

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

URN 46

Statement of: **MARK BARRY HUGHES**Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Immigration Officer**

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

Signature:

Date:

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

I am currently employed as an Immigration Officer and am based at FRONTIER HOUSE, 7 SHORNECLIFFE ROAD, FOLKESTONE, KENT, CT20 2SH as a member of the SOUTH EAST IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE and ENFORCEMENT TEAM.

On 5th AUGUST 2021 I was a member of the SOUTH EAST IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE and ENFORCEMENT TEAM to visit the TOTAL GARAGE, PALMARSH SERVICE STATION, DYMCHURCH, HYTHE, KENT, CT21 4ND. We were there to conduct an Enforcement visit based upon intelligence received of illegal working. Upon arrival we deployed directly to the garage, which was a short walk from the van. As we crossed the forecourt a MALE who I believe to be either INDIAN or PAKISTANI was walking away from the garage carrying some milk. He walked past me and several colleagues unchallenged and made his way along the road. It was quickly established upon finding an empty shop that this male was potentially the target of the visit, at which point colleagues ran after him. Unfortunately, after a sweep of the immediate area they were unable to locate him. IO FISH and I were left on site so we had a more comprehensive sweep of the building and also dealt with customers that were already on site. We found nobody else on site. Whilst there IO HALLS spoke on the phone with the business owner but was unable to locate the missing employee seen leaving the site on the teams arrival. HOME OFFICE checks made by support staff whilst the team was on site identified an address associated to the business owner where the missing employee may have fled to given the address was two minutes along the road from the garage. I travelled with the team to the newly identified address where upon arrival I knocked in an attempt to secure entry by INFORMED CONSENT. There was no answer after knocking several times. A concerned neighbour approached the van upon our return to it and advised us she had seen an INDIAN gentleman acting suspiciously, purposely trying to avoid officers in the area moments before. She also stated the same male had gone into the house where we had just knocked and had come out wearing a green/blue coat, saw the officers and fled along the road, through a neighbour's garden and out onto open land behind the property. The intelligence we were working from detailed suspected illegal working by a PAKISTANI / INDIAN male. Given the evasive behaviour displayed by the male seen leaving the premises upon our arrival, I believe the intelligence to be accurate.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Typed by: