

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

In the matter of an application for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003

STATEMENT OF: PS 133 Jacqueline Booth

Age of Witness (if over 18 enter) : Over 18

Occupation of Witness: Force Licensing Manager North Yorkshire Police

Address: North Yorkshire Police, Fulford, York, YO10 4BY

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 to be true.

1. I am the Force Licensing Manager for North Yorkshire Police and I am authorised to act on behalf of the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police in matters relating to the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2014 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
2. I have completed the Institute of Licensing Professional Licensing Practitioner's Qualification and the British Institute of Inn keeping Awarding Body's Award for Licensing Practitioner's (Alcohol).
3. I have responsibility for managing the police licensing team who are specialist trained officers, designated by the Chief Constable to respond to all matters under the Licensing Act 2003. This involves working with statutory partners and key stakeholders to ensure the promotion of the four Licensing objectives, The Prevention of Crime and Disorder, The Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety and the Protection of Children from harm, in respect of applications and compliance with the Licensing Act 2003.
4. On 17th July 2025 I reviewed an email sent to the police licensing department which included a letter that had been sent to the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police Tim Forber from Little J requesting support for licensing a dedicated community centre. I was asked by Executive Support who gather information to assist the Chief Constable to respond to correspondence if I could assist in the matter. I advised that under the Licensing Act 2003 the police are defined as a responsible authority who are consulted on applications and need to remain impartial to be able to carry out this function. I advised that the police were not currently in receipt of an application for the premises

and if one was received it would be reviewed in its own merits and responded to accordingly.

5. On 22nd July 2025 I was contacted by a colleague PS Henderson who had received an email from Graham Dykes requesting the following “***we would very much appreciate your involvement with Fulford Rd Police Licensing Officers to help balance the Licensing Objectives accurately.***” I advised my colleague of the same reply I had provided above with a similar request to the Chief Constable. Exhibit JB/01
6. On 5th August 2025 North Yorkshire Police received an application for a new premises licence at Little Jay Limited. This was forwarded to the police by the licensing authority as per normal process as a responsible authority for consultation. The end of representation date was confirmed as 02/09/25. PC Hollis the licensing officer for York City was allocated the application.
7. On 11th August 2025 my colleague PS Stoffel contacted me regarding an email that he had been sent from Mr Dykes, who was the director of the company applying for the licensing application and the proposed designated premises supervisor for Little Jay Limited. The email referred to issues he felt he was having with PC Hollis who he alleged was not prepared to consider LGBTQI+ matters in relation to his licensing application. He also alleged that PC Hollis had forwarded on an email containing legal privilege. I viewed the emails from PC Hollis and spoke to our force solicitor who deemed that the content of an email forwarded by PC Hollis was not privileged and was relevant as it contained information the licensing authority needed to be sighted on, namely that Mr Dykes was cancelling a joint meeting with the police and licensing authority on 14th August 2025. Exhibit JB/02
8. I reached out to Mr Dykes legal representative Lupton Fawcett solicitors requesting a meeting to discuss the application. They advised they would seek instructions from Mr Dykes and come back with an update. Exhibit JB/03
9. On 12th August 2025 I received an email from Lupton Fawcett solicitors to say that they were not presently instructed by Mr Dykes and to liaise with him directly. Following this confirmation, I emailed Mr Dykes to request to meet at the premises on 14th August 2025 to discuss the application. Exhibit JB/04
10. On 13th August 2025 I received an email from Mr Dykes advising that he did not wish to meet on 14th August as he wished to meet the police separate from officers from the licensing authority, who were attending his premises on this date. Exhibit JB/05
11. On 14th August 2025 I emailed Mr Dykes setting out the position of the police and availability of myself to meet prior to a period of annual leave. Mr Dykes replies to advise he is not able to meet on the alternative suggested dates. Exhibit JB/06
12. On 18th August 2025 I received an email from Mr Dykes, headed “***Conflict between EDI and indicated police objection/decision-making re: LGBTQI+ premises licence***”. I replied to Mr Dykes advising that I had liaised with the force solicitor and responded to points he had previously raised. I again extended my offer to hold a Teams call or meet in person. Exhibit JB/07

13. On 19th August 2025 I emailed Mr Dykes with proposed conditions and asking about why he deemed that his application was an exception to the current statement of licensing policy. Exhibit JB/08
14. On 20th August 2025 I received an email with additional information from Mr Dykes which he deemed was relevant to consider in relation to his application. He advised that for medical reasons that he was not able to attend a meeting on Teams but advised he was happy for any officer to attend the premises to discuss the application. Exhibit JB/09
15. On 21st August 2025 I emailed Mr Dykes acknowledging the additional documents and copied in the licensing authority so they were sighted on the material provided. I explained that due to me going on annual leave and the position of the licensing team being a specialist team it would not be feasible for an officer to attend the premises before the end of representations. Following an email from Mr Dykes on 19th August 2025 in which he stated, “ ***We have no personal issue with PC Hollis, indeed she is friendly and open.***” I advised PC Hollis would be available for him to liaise with in my absence and would continue to liaise with the force solicitor regarding the application. Exhibit JB/10
16. On 2nd September 2025 I returned to work following a period of annual leave. As this was the last day of representations in relation to the application for Little Jay Limited I reviewed all of the correspondence that had been received from Mr Dykes as the applicant. Taking into account information provided by the applicant, York’s statement of licensing policy, the statutory guidance, recent correspondence with PC Hollis and our force solicitor I submitted a representation to the licensing authority setting out the position of the police.
17. I received an email from Mr Dykes asking if there was news on acceptance of police conditions. I advised Mr Dykes that I had submitted a police representation and the matter was for the licensing committee to determine. In my professional capacity as the force licensing manager for the last seven years I have never encountered anyone agreeing to conditions under protest. In my experience they are either amenable to conditions or do not wish to accept conditions which I have always highlighted is their right to do, and in which case the matter is then progressed to a hearing. This provides all parties an opportunity before the licensing sub committee to then outline why they deem conditions are relevant and promote the licensing objectives or are not necessary to promote the licensing objectives.
18. On 5th September 2025 Mr Dykes sent an email to the Assistant Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police, the area commander for York Supt Haywood- Noble, the local MP and various other third parties. I was not copied into the email as the person dealing with the representation from North Yorkshire Police. In the email he refers “*I have therefore met in person with Deputy Chief Constable Clarke and Senior York Commander Superintendent Haywood-Noble. They have committed to arranging a meeting with us and Officers overseeing licensing, and a Representations review*”. The area commander confirmed that the meeting Mr Dykes referred to was in fact an engagement event whereby officers were present outside York Minster on 3rd

September 2025 and Mr Dykes approached the Assistant Chief Constable and Supt Hayood-Noble to discuss the application. Exhibit JB/11

19. On 8th September 2025 I spoke with Helen Sefton licensing officer at the local authority around availability of a meeting to discuss with Mr Dykes responsible authority representations and advised the police would be amenable to a joint meeting on 10th September 2025. I emailed Mr Dykes advising that the police would welcome a meeting and in line with statutory guidance all parties should work in partnership to promote the licensing objectives. Exhibit JB/12
20. On 10th September 2025 I received an email from Mr Dykes advising that he had spoken to the council and officers from the licensing authority would not be attending the meeting. He advised that he would attend the police station in company with Ashley Smith at 1230 and requested that the meeting not be recorded. I replied to Mr Dykes asking who Ashley Smith was as he was not someone who had been mentioned in any previous correspondence and the police were not aware of his involvement. I re-iterated that for transparency for all parties to ensure that there was no miscommunication the meeting would not take place unless it was recorded. Exhibit JB/13
21. Mr Dykes replied to my email and copied in Supt Haywood-Noble stating that I had “unreasonably” refused to meet. Exhibit JB/14
22. Supt Haywood-Noble replied to Mr Dykes encouraging him to attend the meeting.
23. This was followed up by a further email from Inspector Godfrey advising that licensing officers would be available to meet with him and he was encouraged to attend. Exhibit JB/15
24. Mr Dykes did not attend the police station to meet with myself and to date I have not received any further communication from him in relation to this matter.
25. On 16th September 2025 Lesley Cooke licensing manager from York Council advised that she was in receipt of information that there may be potential protests linked to the licensing application.
26. As with any potential protests intelligence/information this is escalated to our operations planning department to assess if a policing presence is required. To assist in verifying the information regarding a protest, I reviewed the Facebook social media posts for “Little j”.
27. The Facebook post for 13th September 2025 states:-
***“Show your support, join us at:
5.30pm 18/9/25 St Helen’s Square – Full Council meeting, St Helens Square
9am 29/09/25 West Offices – Council Licensing Hearing

All Welcome*”**

The post contains information that “Police want 2 bouncers (50ph) for any dry, non- alcohol activity Inc MIDWEEK. Exhibit JB/16

28. This is factually incorrect and misleading. It is concerning that a proposed licence holder and designated premises supervisor and the person who would be in charge of the venue is posting inflammatory and incorrect information about responsible authorities. It brings into question his suitability to both hold a premises licence and his ability to work in partnership with responsible authorities should a premise licence be granted to him.
29. On 18th September 2025 a demo took place in St Helen's Square whereby members of the public gathered as part of an organised rally regarding the Little J licensing application. During this demonstration videos were taken and have been posted on the Little J Facebook page.
30. One video which is named "Press Release" is Mr Dykes reading out a statement relating to the current licensing application. During this statement Mr Dykes states that several hate threats have been received online and he has sought to discuss these with North Yorkshire Police. He states a meeting was arranged by the area commander Supt Haywood-Noble to discuss this with representatives of Little J. Exhibit JB/17 (video clip).
31. A meeting was scheduled for Mr Dykes to attend the police station to discuss the licensing application and the police representation for 10th September 2025. Neither Mr Dykes nor any representatives from Little J attended the police station for the scheduled meeting.
32. In this statement he states that two authorised officers of the company attended Fulford Police station and Inspector Godfrey refused to let the officers of the company meet with police officers. This is factually incorrect and concerning that Mr Dykes has deliberately put false information into the public domain. He has misrepresented North Yorkshire Police's position regarding a meeting specific to the licensing application for Little Jay Limited. Mr Dykes was encouraged to attend a meeting but failed to do so.

Signed: PS133 Booth

Date: 22/09/25