


**STATEMENT OF WITNESS**

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

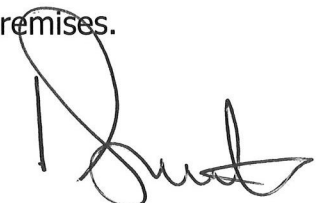
**Statement of:** Ian Smith**Age of Witness:** Over 18  
(If over 18, enter "Over 18")

This statement (consisting of 3 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: 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022Signature: 

I am employed by Surrey County Council as Supervisor for Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Service's Regulation Team based at County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UP and I am authorised for the purposes of the Trade Marks Act 1994, the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015, the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016. I can also confirm that the Service, as a responsible authority, wishes to support a licensing review for the business currently trading from the premises identified below. From my own personal knowledge and from records held by the Service I can confirm the following concerning the business trading as Grosik at 4/5, Thame House, Castle Street, High Wycombe.

On the 23rd August 2021 a test purchaser employed by Trading Standards purchased 2 x packets of illicit L & M brand cigarettes from the premises.



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

On the 9th June 2022 a further test purchaser visited the premises of Grosik on the instruction of Trading Standards and purchased 10 packets of Compliment brand illicit smuggled cigarettes for £60.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022, as part of a wider operation of inspections at premises for illicit tobacco Trading Standards Officers conducted an inspection at Grosik, at 4/5, Thame House, Castle Street, High Wycombe with a tobacco sniffer dog. During the course of the inspection approximately 9500 individual cigarettes (475 packets of 20 cigarettes) were found concealed in the roof of a walk-in chiller room situated at the rear of the premises. The top of the walk-in chiller appeared to have been adapted to create a space where the cigarettes may be concealed. The top of the chiller was covered by a steel plate held securely down by an electromagnet. The cigarettes were seized from the roof of the walk-in chiller as they were not compliant with the colour or health warning requirements provided by the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015 or the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016 as expected for cigarettes that may be legitimately sold in the UK. I produce as exhibits IS/100822/1 and IS/100822 a photographs of the cigarettes in question as discovered in the roof of the walk-in chiller.


Examination by brand holders of examples of the cigarettes seized confirmed that a number of those that had been seized were counterfeit and that the others were intended for markets other than the UK.



Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The discovery of the illegal cigarettes found at the premises of Grosik on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2022 currently remains under investigation by Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards Service in relation to potential criminal offences under Trade Marks Act 1994, the Standardised Packaging of Tobacco Products Regulations 2015, the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Smith', written over the end of the text block.