

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

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

STATEMENT OF Stephen John HODGES

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

This statement (consisting of 3 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.

I am employed as a Financial Investigator and Trading Standards Officer by the Gloucestershire County Council Trading Standards Service I am duly authorised under the provisions of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, Consumer Protection Act 1987, Trade Marks Act 1994 and other criminal legislation.

One Stop Shop of 107 Southgate Street, Gloucester is a shop that intelligence suggests is a premise that is involved in the sale and supply of illegal tobacco. This intelligence is confirmed by test purchases, seizures and indeed two prosecutions of individuals connected to the premises by means of ownership by Gloucestershire Trading Standards Service.

The extent of the sale of illegal tobacco within the City of Gloucester is widespread and profound. Reliable intelligence reports suggests that organised Crime Groups from outside of the County have targeted areas within to operate their 'business'. This business is extremely lucrative, estimated daily profit purely from the sale of illegal tobacco from a shop can reach in excess of £500.

I have been informed by Darren BRICE of Gloucester City Council that the current Designated Premise Supervisor of One Stop Shop is Saman KAKALAI. Saman KAKALAI became known to me during a visit to One Stop Shop on the 26/06/2014 when I seized a quantity of illegal tobacco with a street value of in excess of £1500

Signed: ... (witness)

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which was concealed in the kitchen area of the premise.

At the time of the seizure Saman KAKALAI was summoned to the premises as it was stated by an employee that he was the owner of One Stop Shop. Saman KAKALAI stated that he had owned the shop for approximately 10 days. I asked if any paperwork had changed hands in relation to the shop sale to which he replied 'No'. I asked if he had paid for the shop to which he replied 'No'. I asked if he had informed Gloucester City Council about the change of business ownership to which he replied 'No'. Saman KAKALAI stated that he had purchased the shop from a male called Paywand ISMEELI. I asked if Saman KAKALAI could call Paywand ISMEELI and he duly did.

Paywand ISMEELI arrived at the shop and stated that Saman KAKALAI had paid him a deposit of £3000 for the shop with a balance of £17,000 outstanding. Paywand ISMEELI confirmed that no paperwork had changed hands nor had Gloucester City Council been informed of any change of business ownership.

Subsequently during a visit to One Stop Shop on the 12/11/2014, Saman KAKALAI told me that he had not purchased the shop. On the 20/11/2014 I was contacted by the new owner of One Stop Shop who confirmed his ownership and that Saman KAKALAI was under his employ.

I had no contact with Saman KAKALAI until 05/07/2017 whilst accompanying my colleague Robert CARDEW during an inspection of One Stop Shop where it appeared that he was in charge of the shop. During this inspection a quantity of illegal tobacco with a street value approaching £800 was discovered contained in a black holdall that was on the floor of the till area. In addition to the illegal tobacco 14 boxes of nitrous oxide and 19 aluminium cream whippers were seized; these items are believed to be linked to drug use. At the time of the visit Saman KAKALAI stated

Signed: ..  (witness)

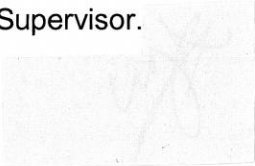
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that the owner was Saeed OSANLOU however could not identify the Designated
Premise Supervisor.



Signed:  (witness)

Date: 07/08/2017