

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: **Matthew Bodmer**

Age if under 18 'over 18':..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of 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.

Signature: *M Bodmer*

Date 12th March 2019

I have been involved in Latitude festival for over 11 years. I represent Norfolk and Suffolk Police at National Music Festival Crime conferences.

From a national point of view there are still concerns about drug use at festivals and the wide range of drugs that are available (*discussed at conference Feb 2019 in Reading*)

Latitude festival is an event where customers pay for tickets and issued wrist bands on arrival. It attracts customers from all over the United Kingdom and provides entertainment geared at various ages. There is a large childrens area and family camping site to facilitate a truly diverse event attracting a wide range of people of all ages. Lots of children attend the event and the family camping area is one of the largest at any event in the UK.

Crime is relatively low and averages below 50 offences per event. At the entrance gates are surrender bins giving people the opportunity to surrender anything illegal before entering the site and search area's. Historically there has been allegations of serious sexual offences against young people, alcohol and drugs have played a part in these offences.

New Psychoactive substances (NPS) are banned from the event, although the items can be taken from the customers as a condition of entry there has been no legal framework to deal with basic possession.

There has been evidence of NPS substances at latitude through arrests, drug testing and from surrender bins. The arrests were on suspicion of supply, hence why the PSPO process was not implemented.

As mentioned earlier, Latitude attracts families. NPS's are designed to have the same effects on people as controlled drugs. The risk to an individual who uses NPS could be their inhibitions could be reduced, so behaviour can become erratic. (referenced from NHS website.)

Those who chose to use NPS cause the following concerns;

i/ Vulnerability – due to the loss of inhibitions, people are more vulnerable to being a victim of crime, especially serious sexual offences

ii/ Unpredictable behaviour – This can either be passive or aggressive, with a mixture of families this can have a negative impact on young people

iii/ Medical Needs – Latitude medical facilities are excellent although there is a chance of people having to be taken to local hospitals having an effect of the capability of these community facilities.

(this is based on personal observations and policing experience)

Latitude is a very safe festival, there is an integrated approach between the police and the organisers to make sure the festival is as safe as possible and I believe that a PSPO will promote this ethos highlighting Suffolk as a safe place to visit.

Matt Bodmer - A/DI 301