

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (when complete)

**WITNESS STATEMENT**(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;  
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

Ref. No:	<input type="text"/>	URN:	<input type="text"/>
<b>Statement of:</b>	PCSO 162 KARL CLAY		
Date of birth:	Over 18	Occupation:	PCSO
This statement (consisting of 2 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:	K.Indirks-Clay	Date:	20.3.23
Signature witnessed by:		Date:	
Time and date statement taken: 2200hrs 20.03.23			

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded *(supply witness defaults on rear)*

I am the above-named Police Community Support Officers, employed by West Yorkshire Police and currently stationed at Pudsey Police station.

I have been a Police community support officer for 16 years and I have worked within the Armley area in total for approximately 11 years.

I am making this statement in relation to the anti-social behaviour and nuisance linked to street drinking in Armley area.

Armley is quite a deprived area with various communities within residential properties where they are also various religions, beliefs and nationalities, Armley is made up of local shops, council owned properties, privately owned properties and tower blocks. The main area of Armley is Town Street where they are various shops from Pound shops, butchers, pubs, takeaways, eastern European stores, barbers, betting shops, doctors, chemists and park areas for people to enjoy the surroundings.

Whilst working I have witnessed the depravity of the area from visiting people in their homes to witnessing incidents in the area. There have been many calls of Anti social Behaviour mainly in the close vicinity to Town Street. Groups of mainly males gather on the main Town Street in full view of shoppers drinking. These groups are from both the white British community and the eastern European community. If left to their own devices and not dealt with robustly the groups often become very intoxicated and either argue and fight amongst themselves or with passing members of the public trying to go about their daily business. I have witnessed males so intoxicated that they have passed out and not only fall asleep in shop doorways but have also urinated themselves without realising. The drunk males often fall over and injure themselves which leads to people phoning ambulances for them out of concern only for them to abuse the ambulance staff once they arrive to assist them.

Many of the drinkers have been seen to be drinking and have been intoxicated as early as 7am and throughout the day into late night. Since the ban of drinking outside the drinkers have come to learn that they only commit an offence if they fail to surrender their alcohol when requested to do so or to stop drinking when requested to do so by an officer. This has led to many of the drinkers only buying 1 can at a time in the hope that if they do get caught by an officer, they only lose a partial can of alcohol. Some of the regular street drinkers only reason for being in the area is to street drink as it is near to numerous shops that sell cheap strong alcohol in single units.

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There has been a large group of street drinkers who loiter around the corner of Theaker lane/Town street as well as out front of William Hill Bookmakers. At the top of Town Street there is Armley Moor, this is a large grassed area with some seating, bins, outdoor gym equipment and a local family whom tether their horses in this field. The seating areas are a pull for the street drinkers, there are several small groups who do this and they are white British or Polish males. The area where the Polish males sit is in the middle of the moor with no bin, this leads to them leaving their empty imported alcohol containers all over the ground.

The issues mentioned above have had a major impact on how Town Street and Armley in general is perceived by people from outside the area and the members of public who live in the area. Members of the public, especially elderly members, have expressed to me that they are scared to go on or won't go on Town Street because of the street drinkers, drug usage and general ASB.

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