police, HMRC, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority, North Yorkshire Fire Authority Officers, City of York Council Housing Enforcement Officers and several interpreters. I was tasked to attend a restaurant on Barbican Road, York whilst my colleague Nigel WOODHEAD was to visit the premises at 2-4 George Hudson Street, York.

On 28 November 2019 I visited the REGENCY Supermarket with PS BOOTH to assess compliance with a Section 19 notice that had been issued by North Yorkshire Police and to hand deliver a letter from myself regarding a recent application that had been made to the Licensing Authority to apply to vary the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) at the address. PS BOOTH requested to speak with the Manager, a member of staff name Julie LI stated the Manager was Tina FENG but she was not available. PS BOOTH and I were shown some training records and the CCTV system. The training records stated the DPS was Zhen Cheng FENG however this was not correct, the DPS at this time according to the records held by the Licensing Authority, was Zhong Le CHEN. My letter was left

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with LI with instructions to pass onto the current DPS and premises licence holder CHEN as soon as possible.

On 24 February 2020 the Licensing Authority received an application to transfer the premises licence at 2 – 4 George Hudson Street, York. The applicant was Yan Tong FENG (Tina).

On 10 March 2020 North Yorkshire Police objected to the transfer application by made FENG. North Yorkshire Police objected to the application on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder.

On 8 June 2020 at a Licensing sub-committee hearing the Licensing Authority refused the transfer application on the grounds on Crime and Disorder. On the same date the premises licence for 2 – 4 George Hudson Street was revoked following an application to review the premises Licence made by the Licensing Authority. The reasons being stated in the decision letter exhibited as HLS/1.

29 October 2020 I accompanied PC Hollis on a visit to the REGENCY at 2 – 4 George Hudson Street to assess compliance with a Section 19 notice previously served by PC HOLLIS. We asked for the manager and were introduced to Tina FENG. Tina spoke with PC HOLLIS regarding the notice.

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**Signed:** *HL Sefton*..... (witness)

**Date:** 08/02/2021.....

*(To be completed if applicable: .....*

being unable to read the above statement, I .....

of .....

read it to him/her before he/she signed it.

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....