

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: Briece Qureshi

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

This statement (consisting of 3 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.

..... Date: 22nd February 2026

This statement relates to a request made by representatives of Kentucky Fried Chicken 468 High Road, London N17 6QA to extend their opening hours to 4am Monday to Sunday. I will seek to explain my position as a representative of the Metropolitan Police Service and make representations opposing the application.

My name is Briece Qureshi, and I am Police Sergeant for the Metropolitan Police Service. I am currently based at Tottenham Police Station as the ward Sergeant on Tottenham Central Safer Neighbourhood Team. I have worked in the Metropolitan Police Service for almost 22 years in various roles.

About the ward

The geographic area of Tottenham Central encompasses High Road N15/N17 and the KFC. It is considered a high harm ward, which means there are disproportionately high levels of violent crime often requiring increased, targeted, and data driven resources. It necessitates extra police staff and police officers, to deal with the added demand. The resourcing for the ward is 5 Police Officers and 4 Police Community Support Officers. These are aspirational figures; however, we are currently at 50% strength to service the local community.

Tottenham Central is ethnically mixed and culturally varied, with multiple communities living side by side. This is also reflected in their beliefs and values. Policing this environment is challenging, as we try and meet the needs of all that inhabit it. Any decisions that have a direct effect on these communities, must be considered.

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Continuation of Statement of: Briece Qureshi

Rationale for rejecting the proposal

I have carefully reviewed the application and representations made by the applicant, which provides a compelling case for the extension. Since becoming the ward Sergeant in Haringey, the high road has been a divisive issue, specifically in and around KFC restaurant. With its popularity, eat-in service and position on the high road. The venue and environs became a hub of drug supply/use and Anti-Social Behaviour. This affected other retailers operating nearby and we received regular complaints about these issues.

Traffickers were hiding drugs in the restaurant and using the window as a cover, to monitor law enforcement. In recent times this had somewhat diminished due to a surge of proactive policing in the area, arresting several prominent members of this organised crime network during the summer months. I have conducted research using police indices to support the summary provided above and provide a better understanding of what we as a police service face. If this application were granted, I envisage an increase in Anti-Social Behaviour, drug use/supply, noise nuisance, street drinking, a negative impact on local businesses and criminal damage.

Three key points

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Extending hours is likely to facilitate further opportunities for criminal exploitation of young people and violence. It is also likely to have a negative effect on the local community through ASB.

2. Prevention of Public Nuisance

Alongside diners, KFC also attracted unsavoury characters who were not using the services for its intended purpose.

Continuation of Statement of: Briece Qureshi

The behaviour of those frequenting the venue for criminality created an intimidating environment and making women and young girls feel unsafe, which is contrary to the aims of reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – a priority for both the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police. Noise nuisance, loitering and people blocking the public highway were always an issue outside the venue.

3. Public Safety

During extended hours there is an increased risk of assaults and vulnerability among residents, placing additional strain on emergency services. Some of the drug traffickers were also young people susceptible to exploitation. Weapons were both stored locally for easy access and carried freely.

The situation on the high road reached the stage where I had to put in place a Proactive Management Plan under the Operation name 'Comeback'. Together with specialist crime we spent several months building intelligence, increasing patrols and targeting individuals in a bid to reduce criminality. Residents and shop owners have expressed gratitude for the work we have done, and I believe we have won peoples trust and confidence. I believe it would be an error of judgement to allow KFC to open its doors until the early hours of the morning and would have a direct effect on public safety.

I have compiled a list of reports, intelligence and calls which have been redacted and can be provided if required



Witness Signature: .. 

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....