

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: BERTRAM, RICHARD

Age if under 18: (if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation:

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: RICHARD BERTRAM

Date: 22/02/2018

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

I am Richard Bertram and I am the general manager of Masterdor. We are based at firworks Nether Heage, Derbyshire DE56 2JJ. Masterdor make external facing door sets, taking purchased composite door blanks and we manufacture door sets. We turn them into doorsets of different formats. We produce standard doors (non-rated), 30 minute and 60 minute fire resistant door sets.

I joined the company in February 2016 as general manager. When I joined Masterdor were and still are part of the Synseal group, in the fenestration (plastics window) industry.

When I arrived in February 2016 the factory had just moved to its present site. I was recruited by David LANG, the then CEO and Steve MUSGRAVE, the manufacturing director of the Synseal Group.

They told me that they had just ?? a door business and it was running almost by committee. They asked me if I would join them as general manager and try to get the company into shape. I agreed to join them and started on 1st February 2016.

My background was in doors, stairs etc. when I joined I found the company wasn't a match fit business. I reviewed the business, prepared a 100 day, then a three year plan. I focused on the people, the employees. I invested in them. I had inherited an £8 million turnover with a £1 million loss. In the first year we had

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an £12.5 million turnover but like for like we broke even. Unfortunately the brexit effect we actually showed a £250,000 loss.

This year until the end of March, we are forecast to show a turnover of £17 million with a net profit of £650,000. We have achieved this by investing in and developing people. We have gone from a staff of 142 to around 200 staff in the same period. We have constantly grown our structure and have allowed our staff to work as a team, therefore growing the business.

We recruited the correct staff to ensure we are meeting and conforming to all the required standards.

In relation to fire safety, our technical manager works with the test agencies to ensure that all our products are fit for purpose.

We sell to industry, retail, trade and general and social enquiries. By social I mean social housing contacts through procurement routes. Sometimes we either just sell, or sell and fit. If we are contracted to fit the doors we employ sub-contractors to carry out the work and fit the door. We use four or five sub-contractors. We have trained two of our Masterdor staff in fire-door installation. This is not something we are required to do but we feel that we should. This allows each of these individuals to train up to twenty staff each.

When we use sub contractors we have a process to monitor the installation. On every door that our sub contractor installs, we get them to complete an installation guideline (fire installation) sheet. The site contractor has to list on the sheet how the door was installed and obtain sign off from the customer. They also have to submit to us a photograph of the installed door. The form is in two parts. The first part is a reminder to the installer on how the door is to be fitted. This includes the size of the fixings, margins, gaps around frame and the closers. It also states the specification of the foam to be used. The second part shows the address, date, no of doors and and pre-installation check. The installer and resident signs it, and it gives the resident the opportunity to comment on the install.

I produce a copy of the Masterdor "Installer of fire door" form as my exhibit RMB/1.

When I joined the company I was aware that Synseal had bought a business in distress, and had move it to

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set up a door business. My understanding is that rather than start a door business from scratch, Synseal had looked for a failing business to move and to try to make successful This was how they bought Masterdor and started using he name. I have been made aware that we had in archive the old customer records from the companies that proceded the name Masterdor which came into existence in 2014. These records show to whom their doors were supplied to. These records can be searched to show the types of door supplied to include glazing, ironmongery, seals, type of frame etc. These records can be downloaded if necessary and will be retained on site should they be needed in future.

In January 2018 I became Managing Director of Masterdor.

From 1st April 2018 we have allocated a budget for the next financial year of £62,000 for 3rd party fire door accreditation. This includes testing, auditing, assessments and labelling.

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