

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of John PAPE..... URN: [] [] [] []
Age if under 18 Over 18..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Producer/editor

This statement (consisting of:3..... 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

Signature:

Date:

08.09.14

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

This statement was taken over the phone. I am the named person above this statement refers to Gabriel KOVARI. I first met Gabriel KOVARI on the 14th JULY 2014 via a dating website app known as BENDER. We met and remained friends. I messaged him first and he mentioned that he was looking for accommodation to rent. I had a spare room and was thinking of renting the room out. I met up with him and he was staying at THE GREAT EASTERN HOSTEL on the Isle of Dogs. He had just got a job in a SLOVANKIAN shop in Richmond. He said to me "IF I CAN'T FIND SOMEWHERE TO STAY, I'LL SLEEP IN PEOPLE'S GARDENS". I sympathised with his situation as he was a young gay man wanting to make a life for himself in London and I am an older gay man established in the city. As I got to know him it became clear that he felt Slovakia was too conservative/intolerant and he was intent on living in London. He had two apps he used to meet other gay men in the city GRINDER and BENDER, his profile name for BENDER was NEW3OY ('new3oy'). I initially told Gabriel he could stay for two weeks whilst he looked for somewhere else to live and on 16th JULY 2014 he moved into my flat. After two weeks I told him he was welcome to stay longer and that he should prioritise finding secure employment over the need for new accomodation. Whilst Gabriel was living with me I once came home and found him in my flat with a black male. Gabriel told me the man lived in East London. There were some nights GABRIEL wouldn't come home and I presumed he was staying with this male. He said he had watched the film The Conjuring when he stayed overnight with a male. Gabriel had the job at the shop for a month whilst he lived in my flat. He quit this job due to the way he was being treated. He was not immediately paid after he left. Gabriel grew anxious about this and even tried to get official advice from government agencies. I'm not sure if he every got paid for the time he did work there. Gabriel spoke about his mother and sister casually in conversation. He told me he hadn't told his mother he was in London (she thought he was in Spain) but in the days before he left my flat for Barking, he said he was intending to Skype her to tell her of his intention to stay in London longterm. He also intended to buy a plane ticket to go to SLOVAKIA in September, for one week, as he was graduating. He once invited me to come, but we didn't follow it up. I'm not aware of any medication

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Signature witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of **John PAPE**.....

condition for Gabriel KOVARI. However, he always struck me as very thin and although I did not think he had an eating disorder, left to his own devices he did not eat well. He said his mother is a pharmacist and he said to me he had lots of pharmaceutical drugs (I presumed painkillers) if I ever needed any. He would drink socially but I do not think he was a heavy drinker. The week before he left I saw he had written a poem in English about his loneliness. Gabriel seemed pensive at times and I know he was anxious about receiving his pay but there was nothing obvious that concerned me greatly about his mental wellbeing. He was always a quiet person. A few days before he left my flat, Gabriel said he was leaving to go and live in BARKING as he had found a room to rent for £100 a week. I asked him a few questions and he said there was no contract tying him to the room and he didn't have to pay a deposit. I got the impression he would be living with 1 other male who owned the flat. I didn't fully understand why he was so keen to leave as I thought we were getting on fine, I was not pushing for rent and was charging only £50 a week. Despite my assurances that he could stay longer, Gabriel said that he was only supposed to stay in my flat for two weeks. He also said my flat was small and chaotic due to the work I was having done but I don't believe this was the reason to leave. Thursday 21st AUGUST 2014 was the last time I remember seeing Gabriel. However, it is possible I saw him on the morning of Friday 22nd as I did most mornings before leaving for work. On the evening of the 21st we went for a drink in a local bar known as THE JOB CENTRE. This was around 2100-2300hrs. I had one drink and then we both came home together as I was pre-occupied with the issues involving the work on my flat. Gabriel left my flat during the day on Friday 22nd, as when I returned to my flat after work at approx 1900 HRS he had gone. He had taken his personal items with him except some food, these items included a white smart phone, a laptop - grey in colour, a suitcase about a meter long dark colour, it had a depth to it of about a foot. He had two leather/plastic looking, wind-breaker jackets one blue and one beige/brown. He also had jeans a white pair and a grey pair, white trainer's chunky shape, and a pair of smart grey suede shoes. There were also numerous shirts, t-shirts and a hooded sweater. On FRIDAY 22ND AUGUST 2014 at 21:35pm I received a text message from a mobile phone number I did not recognise saying "HI JOHN, ITS ME GABRIEL I WAS JUST ABLE TO BORROW A FRIENDS PHONE. I WILL COME IN THE MORNING BECAUSE I HAD TO LEAVE ABRUPTLY TO VIEW A ROOM, I WAS PICKED UP BY A CAR, AND THEN LAM MEETING A FRIEND LATER. SORRY. HAVE A NICE EVENING". This confuses me slightly as he had given me the impression prior to this that he had already viewed the room in Barking. I now know the number he texted from belonged to Cosmo CUPID or Cosmus MARKUS on Facebook. I left the flat on SATURDAY the 23RD AUGUST 2014 at approx 8:30AM to go to the ISLE OF WIGHT. I later received a text message from GABRIEL (from his own phone) at 3:23PM "HI JOHN, DID YOU ALREADY LEAVE FOR THE FESTIVAL". I texted him back "SORT OF. I'VE GONE TIL MONDAY. YOU OK?" he texted me at 21:33 "ALRIGHT. I'M ON MY WAY FOR BARKING NOW. I LOCKED YOUR DOOR AND WILL GIVE U KEY WHEN YOU'RE HOME. HAVE FUN." He still had a key to the flat and I had told him that if things did not work out in Barking he was always welcome. I presume from this text message he had been back to my flat

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