

**RESTRICTED (when completed)**

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, s.9 MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of Caroline LAIRD 18876.....

Age if under 18 ... Over 18..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Assistant Immigration Officer

This statement (consisting of: .....5..... 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 anything in it which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: ..... Date: 4th March 2023

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

I am an Immigration Officer, working as part of the SOUTH CENTRAL ICE immigration enforcement team, which is based at [REDACTED]

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023, I led an enforcement visit to New Bettola, Colnbrook Lodge, Old Bath Road, Colnbrook, SL3 ONZ. Officers from Thames Valley Police were also in attendance with us. Entrance to the premise was gained via Section 179 of Licensing Act 2003 at approx. 20:03 we carried out this visit to locate and process any identified immigration offenders.

On arrival I asked a male who I had observed working behind the pizza oven area who was in charge, he directed me to the manager to enable me to advise her of why we were there, and what our intentions would be during the time we are at the restaurant.

This lady confirmed her name as [REDACTED] of ROMANIAN nationality. She confirmed that she was in charge, but when asked later stated that she was not in charge of employment and that it was the responsibility of the owner.

She stated that he was currently out of the country, so we were unable to ask him further questions regarding the employees found to be working illegally.

The male who was first encountered ([REDACTED]) ALBANIAN nationality was evasive with officers, and was unwilling to co operate when asked questions at first. He later on admitted to entering the UK illegally in 2016.

There was a further 2 arrests made by Immigration Officers for employees working with no right to do

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature witnessed by:.....

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Continuation of Statement of Caroline LAIRD.....

so in the UK.

In total 3 arrests were made (1x entry in breach of Deportation Order, 1x illegal entrant and 1x Working in Breach of her allowed occupations with an outstanding Asylum claim)

All arrested persons have an Albanian nationality with 2x being detained and 1x being walked off of the address and warned she is not to be working outside of her permitted occupations.

At around 22:05 all officers departed the address, and the manager was given a Referral Notice to advise that due to illegal working being found a Civil Penalty will be considered by Home Office's Civil Penalty team.

This is an accurate record of events, where the interview was recorded on the Home Office Pronto mobile application. I'm writing this statement on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March.