

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9

URN 

Occurrence Number: 47230076751

Statement of: LESLIE GOLDING

Age if under 18: Over 18 *(if over 18 insert 'over 18')* Occupation: Police Constable CG374

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.

Signature:  #CG374 GOLDING, L.

Date: 01/02/2024 13:12

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded 

Police attended Ocean Spice, 43 White Rock, Hastings on Tuesday 25th April 2023 under the Discovery umbrella as there were concerns raised about the living conditions of the property above, who was living there and fire escapes. Discovery is a partnership collaboration that involves many professional agencies including, Local authorities, Immigration, Border force, Fire service along with others. Our main aim is to identify exploitation for Modern slavery human trafficking safeguarding victims and bringing offenders to justice.

On entry to the premises through the front and into the restaurant Craig Williams from East Sussex Fire Service explained to Siddiqui RAHMAN why we were there and Craig informed Siddiqui that police under the Discovery umbrella were also attending. The restaurant is on the ground floor along with the kitchen, the upper floor consisted of living accommodation that initially raised concerns. The living quarters was to the rear of the first floor going through an open space. There are separate bedrooms on each floor with shared bathing facilities on each floor. The accommodation is of poor standard decoratively and this was reported to Hastings Borough council and evidenced on Body Worn Video which was evidenced by PC Gaymer EA169.

When we entered the restaurant and disclosed why we were there, there was an obvious reluctance to engage with police. Initially only Siddiqui RAHMAN was along with his son Mominur RAHMAN there, but it was apparent that a phone call had been made which entailed more males turning up to the restaurant very quickly. I have been a front-line police officer for over 20 years and to me this was a tactic of intimidation.

None of the workers would engage with professionals.

Siddiqui during the latter part of the visit lost his temper with police and complained verbally in an angry manner about our visit. He made some suggestion that he had successfully sued a professional for harassment. It was clearly pointed out

why our visit had taken place and the powers that were used to enter the property. This did not calm Siddiquir down. Siddiquir remained physically upset by our visit by continuing to be gesticulating his hands. Concerns this could escalate a decision was made for police to retreat.