

Lancashire County Council

Statement of Witness

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2;
Criminal Justice Act 1967, s9)

STATEMENT OF (name of witness): Chris Wilkinson
Age of witness: Over 18
Occupation of witness: Trading Standards Manager

This statement (consisting of 1 page 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 20th December 2022.

Signed: CWILKINSON

I am employed by Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Service as a Trading Standards manager based at County Hall, Pitt Street, Preston PR1 0LD.

On Friday the 16th of December 2022 I visited Ormskirk Superstore, 16 Aughton St, Ormskirk, L39 3BW to carry out a test purchase of cigarettes.

I entered the store at around 8.10 pm. As I entered, I saw a member of staff moving from behind the counter. The member of staff was male and of middle eastern appearance. He was tall and slim with dark curly hair. He was wearing a white hoodie and looked to be around 30 years of age. I asked him if he had any cheap Richmond cigarettes. He stated that he did and I asked for one packet. He moved back behind the counter and took a packet of cigarettes from under the counter. He said they were £6 and handed them to me. I handed over £20 and received £14 change. I noticed that he did not place the money in the till but into a wallet that was placed in front of the till. Following the sale I left the store. I produce in evidence, x1 packet of Richmond cigarettes, marked as exhibit **CW/1**. The cigarettes were not in standardised packaging and were suspected to be counterfeit. Later that day I handed the cigarettes to a colleague, Lauren Manning.

Signature: CWILKINSON - 20/12/2022