

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN 44BB0890612

Statement of: Stephen Matthew Symonds

Age if under 18: Over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Recovery Patrolman

This statement (consisting of 7 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.

Signature: (witness) Date: 23/08/2012

This statement is in relation to a trailer that I recovered and then was reported as being stolen.

I am Stephen Symonds and I work as a Recovery Patrolman for the AA and have done for the last three years. On Monday 13th August 2012 I started work at 0630hrs at the Depot in Southampton. When we start we check the truck that we are using for that tour of duty, switch and sign on the computer and wait to be deployed.

On that day I got a job almost immediately in Winchester. I was instructed to recover a van and trailer at Homebase and the map on the computer gives you the route to get the location. The van was being recovered as an AA employee had already been out and stated it was a problem with the gearbox, which could not be rectified on the road side.

I arrived at Homebase in Winchester about 0700hrs and found the van and trailer on the road adjacent to Homebase, facing me as I drove down to them. I am pretty sure the trailer was attached at that time. I think I went into the car park of Homebase, came back out onto that road then reversed back to the van.

When I got out there first, I saw four people in the front of the van as I reversed up to them, they started to get out. There were two males and two females. I asked the male, who I cannot remember if he was the driver or not, if he could unattach the trailer which was done. I got the straps from my truck and proceeded to put the van on the back of my truck.

The four of them looked tired and odd and I found out later in the journey that they had been to the music festival called Boon something.

Initially, I was going to pull tow the trailer so asked the same male if the lights worked on it. He hesitated and then said that they did. I attached the electric plug to it but the lights did not work. I then decided that I was going to have to put it behind the van on my truck, so I dragged it up as far as I could, putting the metal connection as far under the van as it could go. I then secured it on to my truck. I was concerned that someone might report an unsafe load so I took three photographs to show how secure it was. I produce these photographs as

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