

**STATEMENT OF: NASEEM AHMED**

**Age of witness: over 18**

1. My name is Naseem Ahmed and I make this statement further to the application of the grant of a new premises licence for Ken's Kebabs at Guildhall Walk by my son Usman Ahmed.
2. I have been the premises licence holder for Ken's Kebabs for a number of years. I have been involved in the management of numerous late night food businesses in Portsmouth. With my two brothers, Saleem and Naeem, we built a portfolio of premises spanning the last 20 years. We divided the day to day management of the premises between ourselves and as the business grew, we employed managers at each premises. Naeem retired from the management of the premises some years ago.
3. I am responsible for the management of Ken's Kebabs in Guildhall Walk. I employ 2 managers. One has responsibility for the trading period during the day and the other during the evenings. I am, however, responsible for making all the decisions on how the premises operates, for example the recruitment of staff, stock ordering and compliance with the licence conditions.
4. I took the decision to open the premises later than the hours permitted on the licence and instructed the manager to open. This led to the revocation of the licence and I was prosecuted and fined over £3000 for 5 offences of opening after hours.
5. Following the revocation of the licence, I decided that the time was right for me to retire from the management of the premises and for my son to take over. If the new licence is granted I will have no involvement in the running of the business.

6. It is important to clarify that I jointly own the freehold of the property with my two brothers through a property company. The operating company for Ken's Kebabs pays rent to that property company. This is a standard business practice. The receipt of that income does not, however, confer any rights on the Directors (my brothers and I) to make decisions on how the business is managed.
7. I understand the Police and Local Authority have concerns that I will still be involved in the running of this premises. I can categorically state that I will not. I know Usman is willing to offer a condition on the licence that I am not permitted to do so.
8. In a meeting with the Police during the consultation period, I was told that Kens Kebabs was an 'institution' in Portsmouth and they (the Police) did not want to see the business close. It was my decision that led to the revocation and I will no longer be able to make decisions if the licence is granted to my son.

This statement consisting of 2 pages, each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief

## Statement of witness

**STATEMENT OF: USMAN AHMED**

**Age of witness: over 18**

1. My name is Usman Ahmed and I make this statement further to my application for the grant of a new premises licence for Ken's Kebabs in Guildhall Walk.
2. I am aware of the concerns from the Police and Local Authority that my father may continue to have control of the business if the new licence is granted. He is retiring and is going to have nothing to do with the management of the premises in Guildhall Walk.
3. I decided to apply for the licence in my name rather than a company name in order to make it clear to all responsible authorities that I am accountable for every action taken in running the shop.
4. I have worked in the premises for a number of years and also worked the other late night takeaways the family operate in Portsmouth. When I left school I studied Law at Southampton University and worked part-time in the shop. I have approximately 6 years' experience working hands-on in the shop and also learning the business side from my father and uncle. When my father and uncle were absent from the business I would take over during their absence.
5. Two years ago my brother and I set up a Gelato Parlour in Holloway Road London and until now that has been the focus for me. The long term intention was always that both my brother and I would take over the reins of the Ken's Kebabs businesses. Our own business is now well established and requires less of our time. Taking over from my father at Ken's in Guildhall Walk has come a little earlier than expected but I am ready for the challenge.
6. I will retain the two managers who currently work there managing the day time and night time shift. They have been there a very long time and both are extremely competent managers. To try and reassure all concerned that this is not a "front" I invite the committee to impose a condition which prohibits my father from having any responsibility in the business, even if

need be, to exclude him from entering the premises.

7. The Police in their representation have asked that if the licence is granted then the door supervisor condition require a door supervisor on every evening including throughout the Summer. As my first decision, I invite the Committee to grant the licence and am happy for the condition regarding door supervisors to be revised from that stated in the application to what the Police have asked for.
8. My father decided to use a door security company to supply doorman rather than employ them directly. This change took place in December. I have talked to the company and met the doorman over the last few weeks to satisfy myself as to whether to continue their contract if the licence were granted and I took over. I will continue to use their services.
9. Running late night refreshment premises has a risk of problems arising out of the misconduct of a few, usually drunk, individuals. We have several hundred people through our doors every night and the vast majority are well behaved. They come in have a chat and either leave with their food or stay and eat it. There are some that require a little extra attention from staff and door staff to ensure they remain polite and well behaved. There will always be the odd person who causes trouble. Those incidents have been managed appropriately in the past, as acknowledged by the Police in the meeting we had, and will be in the future.
10. Granting a premises licence to me for a shop that has been licensed for over 10 years is not going to have any negative impact on the area. I have spoken to a lot of customers over the last few weeks and they have all said what a great loss it would be if Ken's could not open. Everyone I spoke to said they would have to get their food from elsewhere. I believe that puts pressure on other outlets.
11. Having studied Law and run my own business I know exactly what I am committing to. I will ensure it operates entirely lawfully and continues to serve the local people safely.

This statement consisting of 2 pages, each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.