

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Procedure Rules, r27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B)

URN:

Statement of: 

Age if under 18: over 18

Occupation: Gardener for Town Council.

This statement (consisting of 1 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 anything in it, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: 

Date: 16th November 2016

I am a Gardner for the Town Council and have been for the last six years. My duties are to look after the grounds and maintenance of the Town Centre; this means all the tubs with the plants in are looked after as well as the church areas.

I would say in the last two years I have found that whilst looking after the Town Centre there has been more issues with urination and defecation.

I cover two church yards on my area, which is St Alkmunds Church, St. Alkmunds Place, Shrewsbury and what is known as the Old St Chad's Church, Belmont, Shrewsbury. I also have seen many times the plant tubs that are positioned all over the Pride Hill in Shrewsbury have been urinated on, I know this as the smell is very strong. I am aware a company come out to clean around these tubs so they are cleaner for the public. I can say that this occurs almost every other day over the last two years. I think this is both offensive and disgusting, not only to clean up but for the shops, public and residents.

I would say at St Alkmunds Church issues started there about 2 years ago, but has got worse over this past year. When I have attended this Church I have found puddles in the porch way which I know to be urine from the strong smell. I have also found poo inside there, as well as needles. Although my job is to clean I feel the necessity to clean up human faeces repulsive, and something that I shouldn't have to do. Sadly I have come across human faeces almost every other day at this church and within the church yard area. I have even had to clean it off people's graves which I find totally disrespectful. Along with faeces and urine I have also had to clean up needles which have been left again in this same church yard and its surrounding area. I have come across persons sleeping in this Churchyard many times but I have never seen any person urinate or defecate in front of me.

I have also found at the Old St Chad's Churchyard urination around the church and also defecation. Again doing my job I have to clean this mess up and I find it despicable that human beings think its okay to go to the toilet in a Church yard, let alone on someone's grave. I have come across people sleeping in this yard although not as often as St Alkmunds Churchyard. However, when I have attended there back in the summer of 2016 I remember specifically a couple of people sleeping rough there, and one of them a black lad, I saw him just stand up and urinate on a gravestone. I was shocked by this as I didn't think anyone would do this in front of me, I didn't confront this lad as I was on my own at the time and wasn't sure what would be the implications of doing so.

I can also say that during my time cleaning in the Town Centre I have been approached by local residents, shop staff, and members of the public who have not only commented on the urination and defecation that is happening around the Town but some have actually witnessed this going on as well.

I enjoy my job but lately especially this past year I dread what I am going to find when I attend the two Church yards, I find having to clean up urine is bad enough but to have to do human faeces is beyond my call of duty.

Signature: 

Signature witnessed by: