

**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

*(Criminal Procedure Rules r.27(2); C.J.Act 1967, s.9; M.C. Act 1980, ss5B)*

**STATEMENT OF:** DEAN ANTHONY COOKE

**AGE OF WITNESS (IF OVER 18 ENTER "OVER 18"):** OVER 18

**OCCUPATION:** SENIOR TRADING STANDARDS OFFICER,  
SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL TRADING STANDARDS

**This statement (consisting of 4 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.**

**Dated the 9th day of June 2017 Signed.....**

I am a Senior Trading Standards Officer for Slough Borough Council Trading Standards. The following facts are within my own personal knowledge.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a visit was made to Grovers Supermarket, 2 Canterbury Avenue, Slough, SL2 1EQ, in response to intelligence received about the sale of illegal tobacco products from this premises.

On the day of the visit, Slough Trading Standards had the additional facility of having tobacco detection dogs; provided by a company called Wagtail Limited. Also present at the time of the visit was Mr Peter Adshead (Senior Trading Standards Officer with Slough Borough Council), Mr Andrew Clooney (Trading Standards Manager) and Ms Tara O'Keefe (Slough Borough Council Licensing Officer).

We arrived at the premises at 13:45hrs and spoke to the owners wife, to explain the nature of our visit. An inspection of the premises commenced; during which the tobacco detection dog found four separate areas where illegal tobacco products were being hidden in the premises.

The owner of the business, Mr Kuljeet Singh Grover, arrived at the store. His home address was given as

**Dated the 9th day of June 2017 Signed.....**

**CONTINUATION OF STATEMENT OF: DEAN ANTHONY COOKE**

A full inspection of the back storage area and an outbuilding outside the back of the store, which was also being used for storage of stock, revealed various different hiding places for illegal cigarettes and tobacco products.

A total of 210 x packs of 20 cigarettes and 12 x 50g pouches of hand rolling tobacco were found, bearing either non-English or non-statutory health warnings. All items were seized, removed and secured in a locked evidence store at 14:55hrs on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Mr Grover attended a PACE recorded interview on the 16th October 2014..

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Mr Kuljeet Singh Grover and his company Grover Store Limited were each issued with a Simple Caution for these criminal offences.

All evidence was also signed over to Slough Trading Standards for destruction.

On the 24th September 2015, a further visit was made to Grovers Supermarket, 2 Canterbury Avenue, Slough, SL2 1EQ; as a follow up to the previous visit and seizure. This inspection was also carried out with the assistance of tobacco detection dogs.

Officers at the time of this visit were Ms Lina Johnson (Senior Trading Standards Officer with Slough Borough Council), Mr Andrew Clooney (Trading Standards Manager) and Ms Tara O'Keefe (Slough Borough Council Licensing Officer).

We arrived at the premises at 16:02hrs and spoke to the owner Mr Kuljeet Singh Grover, to explain the nature of our visit.

An inspection of the premises commenced; during which the tobacco detection dog found two separate areas where illegal tobacco products were being hidden in the premises, in the outhouse at the back of the premises.

The following items were found in the outbuilding :-

**Dated the 9th day of June 2017 Signed.....**

**CONTINUATION OF STATEMENT OF: DEAN ANTHONY COOKE**

- 54 x pouches of chewing tobacco, bearing non-statutory health warnings.
- 4 x 50g pouches of hand rolling tobacco bearing non-English health warnings

In addition, 2 x out of date sandwiches (2 days past their Use By date) were found in the chiller cabinets on the shop floor.

Or items were either seized (with the tobacco) or sampled (the out of date food), removed from the store All seized and sampled items were removed from the premises at 16:55hrs and secured in my vehicle.

This evidence was transported to the secured evicence store by myself and Officer Johnson. The sampled food evidence was returned to the Slough Borough Council offices at The Centre, Farnham Road, SL1 4UT; where it was secured in a locked evidence freezer at 17:30hrs.

Mr Grover attended a PACE recorded interview on the 19th November 2015.

On the 11th February 2016, Mr Kuljeet Singh Grover and his company Grover Store Limited were each issued with a further Simple Caution for these criminal offences.

All evidence was also signed over to Slough Trading Standards for destruction.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017, another visit was made to Grovers Supermarket, 2 Canterbury Avenue, Slough, SL2 1EQ; with the assistance of tobacco dogs.

My colleague, Mr Peter Adshead Senior Trading Standards Officer, was the lead officer in this instance.

I arrived the premises at approximately 12:15hrs and met with Mr Kuljeet Singh Grover and a member of staff called Mr Jasbeer Singh.

**Dated the 9th day of June 2017 Signed.....**

**CONTINUATION OF STATEMENT OF: DEAN ANTHONY COOKE**

A further seizure was made by Mr Adshead, after the tobacco detection dog found the following behind the front counter :-

- 27 x packs of 20 cigarettes bearing non-English or non-statutory health warnings.
- 8 x 50g pouches of hand rolling tobacco, bearing non-English health warnings.

All items were seized by Officer Adshead and removed from the store and secured in his vehicle at approximately 13:00hrs, for transportation to secure storage.

Mr Grover attended a PACE recorded interview on the 11th May 2017.

This legal case is currently ongoing.

**Dated the 9th day of June 2017 Signed.....**