

### WITNESS STATEMENT

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

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Statement of: PC Matthew CARR 2066AW

Age if under 18: over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

Witness Signature: *Matthew Carr* 2066AW ..... Date: 02/12/2022

I am PC Matt CARR, I am a dedicated ward officer for Soho in London's West End. The Soho Ward is bordered by Oxford Street to the north, Charing Cross Road to the East, Shaftesbury Avenue to the South and Regent Street to the West.

MANETTE STREET is a road that links CHARING CROSS ROAD to GREEK STREET in Soho, W1. I am very familiar with MANETTE STREET as I patrol down it every time I am out in Soho, and I regularly compile crime data linked to MANETTE STREET to update senior officers. Due to its unique location, being approximately 150metres from Tottenham Court Road tube station and 350 metres from Leicester Square tube station and being a link to GREEK STREET, MANETTE STREET has become a hotspot for serious offences. MANETTE STREET and the immediate area is a popular spot for members of the public to enjoy Soho's night time economy, due to numerous bars, clubs and pubs in the vicinity. MANETTE STREET has previously been open to traffic but due to ongoing building works, the street is partially closed off and the walkway is very narrow and restricted. Approximately half way down MANETTE STREET there is a small dead end called ORANGE YARD, this is very poorly lit and dark, and is a prime spot for robbery nominals to hide in to conceal themselves, weapons, and stolen property. MANETTE STREET has become a hotspot for robberies and related offences. In recent months there have been a very high concentration of violent offences either on or directly relating to MANETTE STREET. Examples of these offences include multiple instances of Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), robbery, theft, and various drug related offences. There has also been a very recent recorded instance of Rape on MANETTE STREET. Robbery is the most frequent violent offence that occurs in Soho, and more specifically around MANETTE STREET, with Soho accounting for 32% of all watch robberies carried out across the entire Metropolitan Police Service area. Offenders use MANETTE STREET to carry out robberies as it is fairly secluded despite being next to night time thoroughfares. They also use it as a look out spot, to scout for potential victims leaving licenced premises. The vast majority of these offences occur between 2200hrs and 0400hrs, whereby the offenders are targeting drunk or otherwise intoxicated members of the public. MANETTE STREET is currently a focus area for Soho Safer Neighbourhoods team and the West End Proactive Team, with more targeted patrols in and around MANETTE STREET to tackle to rampant robberies.

Witness Signature: *Matthew Carr* 2066AW .....

Signature Witnessed by Signature: .....