

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG 11(T)

### WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of **Aaron KING** URN: 

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

This statement (consisting of: 2 pages 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 anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:

Date: **15/08/14**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

On Saturday 9th August 2014 I was on duty in full uniform posted as Acting Inspector. Shortly before 2230hrs I was informed via our GPC that Intel had been received via social media that there was going to be a large illegal rave somewhere in the region of Millmarsh Lane, Enfield, EN3. I was advised that this was being advertised on Facebook by "Every Decibel Matters" who run unlicensed events. At this time I was in company with Ps Ames 123YE and we made our way to the location. On route I informed the control room of what was potentially occurring and accepted the offer from some units to attend the location to assist me. On arrival in Millmarsh Lane it was obvious that something was about to happen. There were a number of groups of teenagers who were milling around clearly looking for something. Millmarsh Lane is an industrial road with two major 24hr factories but borders residential areas which are divided apart by Mollison Road. At this time on a Saturday the streets were very quiet so these groups stuck out. After a brief search I noticed two metal gates next to the Greggs Factory which suddenly closed as we passed them. We stopped and I got out and approached the gates. Although dark, street lighting was on and I could see a male was using a chain and lock to secure the gates. I could hear music coming from further inside. Stood by the gate I immediately noticed an IC3 male who I know to be Simon CORDELL. I recognised Mr Cordell as I have previously spoken to him recently at illegal raves where I have seen him setting up sound equipment and subsequently taking it away when confronted by Police. I explained to Mr Cordell why we were there but he immediately denied it was a rave. Mr Cordell stated first it was a private conference but then said it was a birthday party. When asked about permission to be there he stated friends were squatting on the land and they had said he could stay. I explained to Mr Cordell that I needed to come onto the site to see what was going on as for all I knew he could be damaging it or stealing from it. Eventually after promising I would not remove anyone squatting and only myself and Pc Ames would come in, Mr Cordell agreed that we could come in. Near to the gate was a silver Ford Focus index MA57LDY which I knew was Mr Cordell's. The boot was open and I noticed it contained three large thin industrial gas bottles. From experience I knew this was likely to contain nitrous oxide which is currently used on the rave scene as a

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2006/07(1): MG 11(T)

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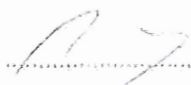
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legal high. As we passed the car Mr Cordell quickly lowered the boot. I queried Mr Cordell about the gas and pointed out that it was on the news earlier how Nitrous oxide was dangerous and Mr Cordell stated that the Government would probably ban it soon like everything else. Mr Cordell was polite and showed us around the site which appeared to be a large concreted area that was completely open to the air. There was a large sound system to the rear which was amplified though I could not see any power source. There was a number of people wearing yellow hi-vis jackets who Mr Cordell stated were first aiders and there was a pallet of water near to the sound system as well as a couple of tents closer to the gates. I could see no obvious Toilet facilities nor shelter from what had been forecast as a stormy night. Inside the venue mostly just stood around in small groups were about 30 people, mostly teenagers. Mr Cordell stated he was an entrepreneur and was awaiting licences from the council so that he would soon be legitimate. When I explained all the "ingredients" for a rave were present Mr Cordell began to try and argue his point that it was not a rave and that it was a private party. I spoke at length with Mr Cordell explaining the legal situation and how by definition this was a rave and that ultimately there were too few people present at the time to stop police and so on this occasion I could act and close the rave. Whilst on an industrial estate it was my opinion that such was the proximity to local housing and my knowledge of the volume music is played and the duration it is played for, often throughout the weekend that a rave would constitute serious disruption. Mr Cordell was clearly not happy but did not want his equipment seized so agreed to start packing up the sound equipment. Whilst talking with Mr Cordell there were small groups of teenagers arriving at the site and entering via a break in the fence, (the gates still being shut at this time). I got Ps Ames to get units to us to prevent further people trespassing on the land and to discourage people from attending the location and exited the venue to await Mr Cordell's exit with the sound equipment. Whilst waiting I radioed for the on-call Superintendent so I could get the various Rave legislation approved so that I could seize the sound equipment and enforce a rave cordon on Millmarsh Lane to prevent people entering. Whilst stood by the venue a number of people began leaving, most were laughing but the odd one was blaming police for stopping the event. Suddenly there was a huge number of mainly teenagers walking towards me from the direction of Mollison Avenue. Apparently this group had all arrived together from the nearby railway station. Straight away some of this group headed straight towards us saying they were going to storm the place. I had been joined by a few team officers and we advised them that the rave had been closed down and they would not be allowed to enter. There was some verbal confrontation but the large group which was up to 100 strong moved off round the corner with some overheard saying they would break in round the corner. As they began to move off Mr Cordell stood by the break in the fence and shouted words to the effect of, "Come on, there is more of you". I quickly went up to Mr Cordell and told him to stop or I would arrest him to prevent a breach of the peace. At this Mr Cordell went back and stayed away. The large group did indeed try to get into adjoining premises that they thought led to the rave venue but were stopped by officers and moved off back into Millmarsh lane, although one officer Pc Wale was injured during a struggle. I requested the attendance of as many units as possible including dogs and TSG as the

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Continuation of Statement of Alan VINE

group were becoming more hostile towards officers despite there being no music now and being informed of the closure. A short while later officers I had positioned at the junction radioed that there was now an even bigger crowd advancing on them. I arrived at the junction to see a very large number of people, now upto 200 walking with purpose towards officers stood in the road. Suddenly objects began to get thrown from the crowd towards police. I saw traffic cones, cone lights, bottles and stones begin to land near Officers so that they had to quickly move out of the way. I again heard phrases similar to "storm them". Fearing imminent violence I drew and extended my baton as did my colleagues. I could hear shouts of "get back" but the crowd continued to throw items, some of which were landing on cars that had been temporarily stopped due to the group. We had been joined by two dog units who took the lead in dispersing the crowd. At this point there were two arrests to my left and along with the dogs this seemed to make the crowd withdraw. I told my officers and the dogs not to follow the crowd as they were now by the train station with nowhere to go as the barriers were down. There was a tense stand off for some time but the group eventually got onto trains and left the area. I was informed by another unit that Mr Cordell had also left with his equipment. I tasked arriving TSG with local reassurance patrols but shortly after they started I was advised that most of the group were wandering around near to Ponders End. I tasked TSG with following this group and was informed by their Inspector that their unmarked unit had overheard talk that the rave was now going to be South West of the original location. I was aware that TSG subsequently saw Simon Cordell by the Crown lane Industrial Estate where he has held a rave before and had stopped the group from forcibly breaking into this location. Finally after close to three hours later, the group dispersed and I was informed that social media was indicating the rave would now be Epping Forest. The whole incident took a vast number of resources to police and there were two arrests for drugs possession and two for drunk and disorderly behaviour. One officer was injured with a deep cut to his elbow requiring first aid by the Police FME and emergency calls whilst answered were subject to delay.

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Signature witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_